

Item 8: Petitions Update Report – 23 September 2015

Petition No.	Description	Presented by (and date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
459	This Petition is the Thurrock Council to take action to make an indoor shopping centre in our local area South Ockendon. We want it to be built in the free space around the station area.	22/06/2015*	Cllr Speight	<p>South Ockendon is an area that the Council is focussing on through a number of initiatives such as the development of the Community Hub and delivery of high quality housing. We recognise that Derwent Parade has declined over the years and now has a number of units vacant, but this decline is symptomatic of a lack of demand for retail floorspace in the area which makes it unlikely that a private sector developer could be secured to deliver a new covered shopping centre in this location.</p> <p>The development of South Ockendon over the next 20 years is, like the rest of the Borough, being considered through the development of the Local Plan. It may be that, in putting the plan together, further retail demand is identified which might encourage the provision of more retail space but this would require significant growth in the local residential population and, even then, consideration would need to be given to increasing provision in Derwent Parade over providing a wholly new facility.</p>

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460	Save Corringham Green Belt. We the undersigned object to the proposed development on Green Belt land comprising of up to 750 dwellings to the North East of Corringham which has been submitted under planning reference number 15/00205/OUT.	17/07/2015*	Cllr Speight	<p>The petition exceeded the threshold of 1500 verified signatures, and in accordance with Chapter 1, Part 2, Article 3 of the Constitution qualified to be debated by full Council.</p> <p>The lead petitioner has been invited to present the petition at the 23 September 2015 meeting of Council and it is recommended that the petition be referred to the Planning department in order to be considered as part of the decision making process for the decision in question.</p>
461	We the undersigned residents of Crest Ave & Manor Way, petition the Council to request that double yellow lines are placed in Manor Way & that either double yellow lines or parking time restrictions & NOT parking permits are placed within Crest Ave.	01/07/2015*	Cllr J Potheary	<p>A service request has been raised for this matter to be investigated. All service requests received are scored and prioritised for consideration for inclusion in the works delivery programme.</p> <p>We will carry out an on-site investigation to determine the feasibility of this proposal, new lengths of Waiting Restrictions require a Traffic Regulation Order to be drafted and are then subject to a Statutory Public Consultation period.</p> <p>Subject to successful feasibility and prioritisation, we will be in a position to carry out a Public Consultation on this proposal by the beginning of October 2015.</p>

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462	Residents from Parkside are asking for one way system between Kind Edward Drive and Woodview	22/07/2015	Cllr J Potheary	<p>A service request has been raised for this matter to be investigated. All service requests received are scored and prioritised for consideration for inclusion in the works delivery programme.</p> <p>The concern for the residents is vehicles from Stanford Road and the roads off King Edward Drive shortcutting through Parkside to get to Old Dock Approach Road, leading to the request for a one way working along Parkside. The direction for the one way working would be from Woodview towards King Edward Drive.</p> <p>We will carry out on-site investigations to determine the feasibility of the proposal. A new one –way system will need a Traffic Regulation Order to be drafted and be subject to a Statutory Consultation period. Subject to successful feasibility and prioritisation, we will be in a position to carry out a Public Consultation on this proposal by the beginning of October 2015.</p>
463	We the undersigned call on Thurrock Council to immediately review the service it provides to the residents of Chafford Hundred particularly with regards to the environment, public protection, road safety, and traffic.	22/07/2015	Cllr J Potheary	<p>The council has finite resources which are being reduced annually through reductions in the revenue support grant it receives from government cover all services. The Environment team is just one area where the council has been forced to reduce the services it provides. Chafford Hundred receives the same level of cleansing, litter-picking and grass cutting/verge maintenance</p>

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			<p>as all other areas of the borough where the service is supported by the council's General Fund. Having seen the impact of the cuts on the budget for the Environment Services and in order to try to mitigate the reductions in the workforce cabinet this year identified funding for an additional 12 operatives to work on the environment across the borough during the main growing season.</p> <p>The council as Highway Authority reviews its highway services annually when it allocates funding for improvements and maintenance. In addition the highway network is regularly inspected for defects. All of these traffic duties - highway, road safety, and others - are delivered in accordance with the Highways Act and other statutory responsibilities. The service is managed on a Thurrock-wide basis and the work is prioritised on the basis of safety, maintaining the highway, and providing targeted improvements.</p> <p>On public protection, see https://www.thurrock.gov.uk/news/community-safety-and-crime/man-fined-for-allowing-dog-to-foul, but the council again carries out enforcement activity based on demand and the availability of evidence. The council does not have area-specific policies; the same teams and criteria are applied borough wide. Should specific enforcement queries be raised with the council these can be</p>
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				answered on a case-by-case basis by the most appropriate officer and you will need to contact us with your question in order that it can be directed appropriately.
464	<p>Petition received by the Council from residents in opposition to the proposed Parish Council on the Frost Estate.</p> <p>There is no denying that some roads of the Frost Estate have fallen into a very poor state of dis-repair. In particular the cross roads on the junction of Central Avenue and Gifford's Cross Avenue.</p> <p>While the majority of residents want to see this area brought up to an acceptable condition and maintain the character of the estate, there is a split in the opinion that a Parish Council is the correct way to address this issue.</p> <p>We the undersigned want to identify an alternative solution to the Parish Council that has (as a result of the public meeting on the 15/06/2015) highlighted many issues including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road repair is not historically within a Parish Council's responsibility. 2. No confirmed precept costs 	12/08/2015*	Cllr J Potheary	This petition was considered by Members as part of the decision making process regarding the Frost Estate Parish Council at the Extraordinary Council meeting held on Wednesday 28 August 2015.

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	3. Precept costs linked to Council Tax banding – not equal across the estate!			
465	Petition received by the Council from residents in respect of the nuisance of silver birch trees at The Close, Grays	08/08/2015	Cllr G Rice	<p>The Council has responded to comments regarding the Silver Birch trees in this area in the past and after complaints about the potential safety of the tree by a local resident, the tree was inspected by an independent arboriculturalist and he reported in March 2014. A copy of the report was provided to the resident which showed that the tree was in good health and should have maintenance on a less frequent basis. The trees in this area are Silver Birches which are widely used as street trees both in Thurrock and across the country due to their strength and suitability in an urban environment.</p> <p>There are many hundreds of similar trees across the borough and to remove these particular trees which are in good health would set an unwarranted precedent. Street trees are an important feature across the urban environment breaking up the monotony of buildings, providing shelter for birds and insect life and through photosynthesis removing carbon dioxide from the air and re oxygenating the atmosphere.</p> <p>The reasons put forward to remove these trees have now changed from the original</p>

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				complaint but do not offer any new compelling reason for the destruction of the greening of the local environment.
466	A Petition to Thurrock Borough Council by residents to reinstate the 374 bus route service.	9/9/2015	Cllr O Gerrish	Residents of Fobbing or Corringham and other visitors, who relied on the 374 bus route that previously ran along High Road, Fobbing urge Thurrock Borough Council to commit to reinstating this much valued public transport service. The deadline to respond to the lead petitioner is 9 October 2015.

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