

REGENERATION, COMMUNITY AND CULTURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

10 APRIL 2014

PETITIONS

Report from: Robin Cooper, Director of Regeneration, Community and Culture

Author: Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report advises the Committee of the petitions presented at Council meetings, received by the council or sent via the e-petition facility, including a summary of officer's response to the petitioners.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

- 1.1 The Constitution provides that petitions received by the council relating to matters within the remit of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be referred immediately to the relevant Director for consideration at officer level.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Director is asked to respond to the petition request within 10 working days. The petition organiser may request to refer the matter to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee if s/he is not satisfied with the answer and has given reasons for their dissatisfaction.
- 2.2 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 5% of Medway's population (currently 12,675 signatures) it will be debated by Full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.
- 2.3 If the petition contains at least the number of signatures equating to 2% of Medway's population (currently 5,070 signatures) the relevant senior officer may give evidence at a public meeting of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee.

2.4 A petition may also be submitted through the e-petition facility on the council's website. E-petitions must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions. A petition acknowledgement and response will be emailed to everyone who has signed the e-petition and elected to receive this information.

2.5 A summary of the response to all petitions will also be published on the council's website.

3. Petitions

3.1 Since the last meeting of the Committee, one petition has been received falling within the remit of this Committee.

3.2 A summary of the response, which has passed the ten day deadline for a request for referral to the Committee and is therefore seen as acceptable to the petitioners, is set out below.

Subject of petition	Date of receipt and whether paper or e-petition	Response
Action requested by the Council to stop reckless driving in Yarrow Road, Walderslade, Kent	23 January 2014 at Full Council	<p>The petitioner has been advised that whilst the Council has noted the recent incident mentioned within the petition and, whilst speeding and inconsiderate and dangerous drivers are matters of serious concern, the basis upon which the Council introduces road safety improvements is casualty reduction. Locations with an ongoing poor road casualty history are tackled first, to help prevent further casualties on our roads.</p> <p>Having investigated the collision history for Yarrow Road, during the last three years of available police records, no personal injury collisions have been recorded.</p> <p>In the event that the emergency services were in attendance to injured persons at the recent incident which prompted the petition, the Council will in due course receive a full report on the collision.</p>

		<p>At the current time, there are other locations within Medway with poorer safety records which are therefore a higher priority for safety engineering intervention and, following due consideration, it is unfortunately not possible for physical speed restriction measures to be introduced at this time in Yarrow Road. However, the collision record will of course, continue to be monitored and, in order to highlight speeds at this location and remind users of the legal speed limit, this location will be added to a programme of attendance by Medway Council's Speed Indicating Device. This is a vehicle-activated sign that is temporarily erected at the roadside to highlight excess speed to users.</p>
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5. Risk Management

- 5.1 The Council has a clear scheme for handling petitions set out in its Constitution. This ensures consistency and clarity of process, minimising the risk of complaints about the administration of petitions.

6. Financial and Legal Implications

- 6.1 Any financial and/or legal implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions are set out in the comments on the petitions.

7. Recommendation

- 7.1 Members are requested to note the petition response and officer action as set out in paragraph 3 of the report.

Background papers

None.

Contact for further details:

Ellen Wright, Democratic Services Officer
 Tel. No: 01634 332012 Email: ellen.wright@medway.gov.uk