

Item 9: Petitions Update Report – 27 January 2016

Petition No.	Description	Presented by (and date)	Portfolio Holder	Status Full copies of the responses may be obtained from Democratic Services
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 3. Precept costs linked to Council Tax banding – not equal across the estate! 	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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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 complaint but do not offer any new compelling reason for the destruction of the greening of the local environment.</p>
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				<p>Further update 15/10/15</p> <p>Mike Heath Head of Environmental Services had agreed with the Resident Mr Cavanagh who sent the petition that if Mr Cavanagh pays £300 for a replacement tree, the mature silver birch beside his bungalow will be removed and replanted with the replacement tree this will all be during the dormant season. Mike and Mr Cavanagh have spoken on the phone.</p>
466	A Petition to Thurrock Borough Council by residents to reinstate the 374 bus route service.	9/9/2015	Cllr O Gerrish	<p>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.</p> <p>The deadline to respond to the lead petitioner is 9 October 2015.</p> <p>There are six communities within Thurrock that require financial support for a bus service to be provided. A number of options for April 2015 were considered. Faced with a diminishing budget it was extremely disappointing that we could not seek to provide a bus service that met the needs of all residents. Both Amber Coaches and First Essex buses were prepared to put on a limited service for Fobbing but not on a commercial basis. Therefore the financial implications for the authority exceeded the</p>

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				<p>bus budget available and difficult decisions had to be made. As part of ongoing concerns from residents and ward members this issue was taken to Overview & Scrutiny for Planning & Transportation on both the 29th July 2015 and 16th September 2015. It was agreed that a further review was required in order to try and encourage bus operators to offer commercial services through Fobbing. We have approached commercial operators who are not willing to divert existing services through Fobbing. We are continuing to try to find ways of delivering bus services for all of our communities; however, the budget position for 2016/17 requires further reduction to bus subsidies.</p>
467	<p>Petition to save our homes being pulled down: Butler, Davall and Greenwood.</p>	<p>23/09/15 at Council</p>	<p>Cllr Worrall</p>	<p>At the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 October 2014 (decision 01104415) it was resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet not to award decant status to three Grays high rises – Butler, Davall and Greenwood House, but instead to note that continued consultation should take place with residents to include detailed design on alternative home provision to ensure residents are given a clear unambiguous set of choices. 2. Cabinet to agree that officers consider feedback from this consultation as part of the development of the emerging master plan for Grays Town Centre. 3. Cabinet to note that the Council's new

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				<p>build development on Seabrooke Rise will be allocated in accordance to the Council's existing Lettings Policy and existing residents of the Seabrooke Rise high rise towers will not benefit from enhanced priority status at the current time, therefore Council explores a local lettings plan as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>4. Cabinet to note that the Council is currently reviewing the proposed Housing Development Plan and Estate Regeneration Programme in the light of the Government's imposed reductions in rent. The Council are assessing the implications and options available to ensure that the financial parameters of the HRA are met, whilst retaining an affordable and deliverable programme of housing investment and new build development.</p>
468	<p>Noise and pollution from 'The Village' building works in Aveley. Petition to complain about the activity at 'The Village' Persimmon building development in Aveley, numerous complaints have been made already about the noise from the work site. Work often begins before 8am, carries on after 5pm and on Sundays too. Thurrock Council has warned the site managers about this before and have found out that work is being done outside the permitted time and, as such, there is scope for prosecution.</p>	23/09/15 at Council	Cllr G. Rice	<p>Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health monitor sites for compliance with the construction environment plan agreed as part of the original planning application.</p> <p>This plan includes provisions to control dust and noise.</p> <p>If evidence of failure to comply with the conditions is found the builder will be contacted and the relevant changes in practice agreed or failing this regulatory action started.</p>

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	<p>Further to this, many residents in St Michael's Close and Stanford Gardens in Aveley have been unable to use their gardens owing to the failure of the workers to dampen waste rubble that is causing dust to pour into residents' gardens. Many residents have been unable to use their gardens and this is particularly affecting families with children.</p> <p>The petition seeks compensation for residents of Stanford Gardens and St Michael's Close and that something is done so we can use our gardens again and not have to put up with building noise outside of normal working hours.</p>			<p>No evidence of breaches at the Village site is currently available. Residents experiencing issues resulting from this site should continue to report these to either the site or the Council on a case by case basis.</p>
469	<p>We, the undersigned residents of Blackshots, Woodside and also many other areas affected by bikes travelling at speed on pavements across main roads ending up on Blackshots Park, we have been blighted by this problem for many years. We ask that Councillors, Council and Police take notice of this problem that is escalating day by day, waiting for a traffic accident to happen.</p>	23/09/15 at Council	Cllr G. Rice	<p>Anti-social use of motorcycles and other vehicles is dealt with under section 59 of the Police Reform Act 2002. The Thurrock Neighbourhood Policing Team formed in July are tasked with dealing with this in Thurrock. So far this year 11 vehicles have been seized by Thurrock Police but unfortunately this is not broken down by cause or vehicle type on the relevant police computer system and so it is not possible to determine what percentage of these seizures were for section 59 at Blackshots.</p> <p>The Police have advised that they have no reported injuries or road traffic collisions attributable to this activity and that over</p>

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				<p>recent months complaints to them about nuisance motorbikes have reduced.</p> <p>They will continue to deal with these complaints on a case by case basis with the continued support of the Councils CCTV system and other departments as necessary.</p>
470	Petition to demolish Butler, Davall and Greenwood High Rise blocks in Grays.	14/10/15	Cllr Worrall	<p>At the meeting of Cabinet held on 14 October 2014 (decision 01104415) it was resolved to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cabinet not to award decant status to three Grays high rises – Butler, Davall and Greenwood House, but instead to note that continued consultation should take place with residents to include detailed design on alternative home provision to ensure residents are given a clear unambiguous set of choices. 2. Cabinet to agree that officers consider feedback from this consultation as part of the development of the emerging master plan for Grays Town Centre. 3. Cabinet to note that the Council's new build development on Seabrooke Rise will be allocated in accordance to the Council's existing Lettings Policy and existing residents of the Seabrooke Rise high rise towers will not benefit from enhanced priority status at the current time, therefore Council explores a local lettings plan as a matter of urgency. 4. Cabinet to note that the Council is currently reviewing the proposed Housing

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				<p>Development Plan and Estate Regeneration Programme in the light of the Government's imposed reductions in rent. The Council are assessing the implications and options available to ensure that the financial parameters of the HRA are met, whilst retaining an affordable and deliverable programme of housing investment and new build development.</p>
471	<p>The petition is with regards to the shelters on Dilkes Park on the Belhus Estate, the undersigned would like them to be removed. Issues include groups of individuals setting fires, taking drugs, drinking and generally terrorising residents.</p>	22/10/15	Cllr Potheary	<p>Resident of the surrounding area of Dilkes Park have suffered from persistent antisocial behaviour in the area resulting in worry for the community.</p> <p>Although the Police, supported by the Council, have been addressing the issues and taking action in the area against perpetrators, it is agreed that these shelters should be removed.</p> <p>On visiting the site it can be seen that the shelters are not in keeping with what is otherwise a very family friendly park.</p> <p>The shelters are repeatedly damaged and vandalised, leading to the Environmental workforce having to continually commit resource to address ongoing issues.</p> <p>The intention is to have the shelters removed before Christmas 2015.</p>

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				<p>There is a risk that this will just move the problem of the antisocial behaviour, however the Police will continue to work with the Council and the Community to address any ongoing issues.</p> <p>It should be noted that removal of the shelters will be an estimated cost of £4000.</p>
472	Residents of Long Lane (Rugby Club end), Kerry Road, Jesmond Road and Laird Avenue are asking for a one way system for the bus route number 88.	28/10/15 at Council	Cllr Gerrish	<p>Bus route 88 is operated by a private operator, Ensign Buses, and they have confirmed there are no major operational issues and do not intend to register a route change with the traffic commissioners as requested.</p> <p>In such circumstances the Council have no or few powers to act due to bus deregulation.</p>
473	<p>The residents of Webster Road call on the Council to commence a review in aid of securing additional parking arrangements / facilities in the immediate vicinity. A suggestion is the potential reconfiguration of the land outside properties with the lowest door numbers in Webster Road on the grass section in front of houses (i.e. numbered 1,3,5,2,4,6 etc).</p> <p>Residents call on Thurrock Council to discuss this with the local residents to see how this piece of land could be changed / adapted to accommodate more vehicles. A potential example can be found in Deveron</p>	25/11/15 at Council	Cllr Gerrish	<p>An investigation into the possibility of providing parking on the Highway green in front of properties 1-9 & 2-10 Webster Road.</p> <p>The area will be reviewed with a view to providing verge protection to the green to permit parking whilst retaining the pleasant feel of the area and to assist with drainage. A scheme proposal will be drawn up and a cost estimate will be calculated.</p> <p>However, a preliminary view of the site indicates that currently vehicles are parking in the turning head in front of the green and I must point out that that some of this will be lost to permit access to the green and allow</p>

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	Gardens in South Ockendon.			for vehicles to turn. Officers will advise when furthers costs are known.
474	The petition is too keep gate 129 between College Avenue and Bradleigh Avenue, Grays closed. It has been gated and closed to the public since 2008 following local residents fighting long and hard for it to be. The Pathway is close to a school and house.	1/12/15	Cllr Gerrish	The current Gating Order is valid until October 2017. Officers are exploring the case for permanently stopping up the footpath using the Council's powers under s116 of the Highways Act, and proposals will be subject to formal consultation in due course.

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