

MEETING**CHIPPING BARNET AREA ENVIRONMENT SUB-COMMITTEE****DATE AND TIME****TUESDAY 22ND OCTOBER, 2013****AT 7.00 PM****VENUE****1255 HIGH ROAD, WHETSTONE, N20 0EJ**

Dear Councillors,

Please find enclosed additional papers relating to the following items for the above mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda.

Item No	Title of Report	Pages
8.	Late Report – Walksafe N14 Petition	1 - 16

Maria Lugangira 020 8359 2761 maria.lugangira@barnet.gov.uk

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Meeting	Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committee
Date	22 October 2013
Subject	WalkSafeN14 Petition
Report of Summary	Scrutiny Office On 7 October 2013 the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a petition which had received in excess of 2,000 signatures in relation to the Walksafe N14 Petition. This report provides the Area Environment Sub-Committee with an update on the outcome of the meeting.

Officer Contributors	Andrew Charlwood, Overview & Scrutiny Manager
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	Brunswick Park
Function of	Executive
Enclosures	Appendix A – Walksafe N14 Petition, Report to Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 October 2013 Appendix B – Area Plan Appendix C – Data submitted by Lead Petitioner Appendix D – Draft minute extract from the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 October 2013
Contact for Further Information:	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee notes the update on the progress of the Walksafe N14 Petition as set out in the report following consideration at the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 7 October 2013.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 7 October 2013, Walksafe N14 Petition – the Committee considered a petition which had received in excess of 2,000 signatures and received representations from the Lead Petitioner, the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Chief Officer.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 As set out in the report attached at Appendix A.
- 3.2 Other corporate priorities and policy considerations will be addressed when the Cabinet Member takes a decision in relation to a detailed scheme using his delegated powers.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 As set out in report attached at Appendix A.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 As set out in report attached at Appendix A.
- 5.2 Equalities and diversity considerations will be addressed for the report to the Cabinet Member for a decision in relation to a detailed scheme.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications in context of this report.
- 6.2 The measures requested in the petition are matters that the council will consider as part of the officer engagement process. Any identified measures would then be subject to approval through a delegated powers report which would include consideration of costs associated with progressing and delivering measures.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 As set out in report attached at Appendix A.

- 7.2 The Traffic Management Act 2004 places an obligation on authorities to ensure the safe and expeditious movement of traffic on their road network.
- 7.3 The Council as Highway Authority has legal powers to introduce or amend Traffic Management Orders through the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 Council Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, Area Environment Sub-Committees perform functions that are the responsibility of the Executive including highways use and regulation not the responsibility of the Council, within the boundaries of their areas in accordance with Council policy and within budget.

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 Details of the petition and constitutional provisions which required reporting to the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee are set out in the report attached at **Appendix A**.
- 9.2 An area plan is attached at **Appendix B**.
- 9.3 Data submitted by the Lead Petitioner at the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee is attached at **Appendix C**.
- 9.4 A draft minute extract from the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee which took place on 7 October 2013 is attached at **Appendix D**.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

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Meeting	Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	7 October 2013
Subject	WalkSafeN14 Petition
Report of Summary	Scrutiny Office This report provides Members with information relating to a petition signed by 2,365 residents submitted to the Council

Officer Contributors	Andrew Charlwood, Overview & Scrutiny Manager Abigail Mendy, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	Brunswick Park
Function of	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Enclosures	None
Contact for Further Information:	Andrew Charlwood, Overview and Scrutiny Manager, 020 8359 2014, andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That the Committee consider the petition received by the Council in relation to the N14 area, receive representations from the Cabinet Member and Chief Officer that have been called to give account with regard to the issues raised and determine an appropriate course of action (in accordance with the actions available to the Committee as detailed in section 8.3 of this report).

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Council, 15 April 2013, Report of the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee (Constitution Review) – Council adopted a revised petition scheme as part of the Constitution Review.

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three key priorities set out in the 2013-16 Corporate Plan are: –
- Supporting families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and wellbeing,
 - Improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study,
 - Promoting responsible growth, development and success across the borough.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Failure to deal with petitions received from members of the public in a timely way and in accordance with the provisions of the Council's Constitution carries a risk of challenge for the authority and could damage its reputation.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act"), the council, in the exercise of its functions, has to have 'due regard' to: (i) eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; (ii) advancing equality of opportunity between those with a relevant protected characteristic and those without; and (iii) fostering good relations between those with a relevant protected characteristics and those without. The relevant protected characteristics are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy, and maternity, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. The 'protected characteristics' also include marriage. The duty also covers civil partnership, but to a limited extent.

- 5.2 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:
- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
 - The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

- 7.1 The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 introduced a requirement for the Council to have a petition scheme and to provide an e-petition system. The Localism Act 2011 revoked the requirement for local authorities to have a petition scheme and e-petition system.
- 7.2 Following implementation of the Localism Act 2011, the Council have revised their petition scheme (adopted by Council in April 2013) and the detailed scheme is set out in Section 6 of the Public Participation and Engagement section in the Council's Constitution.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

- 8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.
- 8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution).
- 8.3 The Council Constitution, Part 4, Section 4, Public Participation and Engagement – paragraph 6.9 provides that:
- “Petitions which receive 2,000 signatures and over but less than 7,000 will be considered at the next available meeting of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Petitions are required to be received 15 days before the Committee meeting, and only one petition will normally be heard per meeting. The Committee Chairman will request that the relevant Cabinet Member and Chief Officer attend the meeting to be called to give account with regard to the issues raised. Details of the procedure to be followed at the meeting and the actions available to the Committee are set out below:
- i) Lead Petitioner is given five minutes to present the petition;
 - ii) Committee Members have an opportunity to ask questions of the Lead Petitioner;

- iii) Cabinet Member and Chief Officer respond to the issues raised in the petition;
- iv) Committee Members ask questions of the Cabinet Member and Chief Officer;
- v) The Committee will then consider the issues raised and the responses received and take one of the following actions:
 - Take no action
 - Note the petition
 - Make representations to the relevant Cabinet Member and Chief Officer on the issue(s) raised in the petition, detailing the Committee's view on the issue(s) and a recommended course of action. Such a representation requires a formal response to the Committee Chairman and Lead Petitioner within 20 working days
 - Instruct an officer to prepare a report for a future meeting of the Committee on the issues raised
 - Commission a committee report on the issue(s)
 - Commission a Task and Finish Group or Panel to consider the issue(s)"

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 The petition submitted to the Council is titled 'WalkSafeN14' and includes the following statement:

"We the undersigned petition Barnet Council to ensure greater pedestrian safety in the Osidge area of Barnet along the route of Hampden Way, Chase Way, Arlington Road, Cecil Road and Burleigh Gardens, N14"

- 9.2 The following additional information has been submitted with the petition:

"Action needed:

1. Safe crossing on Hampden Way between junctions with Chase Way and Summit Way
2. Safe crossing on Chase Way between Cowper Road and Burleigh Gardens
3. Reduce speed limit to 20mph on Chase Way
4. Reduce speed limit to 20mph on Arlington Road
5. Reduce speed limit to 20mph on Burleigh Gardens
6. Reduce speed limit to 20mph on Cecil Road
7. Double yellow lines on all road junctions in the catchment area of Osidge School.
8. Better enforcement of parking regulations, particularly at start and end of the school day.

WalkSafe N14 has been set up by a group of local parents and residents to ask for road safety measures from Barnet Council.

Please show your support by signing our petition

Thank you.”

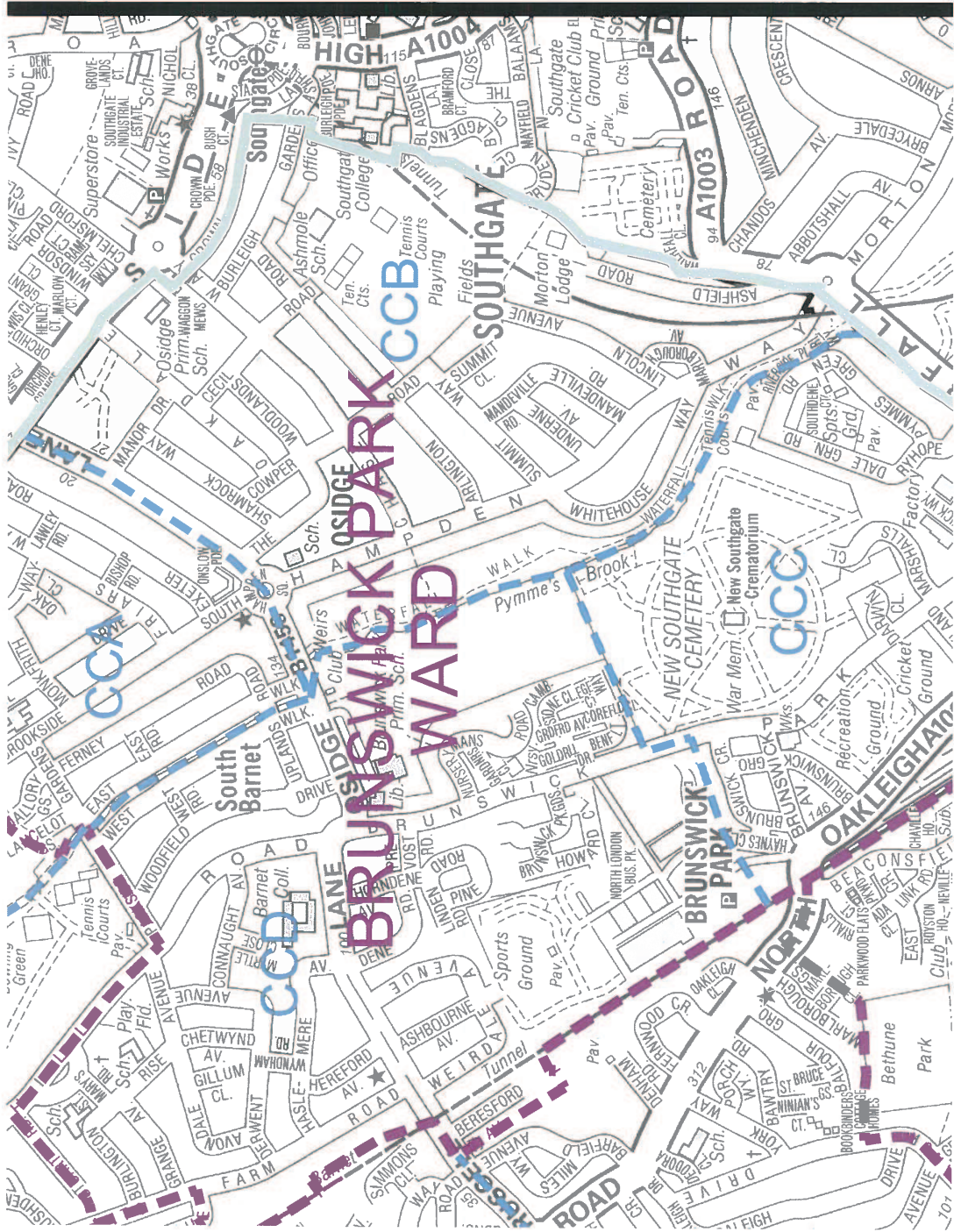
- 9.3 Total signatures, as taken from a combination of one paper petition (with 2076 signatures) and an e-petition (239 signatures), as of 12 July 2013. The paper petition and the e-petition have identical wording and are, therefore, considered as a single petition.
- 9.4 The Committee will follow the format prescribed by the Public Participation and Engagement rules as detailed in Section 8.3 above.
- 9.5 The Cabinet Member for Environment and the responsible officers have been invited to attend the Committee meeting to respond to the issues raised in the petition.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

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**Minute Extract, Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee,
7 October 2013**

1. WALKSAFE N14 PETITION

The Committee considered a petition received by the Council which had been signed by 2,365 residents which called for the introduction of road safety measures in the N14 area of Barnet.

The Lead Petitioner, Ms Cait O’Riordan, addressed the Committee highlighting concerns in relation to pedestrian safety in the Osidge area of Barnet along the route of Hampden Way, Chase Way, Arlington Road, Cecil Road and Burleigh Gardens N14. Ms O’Riordan tabled a document that detailed accidents which had taken place in the area between 2000 and 2010.

Members queried whether 20 mph speed limits would have an impact on vehicle speeds. The Lead Petitioner considered that a 20 mph zone would reduce speeds, adding that if a vehicle struck a pedestrian at 20 mph, there was an 80% chance of survival compared to a 20% chance of survival at 30 mph. A Member commented that if a 20 mph zone were to be introduced in certain locations within the area, this would need to be supplemented by physical measures to assist in reducing traffic speeds.

Members noted that an officer from the Highways Department had met with the Lead Petitioner in the area to review the feasibility of implementing the road safety measures proposed in the petition. Ms O’Riordan added that the police had placed monitoring equipment in the area to ascertain average vehicle speeds. The Committee were informed that the Headteacher at Osidge School was supportive of the campaign.

Responding to a question, Ms O’Riordan informed the Committee that she had raised this issue with her local Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) which had resulted in a police traffic engineer undertaking a site visit. He had described the situation as ‘chaotic’ and commissioned a survey of the area.

Councillor Lisa Rutter, a Brunswick Park Ward Member, addressed the Committee. She advised Members that she supported walking to school to encourage health and well-being and recognised the needs identified in the petition. It was noted that Councillor Rutter had discussed this issue with the SNT Ward Panel. Following this meeting with the Ward Member and the petitioners, the police highways team had conducted a 2-week survey of traffic speeds in the area. She reported that average traffic speeds in the area were 24 mph meaning that the council could introduce a 20 mph zone. However, additional calming measures would be required as SNT would not have the resources to carry out routine enforcement of a 20 mph zone.

The Committee welcomed the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Dean Cohen, Pam Wharfe, Director for Place and Neil Richardson, Highways Manager, Traffic and Development who were in attendance to respond to the issues raised.

The Cabinet Member for Environment informed the Committee that the proposals in the petition had been investigated by officers. It was noted that there was a potential issue with one of the crossings but that overall the proposals to introduce safety measures were supported by the council. The Committee were advised that the Cabinet Member intended to give effect to the proposals contained within the petition and would be taking a decision using his delegated powers following a site review, scheme design and consultation process (including the Walk Safe N14 campaign group).

Responding to a question regarding the timing and decision making process for a scheme in the area, the Cabinet Member for Environment reported that an initial site investigation had taken place. Detailed proposals would be developed and a consultation process would take place. The scheme would be adjusted in the light of feedback from the consultation process and the final scheme would then be approved under delegated powers, with a scheme expected to be in place in early 2014. Officers reported that the specific elements of the scheme would be determined following a site review.

RESOLVED that

- 1. The Committee note the issues identified in the Walk Safe N14 petition and welcome the undertaking by the Cabinet Member for Environment to undertake a site investigation to develop a detailed safety scheme for the area and for a final decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member under delegated powers following the completion of all necessary consultation processes.**
- 2. Officers from Development and Regulatory Services be instructed to provide an update report to the next meeting on the Committee on 18 November 2013, ensuring that the Brunswick Park Ward Members were kept informed of the progress of the scheme.**
- 3. Officers be instructed to report the outcome from this meeting to the Chipping Barnet Area Environment Sub-Committee on 22 October 2013.**