

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 7
14 JUNE 2010	PUBLIC REPORT

Contact Officer:	Carol Tilley, Corporate Governance Manager, Democratic Services	Tel. 01733 452344
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UPDATE - PETITIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS	
FROM : Directors	
1. That Cabinet notes the action taken in respect of petitions presented to full Council.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the presentation of petitions to full Council.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

2.1 The purpose of this report is to update Cabinet on the progress being made in response to petitions in accordance with Standing Order 10.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.1 – ‘to take collective responsibility for the delivery of all strategic Executive functions within the Council’s Major Policy and Budget Framework and lead the Council’s overall improvements programmes to deliver excellent services’.

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO
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4. OUTCOME OF PETITIONS

4.1 Petition to retain playing field adjacent to Norwood School for public use outside school hours:

This petition was presented to full Council on 14 October 2009 by Councillor Fower.

The Council’s Assistant Director of Children’s Services has undertaken extensive consultation with members of the local community, parents, staff and school governors as a result of this petition, and an earlier petition against the proposal to erect a high security fence around the playing field adjacent to Norwood School. The outcome in respect of both was agreement that the fence would be replaced in its original position, the design changed to a 1.5 metre high bow-topped style railing and that the gates would be locked during the school day and open to enable community use at other times. It should be noted that the fence encloses only the school playing field, which is part of a much larger space accessible to the community at all times.

4.2 Petition to rebuild The Dell Park / Recreation Ground:

This petition was presented to Council by Councillor Lee.

Following receipt of this petition, the Council's Head of Operations visited the site, together with Councillor Lee as the local ward Councillor. Councillor Lee wrote to petitioners on 16 March 2010 advising as follows:

- The Council would seek to carry out improvements to the play area (during the financial year 2010/11) using grant available under the 'Play Builder' scheme;
- It is proposed to replace the concrete area with a grassed play area which would encourage use of natural play (final design to be dependent on the outcome of a user consultation exercise);
- The metal grid entrance areas will be removed and replaced with gated access.
- Broken benches in the area will be removed and new benches installed;
- Old metal framed play equipment and rotten tree stumps outside no. 92 The Dell would be removed.

4.3 Petition opposing allotment development on park land between Hallfields Lane and Gunthorpe Road

This petition was presented to Council on 24 February 2010 by Councillor Fower.

A response was sent to Councillor Fower on 23 March 2010 advising that the Government Office is prepared to grant consent to the disposal of statutory allotment land at Itter Crescent for residential development subject to the re-provision of allotment land elsewhere. The petition opposing allotment development on park land between Hallfields Lane and Gunthorpe Road underlined the views expressed at a local consultation exercise, held in 2009.

The site at Hallfields Lane / Gunthorpe Road is one of several possible sites under consideration and further consultative exercises will be held in respect of all proposed sites, after which time all viable options will be assessed on the basis of key comparators to identify the most favourable option.

4.4 Petition opposing allotment development at Werrington Paddock

This petition was presented to Council on 14 April 2010 by Councillor Fower.

A response was sent to Councillor Fower on 27 April 2010 reiterating the position outlined in 4.3 above and advising that the land at Werrington Paddock is one of several possible sites under consideration. The Council has noted the level of local objections in respect of this proposal, which follow a local consultative exercise and receipt of the petition, and will continue to hold further consultation exercises in respect of all proposed sites. All viable options will then be assessed on the basis of key comparators to identify the most favourable option.

4.5 Petition opposing proposals to increase caravan pitches for gypsies/travellers in Eye

This petition was presented to Council on 14 April 2010 by Councillor Cereste and Councillor Sanders.

The Council's Planning Policy and Strategic Manager responded on 19 April 2010 and advised that the petition would be considered as a formal representation to the ongoing Site Allocations Draft Planning Document consultation and would be dealt with alongside all other

formal representations. The lead petitioner would be advised and ongoing contact throughout the process would be maintained.

4.6 Petition opposing a planning application due to traffic noise/pollution- Great Haddon development

This petition was presented to Council on 14 April 2010 by Councillor Seaton.

The Council's Head of Planning Services responded on 29 April 2010 and advised that the petition would be reviewed and considered as part of the wider consultation process in respect of this application. Assurance has been given that representations will be fully taken into account during the decision making process.

5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.1 Standing Orders require that Council receive a report about the action taken on petitions. As the petition presented in this report has been dealt with by Cabinet Members or officers it is appropriate that the action taken is reported to Cabinet, prior to it being included within the Executive's report to full Council.

6. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 6.1 Any alternative options would require an amendment to the Council's Constitution to remove the requirement to report to Council.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no legal implications.

8. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

- 8.1 Petitions presented to full Council and responses from officers.

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