

London Borough of Enfield

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 1 December 2021

Subject: Firs Farm crematorium/burial site - Petition

Cabinet Member:

Director: Director of Law and Governance

Key Decision: N/A

Purpose of Report

1. This Report details the process for considering petitions at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee (OSC).

The petition is asking the Council to: remove from the Local Plan the proposal to build a crematorium/burial ground in Firs Farm.

Proposal(s)

2. The Overview & Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider the petition in accordance with the council's constitution and Petition scheme.

The options available to Scrutiny are:

- (i) Take no action; or
- (ii) make recommendations for further consideration to the decision maker.

Reason for Proposal(s)

3. The Council's Petition Scheme details that compliant petitions submitted to the Council must:
 - Contain the name, a valid address with postcode, and the signature of any person supporting the petition. A valid address is within the Borough of Enfield and can be a home, work or study address. It must include a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioners wish the council to take

- Relate to a matter for which the authority has responsibility, and which affect the authority or its area

The Council's Petition Scheme enables petitions with 1,562 signatures (0.5% of the assessed population from the 2011 census as published by the Office of National Statistics) to be considered at the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Relevance to the Council Plan

4. Modern Council – Financial resilience and good governance.
The values of listening and learning are upheld enabling the voice and concerns of residents and communities to be heard.

Background

5. A paper petition was submitted with 2404 signatures, these were verified, and 145 were discounted as they didn't meet the requirements of the scheme, however 2,259 did meet the criteria. Therefore the petition has sufficient numbers to trigger a debate at Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The petition states:

Firs Farm is an important and highly valued open space contributing to the mental and physical health and well-being of the people of Enfield. A crematorium or burial ground within the area would destroy this opportunity.

Therefore, we the undersigned petition the Council to: remove from the Local Plan the proposal to build a crematorium/burial ground in Firs Farm.

Main Considerations for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

6. To comply with the requirements of the Council's Constitution, scrutiny is essential to good governance, and enables the voice and concerns of residents and communities to be heard and provides positive challenge and accountability.

Safeguarding Implications

7. There are no safeguarding implications.

Public Health Implications

8. There are no public health implications.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

9. There are no equality impact implications for this report.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

10. There are no Environmental and Climate change considerations associated to this report.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

11. There are no key risks associated with this Report. Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee note that the Council Petition Scheme allows a debate at the Committee following the requisite number of signatures.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

12. There are no key risks associated with this Report.

Financial Implications

13. There are no financial implications or additional costs associated with the debating of this Petition.

Legal Implications

14. The Council's statutory duty to have a petition scheme was repealed by s46 of the Localism Act 2011. Although no longer a duty, the Council has retained its petition scheme in the interest of promoting democracy. The Council's Petition Scheme is therefore still valid.

The request in this Report to refer the Petition to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is in line with the Council's Petition Scheme, a petition with at least 1,562 signatures will be referred to the committee for debate.

Workforce Implications

15. There are no workforce implications.

Property Implications

16. There are no property implications.

Other Implications

17. There are no other implications.

Options Considered

18. In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, Overview & Scrutiny Committee is required to allow consideration of the views expressed in the Petition.

Conclusions

19. Following consideration of the petition, the committee will resolve to take one of the actions listed at paragraph 2.

Report Author: Claire Johnson
Head of Governance & Scrutiny
Claire.Johnson@enfield.gov.uk
020 8132 1154

Date of report: 23 November 2021

Background Papers

None