

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under mentioned petitions which were presented to Council.

(i) Petition objecting to the Council using Thompson Park Compound as a refuse collection depot and welfare facility by Streetscene – Presented by Councillor C Shattock on 7th December 2011

The Executive Director of City Services reports that he has considered the petition which was signed by 25 residents and has agreed to continue to operate the services from the Thompson Park Compound in accordance with restrictions on the activities carried out. Operations in the park will be monitored closely to ensure impacts are minimised.

The method of operation has been investigated by relevant Council Officers from Development Control, Planning and Environment Health Teams and found to be appropriate.

Streetscene operations need to use facilities available to ensure it can provide the highest level of service with the resources available. The use of the compound at Thompson Park will allow services in the park and the local Street Scene area to be provided efficiently and in a more responsive way.

Council Officers have given firm assurances to act as a good neighbour to residents and liaise regularly with residents and if appropriate through the Friends of Thompson Park Steering Group.

Councillor Shattock and the lead petitioner have been informed accordingly.

(ii) Petition against the closure of Crowtree sauna and the lack of accessible replacement and urging the Council to replace the closed Crowtree sauna with an accessible facility; not leaving the many users having to face the prospect of a long, expensive journey to Washington or Hetton – Presented by Councillor P Dixon on 5th October 2011

The Executive Director of City Services reports that he has considered the petition which was signed by 88 residents and determined that the petitioners' request to replace the Crowtree sauna should be declined.

In planning for the development of a new sauna, not only would this require a revenue budget, but significant capital expenditure would be required for its construction. External funders do not regard sauna provision as a priority in achieving an increase in participation in sport and physical activity. Therefore, any development would need to be financed by City Council budgets and, given the current economic climate, no Council funding is currently available to prioritise this.

The Executive Director did, however, agree to consider the development of a sauna and 'add value' to a facility, where the cost implications are not prohibitive.

The Ward Councillors and the lead petitioner have been notified of the Executive Director's decision.