

Committee: Council

Date: 12 July 2017

Subject: Petitions

Lead officer: Paul Evans, Assistant Director, Corporate Governance.

Lead member: Leader of the Council, Councillor Stephen Alambritis.

Contact officer: Democratic Services, democratic.services@merton.gov.uk

Recommendation:

1. That Council receive petitions (if any) in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.
 2. That Council notes the responses provided to the petitions submitted at the meeting held on 12 April 2017.
-

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report invites Council to receive petitions in accordance with Part 4A, paragraph 18.1 of the Council's Constitution.

2 DETAILS

- 2.1. At the meeting held on 12 April 2017, three petitions listed below were submitted and the responses are set out below. Any petitions received by Council are referred to respective departments with responsible officers asked to advise the presenting member in each case of the way in which the petition is to be progressed.

- 2.2. A petition was submitted by Councillor Gilli Lewis-Lavender entitled "Petition to make narrow Burlington Road pavement safer for all pedestrians".

Officer Response

- 2.3. The Council is committed to encouraging walking by incorporating improvement measures that ensures access, safety and a pleasant environment within all its traffic management schemes. The Council is supportive of the request for widening the footway and this is already on our programme for this financial year. There are some legal and land ownership issues that would require the cooperation and agreement of a third party and officers are already liaising with the lead petitioner and Tesco in progressing the proposed improvements.

- 2.4. A petition was submitted by Councillor Daniel Holden entitled "Merton diesel tax petition".

Officer Response

- 2.5. A 292 signature petition has been received from residents requiring the scrapping of the diesel surcharge and requesting that the Council consider other, more proportionate methods of tackling air pollution.

- 2.6. A petition was submitted by Councillor Dennis Pearce entitled "Lets make Abbotsbury Road safe".

Officer Response

- 2.7. The Council takes safety very seriously particularly outside schools. We have a rolling programme to address safety through engineering and road safety education. We provide a systematic programme of educational and training initiatives to schools and the local community including road safety workshops appropriate for all age and user groups.
- 2.8. With regards to Abbotsbury, officers have been working with the school and one of the Ward Councillors to respond to the petition and road safety issues. A full response has been provided to this petition to the Ward Cllr.
- 2.9. The area around the school is subject to the appropriate level of parking restrictions and a road narrowing that serves as an informal crossing point. According to recent investigations, it has been concluded that in terms of engineering the Council can offer very little and given that much of the problem is caused by parents, we will support the school through road safety workshops; walking bus and establishing a kiss and ride and to continue educate parents and pupils. This along with effective enforcement should improve the perception of safety.
- 2.10. Members are invited to present petitions at this meeting, and a response will be provided to the next Council meeting on 13 September 2017.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. None for the purposes of this report.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. None for the purpose of this report.

5 TIMETABLE

- 5.1. None for the purpose of this report.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. None for the purpose of this report.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. None for the purpose of this report.

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. None for the purpose of this report.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. None for the purpose of this report.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

11 APPENDICES

- 11.1. None

12 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 12.1. None.