

Action on Petitions

ACTION TAKEN ON PETITIONS

Council Members are asked to note the action taken in relation to the under-mentioned petition which was presented to Council:-

1. Petition – Reopen The Pallion Shipyard

Request calling on Sunderland City Council to review the Council’s strategy for the marine engineering economy.

A petition signed by 387 signatories was received at the Council meeting on 16 November 2022 from Councillor Bewick. The statement on the petition sheet was as follows:-

“We therefore call upon Sunderland City Council to use of the Council’s Compulsory Purchase Order (“CPO”) powers pursuant to section 226 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (“the 1990 Act”) to facilitate the development of the Pallion shipyard and associated area into a Marine Engineering Centre of Excellence creating up to 3 thousand jobs within 5 years within the Northeast and Sunderland.”

Council Officers have considered the petition.

The Pallion Shipbuilding Yard closed to commercial shipbuilding in December 1988 and no shipbuilding activity has taken place at this facility since that time. It was considered that without sight of a business plan detailing confirmation (or otherwise) of potential support by the site owner for the proposals and confirming the feasibility of the proposals in both economic and environmental terms, a Compulsory Purchase Order would not realistically facilitate the successful development of the Pallion Shipyard site for maritime related investment.

Any future plans for the Pallion shipyard site, which is privately owned, will presumably be subject to the site owner’s own internal investment appraisals and the commercial appetite of such an investment for potential users of the facility.

The City Council has repeatedly requested sight of a business plan (from various groups and organisations) however this has not been forthcoming.

Therefore, the petition was declined on the basis set out above.

The Ward Councillors and Lead petitioner have been advised of the outcome.

2. Petition – Princes Avenue

Request to consider alternative measures instead of road closures.

A petition signed by 118 signatories was received at the Council meeting on 23 March 2022 from Councillor Hartnack. The statement on the petition sheet was as follows:-

“We the undersigned object to any changes to surrounding roads, mainly Princes Ave/Douglas Road in the interest of safety for all residents without full consideration.

We are concerned the impact this will cause on the surrounding streets and want alternative measures to be explored instead of road closures”.

Council Officers have considered the petition.

As part of the Section 106 planning agreement with the Avant Homes Lowry Park development, funding was allocated to the Council to investigate and develop a scheme on Princes Avenue.

Reports and requests were also made to the Council in relation to “rat-running” and speeding along Princes Avenue and a scheme was designed to remove or at least reduce the majority of the reported issues. The proposed scheme consisted of closing the existing junction at Seaburn Terrace/Sea Lane with Princes Avenue. In addition, part of the junction modifications consisted of collapsible bollards and dropped kerbs to allow the junction to be opened for periods during events on the Seafront.

An initial public engagement was carried out between 24 January and 25 February 2022 in respect of Princes Avenue and the nearby surrounding streets. Residents were asked to submit any comments by email or telephone.

Results from the consultation showed that from the 198 properties engaged with, 21 properties were for the scheme going ahead and 39 properties were against the scheme. However, when taking into account the votes for Princes Avenue only, 14 properties were for the scheme going ahead and 3 properties were against the scheme. Considering the overall vote and lack of support from other nearby streets it was decided that this particular scheme would not be progressed.

Therefore, officers have produced a new proposal consisting of three new sets of speed cushions on Princes Avenue. A new public engagement process was carried out for the new proposals between 27 July and 19 August 2022. Although some residents still raised concerns regarding these proposals, there was much less resistance to the scheme, with the majority of residents engaged with, specifically those on Princes Avenue, in favour of the scheme going ahead. Following discussions with local Ward Councillors, an update letter was sent out to the same residents informing them that the

Council plans to proceed with the proposed traffic calming on Princes Avenue. Officers are now working with the legal team to progress through statutory consultation with the traffic calming notice. Statutory consultation ended on 20 February 2023 with no objections received. Officers are now working with contractors to have the works installed at the earliest opportunity.

As the traffic calming scheme as detailed above was in progress, the petition is declined.

The Ward Councillors and Lead petitioner have been advised of the outcome.

