



Cabinet

Title	Petition – Stop the closure of school streets around Moss Hall
Date of meeting	14 May 2024
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	West Finchley
Status	Public
Key	Non-key
Urgent	No
Appendices	Appendix A – Petition Officer Response
Lead Officer	Salar Rida – Governance Manager
Officer Contact Details	Salar.Rida@Barnet.gov.uk – 0208 359 7113

Summary

This report informs Cabinet of the petition(s) received. The Cabinet is requested to consider the petition and make a determination on its desired course of action in accordance with its powers.

Recommendations

1. That Cabinet notes the petition detailed in section 1.
2. That Cabinet decides whether to:
 - (a) Take no action
 - (b) Refer the matter to the relevant Cabinet Member or Committee Chair to provide a written respond to the Lead Petitioner within 20 working days; or
 - (c) Instruct an officer to prepare a report for a future meeting of Cabinet on the issue(s) raised with a recommended course of action.

1. Reasons for the Recommendations

1.1 A petition was submitted to the Head of Governance on 8th April 2024 titled “Stop the closure of school streets around Moss Hall”. The petition has received more than 500 signatures from Barnet citizens. In accordance with the Petition Scheme under the Council’s Constitution, the petition is required to be reported to Cabinet for consideration.

1.2

Petition:	Stop the closure of school streets around Moss Hall
Details:	<p>The proposed closure of Essex Park and Moss Hall Grove on a daily basis (Mon-Fri 8-9AM and 3-4PM) will significantly impact the daily routines of the wider community, increasing stress during the morning rush and creating congested traffic in surrounding streets.</p> <p>We understand School Street Schemes are designed to reduce traffic congestion around schools during peak times. And that safety around schools is a priority - as it should be - but we believe there must be a better solution than simply closing off roads, which will just push traffic into surrounding streets and frustrate other local families on the school run and individuals driving to work.</p> <p>This major change has been implemented after surveying 112 participants, with 54 who supported this measure and 52 who opposed. Surely, such a drastic measure should have received more attention and neighbourhood input and feedback before implementation?</p> <p>We propose that the council considers alternative measures such as implementing stricter parking restrictions near the school during peak times, introducing a school road patrol or making a proper zebra or puffin crossing to allow pedestrians to safely cross the road without closing 3 streets that surround the school.</p>
Ward:	West Finchley
Lead Petitioner:	Amir Barkan
Signatures:	893

2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

2.1 Not applicable.

3. Post Decision Implementation

3.1 Cabinet will decide on the appropriate action to be taken (if any) which will be referred to the relevant parties by the Governance Team.

4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

Corporate Plan

4.1 Consideration of the item aligns with the Council’s Corporate Plan (Barnet 2023-2026) priorities:

- To encourage participation in our policymaking and democracy.
- To actively listen to and consider different perspectives and needs in policymaking and service design
- To act on concerns of local residents and involve them in decision making.

Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures

4.2 Not applicable in the context of this report.

Sustainability

4.3 Not applicable.

Corporate Parenting

4.4 Not applicable.

Risk Management

4.5 Not applicable.

Social Value

4.6 Not applicable.

5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)

5.1 Not applicable.

6. Legal Implications and Constitution References

6.1 Under the Council’s Constitution, Part 3F Petition Scheme, Petitions with signatories between 501-3,000 will be reported to Cabinet (or other/ Area Committee). The Lead Petitioner will be given 3 minutes to present the petition to Cabinet. Following the presentation, the Leader and Cabinet Members, will have an opportunity to ask the Lead Petitioner questions. After the debate Cabinet will decide the petition in accordance with the options set out in the recommendations above.

6.2 Part 2D (Terms of Reference and Delegation of Duties to the Cabinet) of the Constitution states that Cabinet is responsible for the following functions:

- Development of proposals for the budget (including the capital and revenue budgets, the fixing of the Council Tax Base, and the level of Council Tax) and the financial strategy for the Council;
- Monitoring the implementation of the budget and financial strategy;
- Recommending major new policies (and amendments to existing policies) to the Council for approval as part of the Council’s Policy Framework and implementing those approved by Council;
- Approving policies that are not part of the policy framework;
- Management of the Council’s Capital Programme; and all key decisions.

6.3 Part 3B, Executive Procedure Rules, Section 13.2 (Petitions) states that “The Council has a petition scheme and this will be followed.”

7. Consultation

7.1 Not applicable in the context of this report.

8. Equalities and Diversity

8.1 None specifically in relation to this report.

9. Background Papers

9.1 The petition submitted via the external website to Governance Service on 8 April 2024.

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