

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the actions taken in relation to the under mentioned petitions which were presented to Council:-

- (i) Petition requesting the installation of street lighting to the footpaths which cross Store Field, Ryhope and to carry out repairs to the footpaths - Presented to Council by Councillor E. Ball on 24 June 2015**

The petitioners reported that these paths are used daily by elderly, parents with pushchairs and school children to access the Local Health Centre, shops and schools. During wet and winter weather these paths are dark, dangerous and create a major safety hazard to pedestrians.

The petition was forwarded to the Executive Director of Commercial Development.

With respect to the footpath condition, the majority of the defects were minor in nature and did not meet intervention levels, however there were some areas of localised failure where attention was required on the grounds of safety. The necessary work has been carried out. In this regard the petitioners' request was accepted.

There is no statutory requirement to provide street lighting on any path and whilst it was accepted that the footpaths provide a shortcut to local amenities, are used regularly by the local residents and there is a desire for them to be used during the hours of darkness, there is an alternative lit route, albeit longer, which can be utilised by the petitioners. In addition there is no mainstream budget identified for new lighting installations or for the associated revenue maintenance and energy costs. In this regard the petition was declined.

Councillor Ball and the Lead Petitioners have been advised of the decision.

- (ii) **Petition to ask that the Council realise that an all year round attraction at the Seaburn Seafront is needed to bring visitors to what is often described as a jewel in Sunderland's crown. Such Attractions should include a family swimming pool, an ice rink and a bowling venue - Presented to Council by Councillor B. Francis on 25 November 2015**

The above petition was forwarded to the Executive Director of Commercial Development.

The Seaburn Masterplan sets out the following vision for Seaburn: "Building on its unique natural environment and rich heritage, the seafront at Seaburn will be an attractive, safe, clean and accessible destination for all residents and visitors, of which the people of Sunderland can be proud. Seaburn will be a family focused resort offering high quality indoor and outdoor facilities. It will be a welcoming place to enjoy all year round, providing activities and events for everyone, supporting Sunderland's aspiration to be the UK's most liveable city."

The Seaburn masterplan specifically highlights that leisure uses at Seaburn would be appropriate as part of a mixed-use development, and as such a swimming pool, ice rink and bowling alley would all be an appropriate use for this site as part of a wider development.

The emerging Siglion vision for Seaburn recognises the opportunity for the area to become a strong leisure destination. At this stage there are no detailed proposals for specific end uses, however, if there is a market demand for the uses set out in the petition (as the Council will not be developing and providing such uses directly) it is possible that these could be brought forward. Whilst the land is available for leisure development, it will not be clear whether demand exists from private investors to develop the specific uses identified until the site is formally marketed by Siglion.

The contents of this petition have been forwarded to Siglion and the Council will continue to work with Siglion to ensure that proposals for Seaburn meet the vision set out in the Seaburn Masterplan.

Councillor Francis and the Lead Petitioner have been advised of the decision.