



## Policy & Resources Committee

20 July 2021

<b>Title</b>	<b>Petition – Last Chance to Save Old Hendon Library</b>
<b>Report of</b>	Head of Governance
<b>Wards</b>	Hendon
<b>Status</b>	Public
<b>Urgent</b>	No
<b>Key</b>	No
<b>Enclosures</b>	Appendix 1 – Photos linked to e-petition Appendix 2 – Comments linked to e-petition
<b>Officer Contact Details</b>	Andrew Charlwood, Head of Governance <a href="mailto:andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk">andrew.charlwood@barnet.gov.uk</a>

### Summary

This report informs the Committee of a petition received. The Committee is requested to consider the petition as part of the consultation response on The Boroughs and Middlesex University Supplementary Planning Document.

### Officers Recommendation

**That the Policy & Resources Committee note and respond to the petition received in response to The Boroughs and Middlesex University Supplementary Planning Document.**

## 1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 The following petition containing 1,392 signatures from Barnet residents created on the Change.org website has been submitted to the Head of Governance.

### **Petition:**

#### **Last Chance to Save Hendon Library**

**Lead Petitioner: Ms. Gabbie Asher**

**Number of signatures: 1,392**

“The iconic Hendon Library is the LAST historic building in the area that we, the public, have regular access to.

#### [Photos of current & proposed Hendon Library](#)

For some time, Barnet Council have been reducing the library’s services and making access trickier.

The council are now planning to lease the entire building to Middlesex University. Everything but the façade will be demolished and rebuilt.

Our library will be re-housed where Egerton Gardens car park currently is, in a “state-of-the-art” space at the bottom of a new 7-storey building. The rest of the building will be accommodation for some of the 800 Middlesex University students the council are proposing will live between The Burroughs and Church End.

Buildings including homes, businesses, the Meritage Centre, the Citizens Advice Bureau, the PDSA and the African Cultural Centre plus our local car parks will all be demolished to make way for the new student housing.

The council claim the new library space will “facilitate the provision of a broader and enhanced library offer” and give the library “enhanced visibility”. Even before the plans have had final approval, the council are, right now, publicising a survey online, in school newsletters etc. asking for locals to help design this new library.

**BUT THERE IS NO OPTION LISTED IN THE COUNCIL SURVEY TO KEEP THE LIBRARY WHERE IT IS NOW.**

Therefore, as an alternative to the survey, this petition is for anyone who wants the opportunity to say: **PLEASE CAN WE KEEP OUR LIBRARY?**

We are appealing to the Conservative-led council to **CONSERVE** this beautiful, locally important building for the residents who voted for you and their children. Create the great changes you’re suggesting to the services the library provides - but inside the old building.

Leave us this last bastion of civic pride.

For more info on the Hendon regeneration plans and how to comment via the Feedback Form, click here: [The council's Hendon Hub website](#).

*“You don’t have to pay to come in. You don’t have to buy anything. You don’t even have to read, if you don’t want to. You can go just to think, or to be quiet. You can study and work there. For some, a library might feel safer than their home, school or workplace.”*

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Residents who are concerned about a Council service or a decision that is about to be made have a right under Article 3 (Residents and Public Participation) of the Constitution to submit a petition to the Council. The Council must consider the petition in accordance with the petition arrangements set out in Article 3.
- 2.2 Article 3 states that “Petitions which have been submitted in response to a consultation process initiated by a specific committee should be reported back to that committee.” The Boroughs and Middlesex University Supplementary Planning Document was considered by the Policy & Resources Committee on 8 December 2020 and approved for public consultation.
- 2.3 Public comments received along with the petition are also reported in Appendix B. The Committee are requested to note that the personal information has been removed and comments received from non-Barnet residents have not been included as there is a requirement for signatures to be from Barnet residents.

## **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 None.

## **4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 The e-petition will be considered as part of the consultation response.

## **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 N/A

### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 N/A

### **5.3 Social Value**

5.3.1 N/A in the context of this report.

### **5.4 Legal and Constitutional References**

5.4.1 Council Constitution, Article 3 – the following provisions are relevant relating to petitions:

“Petitions must have a minimum of 25 signatures and be relevant to the functions of the authority. The petition will be presented to the Governance Service who will forthwith present it to the relevant Director and/or the relevant Committee Chairman for information.

E-petitions submitted on external websites can be accepted by the council. However, petitions hosted on external websites will need to be submitted by the lead petitioner to the Head of Governance in order for the petition to be accepted.

Petitions which have been submitted in response to a consultation process initiated by a specific committee should be reported back to that committee.

Petition signatures must be from Barnet residents otherwise they will not count towards the overall signature total. Petitions signatories must provide addresses to enable them to be verified.”

### **5.5 Risk Management**

5.5.1 N/A.

### **5.6 Equalities and Diversity**

5.6.1 N/A.

### **5.7 Corporate Parenting**

5.7.1 N/A.

### **5.8 Consultation and Engagement**

5.8.1 N/A.

### **5.9 Insight**

5.9.1 N/A.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 Policy & Resources Committee, 8 December 2020, Item 9, Draft The  
Boroughs and Middlesex University Supplementary Planning Document:  
<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=692&MId=10199&Ver=4>
- 6.2 Petition on Change.org website: <http://chnng.it/GCxnkTCb>