

Council Petitions Scheme

Council

Date: 8th November 2018

Author: Interim Director of Law

Wards: All

Parishes Affected: All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To report the receipt of a petition “Protect the Toothill Farmhouse by taking the following actions:
- Provide the Toothill Junior Youth Club with a fixed-term lease to be agreed with the club.
 - Commit to working with Ward Councillors and the Toothill Junior Youth Club to make the Toothill Farmhouse and Asset of Community Value.
 - Commit to guaranteeing that the Toothill Farmhouse site not be further leased or disposed of and commit the site to its existing use.”
- 1.2 At the Annual Council meeting held on 21st 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.
- 1.3 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 from the Lead Petitioner (or representative) stating why Council should support the petition’s request “Protect the Toothill Farmhouse”;
- 2.2 Thank the Lead Petitioner and acknowledge the views expressed
- 2.3 To consider a response from the Cabinet Member for Finance in respect of the petition.

3. Detail

Petition

- 3.1 A petition has been received containing 466 signatures ““Protect the Toothill Farmhouse by taking the following actions:
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Further information on the subject of this report can be obtained from Shaun Banks, Committee and Member Services on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

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- Provide the Toothill Junior Youth Club with a fixed-term lease to be agreed with the club.
- Commit to working with Ward Councillors and the Toothill Junior Youth Club to make the Toothill Farmhouse and Asset of Community Value.
- Commit to guaranteeing that the Toothill Farmhouse site not be further leased or disposed of and commit the site to its existing use.”

Procedure

- 3.2 At the Annual Council meeting held on 21st 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).
- 3.3 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 In accordance with the Scheme 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 The Lead Petitioner has been advised that the petition will be presented to the meeting of Council to be held on 8th November 2018 and has been invited to attend.

4. Alternative Options

- 4.1 No alternative options are proposed.

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

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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. Sections 10 to 22 of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and the Department for Communities and Local Government Statutory Guidance on Handling Petitions have been taken into account in the development of the Council's Petition Scheme.

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

- 5.3 None

Diversity Impact Assessment

- 5.4 No diversity impact assessment was undertaken as the report's recommendations would not directly affect any Council service at this time.

Risk Management

- 5.5 None.

6. Consultees

- 6.1 The Interim Director of Law has been consulted in respect of this report.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 None

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Petition Extract