

London Borough of Enfield

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting Date: 28 February 2022

Subject: Stop roadblocks for pedestrians and cyclists - Petition

Cabinet Member:

Director: Interim 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: Stop roadblocks for pedestrians and cyclists – reduce emissions from the increased traffic these blocks cause. Stop discriminating against disabled car users who cannot walk nor cycle.

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 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. The council received a petition submitted with 3159 signatures. These signatures were verified in line with the requirements of the councils petition scheme, and 397 were discounted as they did not meet criteria detailed in paragraph 3. 2762 met the criteria, providing sufficient numbers to trigger a debate at Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The petition states:

We the undersigned petition the Council to take down the flower beds and wooden blocks in the middle of the road for all of the palmers green and Winchmore Hill area (such as Selbourne road, Meadway, the Mall, Ring Wood Way).

The borough has already invested in a bike lane for the entire length of green lanes which is barely ever used by cyclists.

Now, between 8-9 roads I. Our immediate area are blocked or have restrictions in place to prevent cars (including disabled road users in motability cars) from driving through roads which we have always used.

Bambos Charalambous MP for Enfield advised this is due to the "healthy streets" scheme by the council who have not sent any letters to residents before installing this changes to the roads with consultation due to start on October 12th despite already installing these without the consultation of us residents.

Stopping free moving cars from driving through roads means they are now diverted into huge lengthy traffic jams on main roads which are now worse than ever and the constant stop and start is releasing far greater emissions when there is zero need to do this.

Regarding "quieter roads", people who live in london should never expect the quiet life that the countryside can offer and we shouldn't be forced to change our local way of life for the few residents who want a quiet road. They should also look at moving to ovations on private roads where they won't be faced with free moving cars.

Give us back our roads, stop discriminating against the elderly, sick and disabled who cannot walk/cycle and are now banned from using these 9 roads indefinitely because of this utterly appalling healthy street scheme.

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.

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Date of report: 18 February 2022

Background Papers

None