

# Croydon Council

For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>28 JANUARY 2013</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON 3 DECEMBER 2012</b>
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	<b>Julie Belvir, Director of Democratic and Legal Services</b>
<b>WARDS:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT:</b> This report is prepared in keeping with paragraph 3.22 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the response to the petition presented by Councillors at its last ordinary meeting as detailed in paragraph 4 of the report.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report details Cabinet Member responses to petitions presented to Council on 3 December 2012. All Members have the opportunity to ask questions on the responses to any of the petitions.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows Councillors to present petitions to meetings of the Full Council.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires a response to that petition to be presented at this meeting.
- 3.3 A period of up to ten minutes is permitted for questions on the response to the petition.

## **4. RESPONSES TO PETITIONS**

- 4.1 Petitions presented to the Council meeting on 3 December 2012, and the relevant Cabinet Member response, as follows:

4.2 Petition presented by **Councillor Carole Bonner** on behalf of residents: “We, the undersigned, call on the council to provide additional parking bays at the top end of Alford Green, to be formed as off road bays (such as already exist, near the entrance to Alford Green), on the edges of the current central 'green'. This would relieve congestion and improve access for emergency vehicles, which is particularly relevant given that many of the residents are older people or people with disabilities. We further call on the council to look at the usage of the garages on Alford Green in order to see whether some of them could be demolished, to provide additional general parking and to reduce the problems of fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour.”

4.3 **Response from Councillor Phil Thomas, Cabinet Member for Highways and Environmental Services.**

Thank you for your petition that we have received regarding the request for additional parking bays at the top end of Alford Green.

Your petition will be reported to the next Traffic Management Cabinet Committee meeting in February for their consideration.

4.4 Petition presented by **Councillor Tony Newman** on behalf of residents: requesting the need for CCTV camera coverage at Norwood Junction station and the surrounding area.

4.5 **Response from Councillor Simon Hoar, Cabinet Member for Community Safety and public Protection.**

Installing new cameras to the Council's CCTV network requires considerable capital and ongoing revenue costs. This includes:

- Installation of a CCTV column & relevant electrical work.
- Laying fibre optic cables to connect the camera to the control room.
- Infrastructure work to allow remote recording and monitoring.
- Purchase of the CCTV camera itself.
- Annual rental of fibre optic cables.
- Annual maintenance costs.
- Annual electricity costs.

These are likely to require a capital spend in excess of £30,000 and annual revenue costs of over £1,500. Unfortunately, there is currently no budget available for additional networked CCTV cameras.

However, the Council's Community Safety Team does have access to a number of re-deployable cameras that can be used to deal with problems on a short term basis (usually no more than 6 months). The location has been assessed by the CCTV team to see whether it is suitable for one of these re-deployable cameras. The installation of one of these cameras in this location is possible but the nearest suitable lamp column is set back from the alleyway and would only see the entrance from an angle and not down the alleyway itself. It would therefore only give a restricted view and is unlikely to fully deter the activity which is alleged.

There is significant demand for these cameras around the borough and requests for them are assessed and agreed based on the volume of crime and anti-social behaviour incidents in a particular area. We have looked at crime data for the last year and the area identified in the petition shows a very low level of reported incidents. This may be that victims of crime have not reported crimes or incidents though. Residents should be reminded that unless a crime is reported the Police and other partners will be unaware that it has taken place and will not take any action to prevent further incidents.

Based on the assessment that the Community Safety Team have done this location is unlikely to be a priority area for one of their re-deployable CCTV cameras. However, requests for cameras are most effective if they come from the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and are part of a package of measures to reduce crime and ASB in the area. A camera on its own is unlikely to have much effect unless it is backed up with other measures.

I personally visited the location recently and met with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team, British Transport Police, Network Rail and Council officers. As a result of this meeting we agreed a number of actions including the cutting back of overhanging vegetation in the alleyway so that the street lighting would be more effective, a clean up of the underpass itself to make it brighter and more appealing and the installation of a mirror in the alleyway at the end of the underpass so that people can see whether anyone is around the corner. The mirror still needs to be installed and will be in place shortly but the other actions have been completed. We also discussed the possibility of CCTV but were also unable to fund a suitable location.

The Police SNT are fully aware of this location and do patrol regularly at key times of the day but I would suggest that you raise the matter with them directly again as well so that they are aware of the community's concerns.

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**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:** None.