

Action on Petitions

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 from residents of and visitors to the Dairy Lane Estate, Houghton le Spring, particularly Longacre and Dunelm Drive calling for action for Sunderland City Council to take all necessary action to prevent a recurrence of flooding – Presented by Councillor Ellis on 28 November, 2012**

The petitioners requested the Council to take all necessary action to prevent a recurrence of flooding in their homes which appeared to be being caused by flooding in Gilpin Wood and the culverting of run-off water from the Rainton Meadow Industrial Estate to discharge adjacent to homes.

The Council notes the petitioners' requests to take all necessary action to prevent future flooding to their homes. The Council has worked and will continue to work with the Environment Agency and NWL in funding and implementing cost effective solutions to mitigate the flooding problems on the estate. The effects of the works undertaken will continue to be monitored during future rainfall events.

The lead petitioner will be informed of the decision after the Council meeting.

- (ii) Petition to Protect The Green at Redburn Row, Houghton-le-Spring and the field lying to the rear of Redburn Row – Presented by Councillor Ellis on 19 June 2013**

The petitioners requested the Council to protect The Green at Redburn Row, Houghton-le-Spring and the field lying to the rear of Redburn Row.

The site, locally known as 'The Green, Redburn Row and the land immediately to the south, is identified as 'white land' on the proposals map of the City Council's adopted Unitary Development Plan (UDP) (1998) and, as such, any proposals for development would be subject to the provisions of policy EN10. This policy dictates that where the UDP does not indicate any proposals for change, the existing pattern of land use is intended to remain and development in such areas must be compatible with the principal use of the neighbourhood.

In addition, the area in question is also situated within a settlebreak and nature conservation area and, as such, regard should also be given to policies CH6 and B3 of the UDP. Policy CN6 states that important open breaks and wedges within and between settlements will be retained and enhanced, although the supporting text to the policy does state that incursions into the settlement break comprising minor extensions to existing land uses may be acceptable. Policy B3 seeks to protect public and private open space from development which would have a serious adverse effect on its amenity, recreational or nature conservation value; proposals will be considered in light of their contribution to urban regeneration and to the importance of such space to the established character of the area.

It is understood that the area known as 'The Green' has been, and is currently used on occasions by local residents for recreational activities. However in terms of its planning status, the area in question is not afforded any land use policy protection in this regard. Therefore the Council could not, through current planning legislation, ensure that this area of land and the land immediately to the south remained for such informal uses in the future.

In respect of land ownership it is understood that the Council do own a small section of the land known as 'The Green' and the larger area of land to the south. However, as became evident in a recent planning application, for the change of use of open space to private garden to the side/rear of Thornton Cottage, the majority of the area in question does not appear to be in the ownership of any particular individual or company.

Therefore it is considered that any development proposals for the parcels of land in question, including applications for change of use, would be subject to the requirements of Article 11 and 12 of the Development Management Procedure Order 2010 (notice of applications for planning permission and certificates in relation to notice of applications for planning permission) and the considerations as set out in the aforementioned policies.

Councillor Ellis and the Lead Petitioner have been notified of the action taken.

(iii) Petition Requesting the Reinstatement of Bus Service 13 along Doxford Park Way on Sunday daytime and a revision of its termination point - Presented by Councillor Marshall on 26 September 2012

The following actions took place following submission of the Petition:-

(i) The Petition was forwarded to the Acting Clerk & Treasurer for the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) on 15 October 2012 for investigation of the issues raised by the Petitioners.

(ii) The issues raised by the Petitioners have been investigated by Nexus, on behalf of the ITA, and the matter has been discussed at meetings of the ITA.

(iii) Following the ITA meeting of 23 May 2013, the Director General of Nexus wrote to the Lead Petitioner, outlining the outcome of their investigations. In addition Nexus sent Councillor Marshall, by e-mail on 3 June 2013, a copy of their letter to the Lead Petitioner. Therefore both Councillor Marshall and the Lead Petitioner have been informed of the outcome of the petition.

(iii) The outcome of Nexus' investigations into the issues raised by the petitioners is as follows, as set out in the letter from Nexus to the Lead Petitioner:-

"Nexus were asked to discuss the issues raised in the petition with the bus operator, Stagecoach. The changes were made as a result of a commercial decision taken by the commercial operator. Stagecoach will keep under review the operation of Services 4 and 13 in the Doxford Park area in an effort to minimise the impacts of the loss of Sunday daytime service on Doxford Park Way and to reduce the current dwell time of Service 13. Nexus is continuing to explore these issues and possible solutions with Stagecoach and progress is being made. I hope we will ultimately be able to find a resolution to the issues outlined in your petition. We will provide you with further updates, once Stagecoach has given these issues further consideration."

(iv) It is recommended that Nexus' statement, made on behalf of the ITA, should be noted.

