

Petitions Update Report

Petition No.	Description	Presented (date)	Presented (at)	Submitted (by)	Status
579	Reinstate 374 Bus service for East Tilbury	September	Council	Resident	<p>The provision of bus services is not a statutory requirement, and before making the decision the council undertook an extensive consultation with communities. In undertaking the consultation, the council provided multiple ways for residents to respond, including providing forms on buses for bus users, the provision of freepost envelopes and a freepost address clearly stated on the form, notices in bus stops and shelters, and postal boxes in local community centres and the libraries of affected communities. The council also informed all ward councillors and local community forums, and made the consultation open for 12 weeks.</p> <p>In helping to inform decision makers, the council developed robust data analysis and an extensive Communities Equalities Impact Assessment, to identify which communities would be impacted.</p> <p>The decision has been subject to pre-decision discussion at Overview & Scrutiny, discussion at Council, a Cabinet decision and a Call In.</p> <p>In accordance with the cabinet decision officers continue to 'keep the public transport needs of these communities under review and consider future options which could address any unmet need, within the context of the council's financial situation.'</p>
580	Anti-Social Behaviour in Balstonia Park, Homesteads	September	Council	Cllr Collins	<p>Historically, Thurrock Council has not closed parks / playground gates. Local residents will be aware that Balstonia Park has had pedestrian access for over 40 years and gates have remained open for free ingress and egress. Concerns in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)</p>

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					<p>previously reported led to a joint visit in the park in 2022 with Local Councillors, Community Safety Partnership – including Essex Police and our parks team. Some joint work was conducted and the levels of ASB reduced. The request for CCTV in the area was raised but unfortunately this is not viable. Policing patrols are demand led. In the six months to the end of October Essex Police have received only two calls in relation to Balstonia Park and the surrounding area in relation to Anti-Social Behaviour within the park. This does not currently support additional patrols in the area and the Community Safety Inspector is in agreement that there is insufficient evidence to warrant the closure of the park gates and would encourage residents to report their concerns to highlight the issue for a response as appropriate. The costs to close all 76 parks around the borough would be significant as our parks are spread across a large geographical area. An inner London borough recently tendered the service to open and close all parks within their area. This borough is a lot smaller than Thurrock and the cost was £42k per annum. The decision to not close cemetery gates was taken due to resources and budget constraints. Unfortunately, this activity is not a statutory duty and with the need to spend our resources efficiently, this is not a cost that the council can spend.</p>
581	Independent Enquiry into the financial collapse of Thurrock Council	September	Council	Cllr Byrne	<p>The Council has received this petition and a response has been sent to Cllr Byrne which in summary indicates that because of the extensive government directions and reports, ongoing work by the Council, quality assurance processes and other bodies already reviewing the Council's finances an independent enquiry is not needed at this stage</p>