

COUNCIL	DATE 26 March 2008
REPORT TITLE Petition Responses	ITEM NO 14
LEAD OFFICER Chief Executive	WARDS Various

1. Decision Required

The Council is asked to note the action taken in response to petitions presented at recent meetings of the Council.

2. Summary

Under the Council Procedure Rule A1.18 petitions presented to Council are required to be referred to the relevant Chief Officer and reported back to Council within two meetings.

This report is submitted for Members to note the action taken in response to petitions presented to recent meetings of the Council.

3. Petitions

The following petitions were presented to Council on 31 October 2007

3.1 Petition – Demolition of the Ball Court, Woodlands Park Road

Containing 155 signatures, presented by Councillor Mary Mills

3.1.1 The Council currently owns the ball court situated at Woodlands Park Road, which was constructed approximately 9 years ago. In more recent times, local residents have complained that the ball court has become a nuisance. At present, it is disused and padlocked due to previous issues with anti social behaviour on the site. The site is not being used for its intended purpose and as such does not currently provide a useful amenity to the community.

3.1.2 A decision was taken by Cabinet Committee on 10th July 2007 to agree in principle to the disposal of this same site to a Registered Social Landlord for the provision of Affordable Housing. This was however, subject to a further

report to be submitted to Cabinet Committee to recommend the terms of the disposal.

3.1.3 The response to this petition was considered by the Cabinet Committee on 22 January 2008.

3.1.4 The Committee was addressed by Anna Townend, the Chair of Greenwich Environment Forum, who asked if a suitable replacement of the ball court could be sought as it appeared to have been very successful in the past. She added that consideration be given to the future use of the land as it does not appear suitable for housing.

3.1.5 The Cabinet Committee noted the address and resolved –

(i) that the said ball court situated in Woodland Park Road SE 10 be demolished in response to the residents' request, in the petition presented by Councillor Mary Mills.

(ii) that the site be disposed of for housing.

3.2 Petition – 21 – 67 Kirkham Street, Lift Breakdowns

Containing 16 signatures, presented by Councillor Angela Cornforth

3.2.1 At the Council meeting on 31 October 2007, a petition was presented by Councillor Cornforth. It contained sixteen signatures and highlighted concerns about the reliability of the lift to their block. The petitioners' requested;

“ We the undersigned tenants that live in the block of flats (6 floors) Nos 21 -67 Kirkham Street, lift No 42, are concerned regarding the continuous breaking down of the lift and the functional way it works when the lift is supposed to be in working order.

This lift has been nothing but trouble since its installation a few years ago, replacing the old lift from the time the flats were built. Tenants living in these flats are disabled, young mothers with children in push chairs, elderly tenants whom have District Nurses to attend their needs, all of whom have to walk up the stairs when the lift is out of order, and not be notified.

Enough is enough and we are looking forward to some action appertaining to serious matter being dealt with immediately.”

ITEM NO: 14

PAGE NO: 2

- 3.2.2 The lift at Kirkham Street was renewed in 2000 and during the last seven years has not had a poor service record. As with many lifts within the Council's stock, it is not immune from acts of vandalism. All reported lift breakdowns are usually attended to by our maintenance contractor within 2/3 hours, depending on time of call received.
- 3.2.3 The history of the lift service over the last year shows 9 breakdowns, 3 of which were directly attributable to vandalism. Another due to an obstruction (pebble/stone) obstructing the doors, preventing them from closing.
- 3.2.4 One occasion when the lift could not be attended due to associated access problems within the loft/tank room which prevented engineers from carrying out a repair until environmental health cleaning was completed and tank room windows were repaired and secured.
- 3.2.5 Although residents are not happy with the lifts performance, it can be seen that no breakdown calls were received from residents during the month of November. On all of our lifts repeat calls are identified by HROS and our contractor is instructed to return and repeat any necessary repairs. Each reported callout is attended to by the contractor within two hours, during normal working hours, and within three hours at all other times.
- 3.2.6 The contractor was asked to carry out a detailed investigation of this unit's reliability and discovered that an intermittent fault on the lift car door edge was causing the interrupted performance. This unit has now been replaced and the contractor, together with Engineering Services Officers will monitor its future performance
- 3.2.7 The last reported breakdown for this lift was attended to on 8th December 2007. Of the 5 attendances by the contractor since the earlier report 3 can be attributed to faults or break downs and two are repairs as a consequence of the previous calls. The lift is serviced monthly and the last service date being 22 January 2008.
- 3.2.8 Officers have again contacted the lead petitioner in the last few days and the lift is now operating fine, except that the door is sticking slightly. The Director of Neighbourhood Services has arranged for a lift engineer to check this out and take any necessary remedial action.

3.3 Petition – Boxgrove Road: One Way System

Containing 134 signatures, presented by Councillor Jagir Sekhon OBE

Current Situation

- 3.3.1 Boxgrove Road is a public highway linking Eynsham Drive in the north with Felixstowe Road in the south. It is residential road and includes Boxgrove Primary School.
- 3.3.2 Some years ago traffic calming measures as part of the 20 m.p.h. zone were installed in Boxgrove Road and the surrounding area as part of the Council's road safety programme. These measures included a series of speed control humps. Recently further traffic calming work has been carried out in front of the school as part of the Safer Routes to School initiative. This comprised a speed table which also assists pedestrians to cross the road here. These measures address the residents' concerns about traffic speeds and significantly improve the road safety in this road.
- 3.3.3 A traffic survey was carried out in October 2007 using an automatic traffic counter. The counter provided data for every hour throughout the day and was left in place for a week. On a normal weekday during the morning school peak between 62 and 71 vehicles per hour were recorded and in the afternoon peak between 64 and 70 vehicles per hour were recorded. 85 percentile speeds were 20 m.p.h. or less. This indicates that 85% of traffic travelled below this speed.

Future Action

- 3.3.4 The introduction of one-way working in Boxgrove Road is not included in this or next financial year's works programme.
- 3.3.5 Funding for such schemes come from grants from Transport for London (TfL) based on bids from the Council who need to substantiate that schemes will be cost effective in terms of savings accrued through a likely reduction in the accidents or that there are severe traffic problems.
- 3.3.6 No personal injury accidents have been recorded in Boxgrove Road during the past 3 year period.

- 3.3.7 The Council has a 5 year rolling programme based on personal injury accident data and Boxgrove Road does not feature in that programme as there are other roads in the Borough with worse accident records.
- 3.3.8 The accident record for Boxgrove Road is good and it is not likely to warrant the inclusion of a scheme in the Council's road safety plan bid. The Road Safety Plan is reviewed annually and if the accident record for this was to deteriorate, consideration could be given to include it in the programme at the appropriate time.

The following petition was presented to Council on 19 December 2007

3.4 Petition – Red Lion Lane: One Way Traffic

Containing 24 signatures, presented by Councillor Spencer Drury

Current Situation

- 3.4.1 Red Lion Lane has long been used by drivers seeking to avoid delays at the south circular junction at the bottom of Shooters Hill and as a more direct route between Charlton and Shooters Hill. It is mainly residential but includes Shooters Hill Post – 16 Campus and a Public House.
- 3.4.2 Some years ago the Council introduced a speed hump scheme as part of its traffic calming programme. This sought to address concerns about traffic speeds. In the year 2000, as part of the 20 m.p.h. zone in the area one-way working was introduced in Red Lion Lane between its junctions with Shooters Hill and Constitution Rise to reduce the conflicts between opposing traffic flows over the narrower section of the road.
- 3.4.3 As part of this scheme in 2000 it was also proposed to introduce footway parking exemption to allow half and half parking on one side of the road between Constitution Rise and Herbert Road. It was felt that footway parking would go some way towards alleviating the problem of conflicts in this section of the road. Residents who attended the committee meeting were opposed to this idea and the Committee decided against the proposal and no further action was taken.

Further Action

- 3.4.4 The introduction of one way working in Red Lion Lane between Constitution Rise and Herbert Road is not included in this or next financial year's works programme. The funding for such schemes come from grants from Transport for London (TfL) based on bids from the Council who need to substantiate that schemes will be cost effective in terms of savings accrued through a likely reduction in the accidents or that there are severe traffic problems.
- 3.4.5 No personal injury accidents have been recorded in Red Lion Lane during the last 3 year period
- 3.4.6 The Council has a 5 year rolling programme based on personal injury accident data and Red Lion Lane does not feature in that programme as there are other roads in the Borough with worse accident records. The Council's bid for 2009/10 will be prepared around June of this year and further considerations can be given at that time to the inclusion of a bid for a scheme for Red Lion Lane.
- 3.4.7 Shooters Hill Ward Members have suggested that the residents of Red Lion Lane be consulted again on the proposal to introduce footway parking exemption on one side of the road as previously proposed in the year 2000. Should Members wish to proceed with this proposal then this work can be programmed for early in the next financial year since the installation of such parking is relatively inexpensive.

Background Papers

Responses received from the Directors of Neighbourhood Services and Strategic Planning.

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ITEM NO: 14

PAGE NO: 6