

# ***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 regarding vehicle access and parking problems at Salisbury and Dalla St, South Hylton**

At the meeting of the Council on 22 March 2021, a petition was presented by Councillor Mann containing 22 signatures as follows:-

*“We the undersigned, residents of Salisbury and Dalla St, South Hylton, Sunderland petition Sunderland City Council regarding vehicle access and parking at these residences. The access is severely restricted, causing problems with parking for residents with disabilities, is difficult to access for refuse collection and is a hazard for emergency vehicles. We suggest removal of some verge areas to allow wider access and the addition of further parking bays to relieve congestion. We ask to have the area assessed by officers to evaluate the situation.”*

After careful consideration by Council Officers, the outcome of the petition is as follows:-

- The Council has confirmed that it is not in a position to progress the works suggested.
- The Council has however offered to explore the option of entering into an agreement with the petitioners should they wish to progress the works themselves.

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

### **(ii) Petition from residents requesting the Council to reduce the speed limit and install other traffic calming measures in Allendale Road and surrounding streets**

At the meeting of the Council on 27 January 2020, Councillor McDonough presented a petition signed by 93 residents and an on-line petition in the same terms asking the Council to reduce the speed limit and install other traffic calming measures on Allendale Road and surrounding streets.

The statement on the petition sheet stated:-

*“Petition calls on Sunderland City Council to reduce the speed limit on the entirety of Allendale Road in Farringdon to 20mph and to install traffic calming measures.”*

Officers have investigated the matter and noted that the location suggested is a residential area that has a primary and secondary school on this road. The road outside both schools is 20mph and then 30mph on the stretches not directly outside of the schools.

There have been seven accidents on this stretch of road however the Road Safety Team determined that none of these accidents had similar circumstances and were all random events.

Furthermore, there are numerous measures already installed at this location in the form of raised zebra crossings, build outs with tactile crossings, school keep clear markings, 20mph zone signage and rumble strips to slow traffic.

Allendale Road is also a Mobile Speed Camera Site operated by Northumbria Police.

After consideration by Council Officers, the outcome of the petition is as follows:-

To decline this petition on the basis that most of Allendale Road is already a 20mph zone covering large areas outside of both schools and there are numerous other traffic calming measures installed at this location. The primary school 20mph zone has just been extended and ward councillors were consulted during this process in May 2020 and a further update in September 2020.

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

### **(iii) Petition - Development on land at Primate Road**

At the meeting of the Council on 23 June 2021, Councillor Mullen presented a petition with 61 signatures, including those of Cllrs Ali, Burnicle, Hartnack and Johnson. The petition set out an objection to planning application ref. 21/01001/FU4, which related to a development of 69 no. affordable dwellings on land east of Primate Road, Plains Farm.

The statement on the petition sheet reads:

*'We the undersigned indicate our opposition to the proposed housing development planned for the field in front of Princetown Terrace/land east of Primate Road.*

*We object on the grounds that the increased traffic flow generated by the development – both during and after construction – will have unacceptable adverse impact upon the existing road network. We see no evidence of adequate mitigation. The proposed development therefore fails to comply with the requirements of policies ST3 and HS1 of the Core Strategy.*

*We believe there is insufficient visitor parking proposed, which will again impact on the existing road network by creating congestion on neighbouring residential*

*streets. This will inconvenience local residents and fails to accord with policy HS1 of the Core Strategy.*

*The proximity of the proposed dwellings to existing dwellings is also concerning. There is a particular risk of overlooking and obstruction of light which we strongly feel is unacceptable.'*

The petition is being treated as a formal representation in respect of planning application ref. 21/01001/FU4 and will be material to the consideration of the application by officers ahead of its determination by the Planning and Highways (East) Committee. The concerns raised within the petition in relation to road capacity, highway safety, parking and the amenity of existing residents, are all material considerations and the implications of the proposed development in respect of these issues will be fully assessed by officers prior to the presentation of the planning application to the Committee for determination.

#### **(iv) Excessive Noise at Rainton Arena**

At the meeting of the Council on 23 June 2021, Councillor Heron presented a petition with 112 signatures. The petition set out concerns from residents regarding noise, crime and disorder from Rainton Meadows Arena.

The statement on the petition sheet reads:

*We the undersigned wish to register complaints about the excessive noise produced by Rainton Arena and associated business and events held at Mercantile Road, Houghton-le-Spring, Tyne and Wear, DH4 5PH.*

*It is our view that the constant noise unreasonably and substantially interferes with the use of enjoyment of our homes, gardens and outdoor spaces and is severe enough for some that it could likely cause injury. We urge Sunderland City Council to investigate this issue as it could be considered a statutory nuisance under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.*

The allegations of excessive noise have been investigated and to date there is no evidence to suggest that a statutory nuisance exists. The licensee is engaging with the Council to enhance their existing licensing conditions to provide further controls in respect of the licensing objectives on site.

A response had been shared with Cllr Juliana Heron and a follow up query has also been responded to.

**(v) Petition – Seaburn Tram Shelter**

An online petition signed by 1179 people was presented to Council on 27 January 2021 by Councillor Doyle. The statement on the petition sheet states:-

*“We want Seaburn tram shelter to remain as it is, in its original form and for its original purpose, as a free shelter for visitors and residents. We want Sunderland Council to revoke their decision to lease this building and to commit to maintaining the building for future visitors and residents.”*

The proposals for the former tram shelter form part of the Council’s wider Coastal Communities Fund Round 5 project (CCF5). Along with three other projects - the Seaburn Bay Shelter, the former Roker Toilet Block, and the Seaburn beach huts - the proposals for the former tram shelter were given planning consent in January 2019.

The rental income that will be received from the new premises will support the operation of the Seafront Trust and give it a foundation from which to operate.

A review has been undertaken as agreed that included: meetings with residents, including most recently on 19 March and 9 June 2021, which Councillor Doyle attended with former Councillor Atkinson and Councillor Johnston respectively; reviewing the submissions by potential tenants and materials prepared in relation to planning; as well as reflecting on local media coverage (including social media) in relation to the proposed development.

It has been concluded that whilst there is a petition to stop the change of use there is also the view that a sympathetic conversion, with an appropriate end user, will be a positive addition to the seafront.

Given the broad range of views and the need to move forward, one way or another, it is proposed to carry out local engagement on the proposals. A preferred tenant has been selected who will now carry out engagement with the local community on their proposals for the building. This will enable them to both build up their own understanding through community engagement and to share their ideas and proposals. This engagement will then inform the development of the planning application which they will need to submit for listed building consent to the Local Planning Authority for consideration.

A response was sent to Cllr Doyle on 29 June 2021 setting out the review and the conclusion, as set out above. Officers will continue to work with the selected tenant to ensure the planned engagement takes place with the local community, and other stakeholders as appropriate, and to ensure the physical proposals developed for the premises can protect and enhance it as a grade II listed building.