

# Council Petitions Scheme

**Council**

**Date: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018**

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Author: Director of Law and Democratic Services

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

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## **1. Purpose and Reasons**

- 1.1 To report the receipt of a petition calling upon Swindon Borough Council to: "take action to resolve the traffic issues in the Rodbourne (Even Swindon) area and in particular the problems caused by queuing vehicles trying to enter the car parks of the McArthur Glen Outlet Village," which satisfies the requirement of the Council's Petition Scheme for the matter to be presented to Full Council as a petition for debate.
- 1.2 Operating the Petition Scheme helps deliver the strategic corporate priority of working with people and families to help them fulfil their potential by developing public participation in decision-making.

## **2. Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Hear the Lead Petitioner (or representative) presenting the Petition calling on the Council to "take action to resolve the traffic issues in the Rodbourne (Even Swindon) area and in particular the problems caused by queuing vehicles trying to enter the car parks of the McArthur Glen Outlet Village."
- 2.2 Thank the Lead Petitioner and the signatories for bringing this Petition to Council.
- 2.3 Welcome and note the additional white line markings on Kemble Drive to help drivers choose the correct lane for either through traffic or visiting the Outlet Village.
- 2.4 Request that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place and Head of Highways bring a report to Cabinet no later than July 2018 to consider how the measures set out in the body of this report could be implemented.

## **3. Detail**

Petition - to resolve the traffic issues in the Rodbourne (Even Swindon) area

- 3.1 The Council has received a petition containing 769 signatures. The petition satisfies the requirement of the Petitions Scheme for the matter to be presented to Full Council as a petition for debate:

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor on Direct Dial No. 463013 or Email [staylor@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:staylor@swindon.gov.uk) or Shaun Banks, Committee and Member Services on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email [sbanks@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:sbanks@swindon.gov.uk)

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- 3.2 The petition states: ““We call upon Swindon Borough Council to take action to resolve the traffic issues in the Rodbourne (Even Swindon) area and in particular the problems caused by queuing vehicles trying to enter the car parks of the McArthur Glen Outlet Village”.

## Procedure

- 3.3 At the Annual Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2010, the Council formally adopted a Petition Scheme in accordance with the requirements of Sections 10 to 22 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 (the 2009 Act) and subsequent statutory guidance (Council Minute 10, 2010/11 refers). While the statutory requirement to have a petition scheme has been repealed (Section 46, Localism Act 2011), the Council has resolved to retain a petition scheme at each subsequent Annual Meeting in order to promote public participation. The current scheme is set out in Section 9, Part 4 of the Constitution (Council Minute 8, 2017/2018).
- 3.4 The Council’s Petitions Officer has determined that the Petitions set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report meets the requirements to be considered by the Council.
- 3.4.1 In accordance with the Scheme:
- 3.4.2 The petition organiser, or their appointed deputy, will be invited to address the meeting for up to 5 minutes on the subject of the petition.
- 3.5 The petition organiser will be notified of the outcome of the debate in writing and of any follow-up actions that are agreed by the meeting.
- 3.6 A copy of the petition is available for inspection by contacting Committee and Member Services.
- 3.7 The Lead Petitioner has been advised that the petition will be presented to the meeting of Council to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018 and has been invited to attend.

## Council’s Response

- 3.8 The Leader of the Council, the six ward councillors from the Central and Mannington and Western wards, and the Head of Highways, met on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2018 to consider the problems to which the petition refers.
- 3.9 At this meeting, it was accepted that mitigation measures were required because of the popularity of the McArthur Glen Outlet Village as well as additional events at STEAM. However, there was no discussion about or request for removing the Penzance Drive Bus Gate.

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- 3.10 Subsequent to receipt of this petition and the meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April, Council is invited to request that the Cabinet Member for Communities and Place to bring a report to Cabinet no later than July 2018 setting how the Council could, inter alia,
- 3.10.1 Install additional white line markings to allow traffic to enter Barnham Court from Bruce Street Bridges,
- 3.10.2 Carry out a pilot scheme on 9th September 2018 to test the feasibility of making Rodbourne Road northbound on days when there are special events at the Outlet Village or STEAM.
- 3.10.3 Remove the Church Place bus gate to allow traffic to access Bristol Street by the TA Centre/St Mary's Church to use the Bristol Street Car park, and
- 3.10.4 Work with McArthur Glenn to encourage the Outlet Centre to a) Look at solutions of access to the East Car Park by introducing a form of registration recognition barrier system and the possibility of a new exit. B) To increase the number of car parking spaces at western car park through layering or another solution.

## **4. Alternative Options**

- 4.1 No further options are proposed at this time.

## **5. Implications, Diversity Impact Assessment and Risk Management**

### Financial and Procurement Implications

- 5.1 There are none specific to this report. However, should the Council determine that action be taken in respect of this petition this will require a report to the Cabinet, Cabinet Member or relevant Committee and any Financial and Procurement Implications will need to be addressed in that report.

### Legal and Human Rights Implications

- 5.2 Legal and human rights implications have been taken into account in the body of the report. It is considered that the recommendations are compatible with Convention Rights.

### All Other Implications (including Staff, Sustainability, Health, Rural, Crime and Disorder)

- 5.3 None

### Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No Diversity Impact Assessment (DIA) was undertaken for this report. However, a DIA process would be followed in any subsequent Cabinet Report.

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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Stephen Taylor on Direct Dial No. 463013 or Email [staylor@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:staylor@swindon.gov.uk) or Shaun Banks, Committee and Member Services on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email [sbanks@swindon.gov.uk](mailto:sbanks@swindon.gov.uk)

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## Risk Management

5.5 None

## **6. Consultees**

6.1 The Director of Finance (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Law and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer) are consulted in respect of all reports.

## **7. Background Papers**

7.1 None

## **8. Appendices**

8.1 Petition