

Council Petitions Scheme

Council

Date: 26th January 2017

Author:	Director of Law and Democratic Services
Wards:	All
Locality Affected:	All
Parishes Affected:	All

1. Purpose and Reasons

- 1.1 To report the receipt of two petitions that have been received and that satisfy the Petitions Scheme for the matters to be presented to Full Council as petitions for debate
 - 1.1.1 To report the receipt of an electronic petition calling on the Council to “remove the Public Space Protection Order that unfairly criminalises vulnerable homeless people in Swindon”. The petition contains 3,202 signatures. Members are also advised that the petition and background information can be viewed on-line at <https://www.change.org/p/swindon-borough-council-end-the-unjust-criminalisation-of-homeless-people-in-swindon>
 - 1.1.2 To report the receipt of a petition “We, the undersigned, call upon Swindon Borough Council to urgently set a date and conduct an early review of the new East Wichel parking restrictions as soon as possible, to listen to the views of and work with East Wichel residents to improve the parking situation. This should include: a) an impact assessment for allowing unrestricted parking on East Wichel Way and other wider roads b) a road-by-road review of parking to add as many extra spaces as possible to allow residents and visitors to park safely and sensibly. c) if enough additional spaces cannot be found, to revisit other alternative options than the Restricted Parking zones such as double yellow lines on corners, driveways and junctions to meet the needs of the community.” The petition contains 426 signatures.
- 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.

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 or Shaun Banks, Committee and Member Services on Direct Dial No. 463606 or Email sbanks@swindon.gov.uk

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2. Recommendations

Council is recommended to:

- 2.1 Hear from the Lead Petitioner (or representative) presenting the Petition calling on the Council to "remove the Public Space Protection Order that unfairly criminalises vulnerable homeless people in Swindon".
- 2.12 Consider the petition and the response to the petition from the Cabinet Member for Housing and Homelessness and, following any debate, to determine any action to be taken in respect of that petition.
- 2.2 Hear from the Lead Petitioner (or representative) presenting the Petition regarding parking in East Wichel.
- 2.2.2 Consider the petition and the response to the petition from the Cabinet Member for StreetSmart, Highways and Transport, following any debate, to determine any action to be taken in respect of that petition.

3. Detail

Petition - Homeless People in Swindon

- 3.1 The Council has been notified of the following petition containing 3,302 signatures. The petition satisfies the requirement of the Petitions Scheme for the matter to be presented to Full Council as a petition for debate:

"We the undersigned request that Swindon Council remove the PSPO (Public Spaces Protection Order) that unfairly criminalises vulnerable homeless people in Swindon. It has been abused and, worryingly, can be added to very quickly with limited public consultation. Homeless people in Swindon are being criminalised simply for being homeless. Many have been given Dispersal Orders and, more recently, have been threatened with injunctions. They also report harassment and even violence from the authorities".

Petition – Parking in East Wichel

- 3.2 The Council has received a petition containing 426 signatures. The petition satisfies the requirement of the Petitions Scheme for the matter to be presented to Full Council as a petition for debate:

"We, the undersigned, call upon Swindon Borough Council to urgently set a date and conduct an early review of the new East Wichel parking restrictions as soon as possible, to listen to the views of and work with East Wichel residents to improve the parking situation. This should include: a) an impact assessment for allowing unrestricted parking on East Wichel Way and other wider roads b) a

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road-by-road review of parking to add as many extra spaces as possible to allow residents and visitors to park safely and sensibly. c) if enough additional spaces cannot be found, to revisit other alternative options than the Restricted Parking zones such as double yellow lines on corners, driveways and junctions to meet the needs of the community.”

Procedure

- 3.3 At the Annual Council meeting held on 21st May 2010, the Council resolved to adopt a petition scheme to apply to all petitions received by the Council.
- 3.4 The Council's Petitions Officer has determined that the Petitions set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report meet the requirements to be considered by the Council.
- 3.5 In accordance with the Scheme:
- 3.1.1 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.
- 3.1.2 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 concerning homelessness is available for inspection on-line at <https://www.change.org/p/swindon-borough-council-end-the-unjust-criminalisation-of-homeless-people-in-swindon>.
- 3.7 A copy of the petition concerning Parking in East Witchel is available for inspection by contacting Committee and Member Services.
- 3.8 The Lead Petitioners have been advised that the petitions will be presented to the meeting of Council to be held on 26th January 2017 and have 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 Cabinet, Cabinet Member or relevant Committee and any Financial and Procurement Implications will need to be addressed in that report.

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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 assessments were undertaken.

Risk Management

- 5.5 None

6. Consultees

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

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 Petitions.
7.2 Council Petition Scheme.

8. Appendices

- 8.1 Appendix 1 – Wording of Petitions