

# Croydon Council

For General Release

<b>REPORT TO:</b>	<b>COUNCIL</b> <b>6 OCTOBER 2014</b>
<b>AGENDA ITEM NO:</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>RESPONSES TO PETITIONS PRESENTED TO COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF CROYDON ON 15 JULY 2014</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 response to the petition presented to Council on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014. 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 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014, and the relevant Cabinet Member response, as follows:

4.2 Petition presented by Councillor Pat Ryan on behalf of Waddington Way Residents Association.

We the undersigned. petition the new Labour Administration at Croydon Council to :

- 1) Save the beautiful pink blossom cherry trees on Waddington Way. We ask that you remove the newly planted trees which are not of the same species and which are blighting the landscape. These should be replaced with pink blossom cherry trees to preserve the historic character of our road
- 2) Urgently prioritise the repair and resurfacing of Waddington Way, as the entire length of the road is in poor condition.

**Response from Councillor Timothy Godfrey, Cabinet Member for Culture Leisure and Sport (1) and Councillor Kathy Bee, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment (2)**

1. It is Council policy not to remove healthy street trees, unless they have been implicated in major insurance claims involving subsidence.

There are several non-pink flowering cherries in the road, some of these are many years old and the most recently planted trees were planted in 2012. It is unlikely, therefore, that any of these trees would survive transplanting to other sites in the borough.

As a general rule, the Tree Section try and mix species in residential roads, as not only does this extend the season of interest but it also ensures that the road is not suddenly devastated by a species specific pathogen.

Unfortunately, with an annual street tree planting programme involving over 500 trees, the Tree Section do not have the resources to carryout active consultation with residents prior to planting. However, they do try and ensure that suitable species are planted. In addition, if residents come to them, prior to planting, with specific species requests then they try to comply with these requests. As a result of Ms Bains recent contact, the Tree Section have interrogated The Councils database and can find no records of any requests from residents in Waddington Way to plant only pink flowering Cherries.

A recent inspection of the road has revealed that a tree has died last winter, in which case it will be removed and replaced next winter with a pink flowering cherry. In addition, now that they know that there is a demand for pink flowering cherries, the Tree Section are happy to replace any trees that die in the future with pink flowering cherries.

2. Waddington Way is not currently on the forward repairs program. The road is aesthetically unpleasing to the eye but does not require

immediate resurfacing. It is showing signs of wear which is accentuated by the two different materials used during previous resurfacing works. The street inspector will however continue to patch the road where required.

- 4.3 Petition presented by Councillor Pat Ryan on behalf of residents of Hermitage Road and the adjacent roads.

We, the undersigned, call for new speed restrictive measures in Hermitage Road and a reduction in the speed limit in adjacent roads from 30 mph to 20mph, and help to make this a safer area for all those children and adults who live in this community.

**Response from Councillor Kathy Bee, Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment.**

The new administration has pledged to investigate and introduce 20mph speed limits in areas where appropriate, and Hermitage Road and surrounding area will be included in the list of locations to be considered for such measures.

At this time, officers are investigating all possible options with a view to developing a clear policy on the introduction of area wide 20mph speed limits. This will also require a bid for funding to Transport for London (TfL) via the Local Implementation Plan (LIP) process. Provided that this application meets with financial approval, a full programme of works is expected to start in the 2015/16 financial year.

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**CONTACT OFFICER:** Solomon Agutu, Head of Democratic Services and Scrutiny, x62920.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS:**