

REGENERATION, CULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 MARCH 2021

PETITIONS

Report from: Richard Hicks, Director of Place and Deputy Chief Executive

Author: Stephen Platt, Democratic Services Officer

Summary

This report advises the Committee of petitions received by the Council which fall within the remit of this Committee including a summary of the response sent to the petition organiser by officers.

1. Budget and Policy Framework

1.1 In summary, the Council's Petition Scheme requires the relevant Director to respond to the petition organiser, usually within 10 working days of the receipt of the petition by the Council. Overview and Scrutiny Committees are always advised of any petitions falling within their terms of reference together with the officer response. There is a right of referral of a petition for consideration by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee by the petitioners if they consider the Director's response to be inadequate. Should the Committee determine that the petition has not been dealt with adequately it may use any of its powers to deal with the matter. These powers include instigating an investigation, making recommendations to Cabinet and arranging for the matter to be considered at a meeting of the Council.

1.2 The petition scheme is set out in full in the Council's Constitution at:

<https://www.medway.gov.uk/downloads/file/2657/401 - council rules>

1.3 Any budget or policy framework implications will be set out in the specific petition response.

2. Background

2.1 The Council's 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.

- 2.2 Where the Director is able to fully meet the request of the petitioners a response is sent setting out the proposed action and timescales for implementation.
- 2.3 For petitions where the petition organiser is not satisfied with the response provided by the Director there is provision for the petition organiser to request that the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the steps the Council has taken, or is proposing to take, in response to the petition.

3. Completed Petitions

- 3.1 A summary of the response to petitions relevant to this Committee that have been accepted by the petition organisers is set out below.

Subject of petition	Summary of response
<p>Medway Council to provide a rubbish bin top of Morrisons green bridge in Walderslade.</p> <p>(E-petition containing 9 names)</p>	<p>We can confirm a litter bin will be installed on the green footbridge along Princes Park, adjacent to Morrisons. This will be completed by our waste contractor, Medway Norse, within 10 working days. Thank you for bringing this to our attention.</p>
<p>We the undersigned petition the council to install speed humps in Laburnum and Merralls Wood roads. Many residents have had their vehicles damaged by speeding vehicles and nuisance motorcyclists speeding up and down these named roads. Our vehicle insurances are affected due to the increased risk. There have been numerous near misses with pedestrians and several pets have been killed. We would request the council install speed humps to slow these vehicles down.</p> <p>(E-petition containing 14 names)</p>	<p>We take all concerns for road safety seriously and work to promote and improve road safety wherever possible. When looking at where road safety improvements should be made, those locations with the poorest safety records are tackled first. During the most recent five years of available Police records, one crash was recorded in this area. In terms of your request for speed humps, I fully understand the desire for a deterrent to speeding/reckless road users. However, the enforcement of traffic laws can only be undertaken by the Police and I would recommend contacting Kent Police with details of incidents of speeding.</p> <p>We receive many requests for speed reduction measures and each request is carefully considered. The basis upon which we introduce road safety measures is casualty reduction, whereby those locations already recording an ongoing poor road casualty</p>

Subject of petition	Summary of response
	<p>history are tackled first, in order to help prevent further casualties on our roads. I am afraid there are many other locations within Medway that are currently suffering poorer ongoing road safety problems.</p> <p>This does not mean we wait for collisions before action is taken. Rather, we target those locations that are already suffering safety problems as a priority. With regret, we are therefore unable to propose wider scale alterations in this area at this time. Please rest assured, however, the safety record of this location will continue to be monitored.</p>

4. Risk Management

- 4.1 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.

5. Financial and Legal Implications

- 5.1 Any financial implications arising from the issues raised by the petitions will be taken into account as part of the review of these matters.
- 5.2 Overview and Scrutiny Rule 21.1 (xiv) in the Council's Constitution provides that the terms of reference of this Committee include the power to deal with petitions referred to the Committee under and in accordance with the Council's petition scheme.

6. Recommendation

- 6.1 The Committee is requested to note the petition responses and appropriate officer action in paragraph 3 of the report.

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Appendices

None

Background Papers

None