

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 26 JANUARY 2012**

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PETITION - ANTI-SPITTING IN ENFIELD

A brief update from Mike Ahuja (Head of Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach): Petitions with 1375 signatures or more, which equates to 0.5% of the number of residents in Enfield, automatically triggers a debate of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, who receive the petition and note any issues. The Petition can then be heard at full Council and a possible referral thereon to the Secretary of State.

The Over 50s Forum has organised a Petition which calls for the London Borough of Enfield to ban spitting in public places and impose fines where applicable. To date, 3163 signatures have been received for this petition.

RECEIVED the following comments from Mr Monty Meth (representative of Over 50s Forum:

1. Mr Meth initially thanked all the Councillors for their time in hearing the Petition and democratically allowing this facility to be available to the residents of Enfield. Mr Meth also wanted to pass on his gratitude especially to Mr Mike Ahuja and Mrs Susan Payne of Corporate Scrutiny & Community Outreach team for their contributions which has helped to progress the Petition.
2. The signatures received so far have been forthcoming from Enfield's Asian community, residents and visitors of Ruth Winston House, Enfield's Leisure Centres, Libraries, Hospitals, Schools and countless other individuals. The Petition has wide support in the Borough and of the thousands that have signed it, there is an expectancy to see the 4 "C"s in action, namely: Cleanliness, Community, Citizenship and Culture. Prohibiting spitting will instil the idea that it has no part in the countries culture for years to come, albeit the footballer's trademark spitting on the field needs to be addressed as they are setting a bad example.
3. Mr Meth advised the Panel of 38 new cases of TB registered in 2011 and 95 in 2010. It is believed that the TB bacteria can be transferred through the air by spitting and therefore the act is not hygienic and in fact a despicable habit.

Therefore Mr Meth requested the Panel recommend and support his sentiments at full Council, to allow all members to become engaged in making Enfield a better place to live. Boris Johnson (Mayor of London) is also in full support.

The following comments were received from members of the Panel:

1. Cllr Toby Simon: if the Council wants to proceed a Bye Law is required.
2. Jayne Middleton- Abooye (Legal representative): An application needs to be provided to DCLG requesting the Bye-Law, with the added support of the three local MP's to build political pressure at this stage. If they accept then the Enfield Council can start the process. The Bye-Law can then be advertised for further consultations. It can then be heard at full Council and sent to the Secretary of State for approval. This process normally takes about one month at which time it will be made Law.
3. Cllr George Savva: expressed his thanks to Mr Monty Meth and also Cllr Chris Bond for their effort and work. The Petition has been met with positive reactions from everyone concerned, with the hope that this Bye Law can be enforced in line with the bans on cigarette and chewing gum on our streets.
4. Cllr Edward Smith: confirmed that all members are in agreement and support this Petition. He suggested that in order to raise the profile of this worthwhile cause, the Council make contact with Tottenham Hotspur who now have their training ground in our Borough to request that they request their players ban spitting on their football pitches in an attempt to encourage all other teams in the Country to follow suit.
5. Cllr Achilleas Georgiou: advised that he was substitute for Cllr Chris Bond and commended the recent work done on this Petition by him and also Mr Monty Meth, which has put Enfield in the forefront of the Anti-Spitting Campaign – hopefully eventually allowing the whole country to work together to achieve this worthwhile goal.
6. Cllr Terry Neville: wholeheartedly supported the Anti-Spitting Campaign. He advised that whilst in power, he had previously agreed that the Council were to join forces with the Health Authority to drive this forward and Cllr Alev Cazimoglu (Cabinet Member for Health) has confirmed that discussions are currently in progress to put this in place.
7. Mr Simon Goulden (Co-Optee): requested that the Council's Education Department and also Communications Team get involved as well as the Bye-Law being passed to increase awareness for this cause, ie, sending letters home with the children etc.

AGREED that a debate be heard at full Council on 28th March to obtain unanimous support and invite the Council to pass a resolution to endorse the request made to the DCLG to pass the recommended Bye-Law.

ACTION 1: Cllr Chris Bond to write to the three local MP's and the Mayor of London to request that they write to the DCLG in support of the application made by the Council.

ACTION 2: Invite representative from Over 50s Forum to submit the Petition to the meeting of full Council on the 28th March 2012.