

Croydon Council

For General Release

REPORT TO:	COUNCIL 18 JULY 2016
AGENDA ITEM NO:	8
SUBJECT:	Member Petitions
LEAD OFFICER:	
WARDS:	ALL
CORPORATE PRIORITY/POLICY CONTEXT: This report is prepared in keeping with paragraphs 3.26 to 3.31 of the Council Procedure Rules at Part 4A of the Constitution.	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 The Council is asked to note the petitions presented by Councillors at the meeting as listed in paragraph 4 of the report.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 2.1 In accordance with Part 4A of the Council's Constitution up to three Members of the Council can present petitions to any ordinary meeting of the Council, with the exception of any meeting of the Council reserved for the setting of Council Tax.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Part 4A of the Constitution allows up to three Councillors to present petitions to meetings of the Full Council.
- 3.2 The Constitution requires that a petition must contain "the signatures of at least 100 local people or 50% of the local people affected by the subject" in order to be presented at a Council meeting.
- 3.3 The full Petition wording of each of the three Member Petitions to be received will be included in the Council agenda (see paragraph 4 below). The Member Petitions will be received but shall not be the subject of a debate or questions at that or a subsequent Council meeting.
- 3.4 Where possible, the Cabinet Member shall provide a response at the Council meeting at which the Member's Petition is received. Where a response is not

provided at the meeting, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

4. PETITIONS TO BE PRESENTED TO COUNCIL AT THIS MEETING

4.1 The Acting Council Solicitor has received notice of the following petitions to be presented to this meeting of the Council:

a) Petition presented by **Councillor Helen Pollard** on behalf of residents of Exchange Square, Bridge House and South Croydon in Fairfield Ward.

“Exchange Square presents an opportunity to bring to life an historic building in a beautiful square with bags of character. Unfortunately the square has suffered neglect and it is frequented by drug users, drinkers and there is regular anti-social behaviour. Residents of the adjoining properties are regularly intimidated by anti-social behaviour from people outside their apartment buildings as well as those who frequently gain illegal access to the internal areas. If the Square was a thriving business/social centre, the people who flock to quiet areas to take drugs/drink etc would not dwell in Exchange Square.

There are indications that the Council's policy of allowing planning consent for homeless and drug rehab centres, as well as bail hostels and methadone dispensing chemists only a few hundred yards from Exchange Square and within Croydon's 'Historic Quarter' is fuelling the problem, hence we request Croydon Council review their planning policies and strategy.

By signing this petition, I ask that Croydon Council works with outside agencies such as the GLA to deliver its commitments in the Croydon Masterplan. This is to find new uses for vacant historic buildings such as the Surrey Street Pumping Station and to encourage community use, bring activity to streets and spaces, and enhance the setting of Old Town's heritage assets. I also ask that Exchange Square is included in the BID-funded policing area.”

b) Petition presented by **Councillor Matthew Kyeremeh** on behalf of residents

“We, the undersigned members and residents of the Beulah Road Residents Association and surrounding roads (incorporating Neighbourhood Watch), call on the London Borough of Croydon conduct a review of the provision and enforcement of drop curbs in front of houses. We also request urgently that white lines are drawn in front of resident's drop curbs. We consider this the only way to address the increasing risk of potentially violent altercations between local residents and people who are illegally blocking drop curbs - thereby preventing residents from accessing or exiting their properties. The increase in such incidents has been particularly noticeable since the Council ceased their vehicle removal service.”

c) Petition presented by **Councillor Chris Wright** on behalf of residents:

"We the residents of Court Avenue Old Coulsdon feel we have been deceived and lied to concerning the non-upgrade of Heritage Lighting in our road"

5. NEXT STEPS

- 5.1 Where possible the Cabinet Member will respond to the petition at the meeting.
- 5.2 Where a more detailed response is required, a written response shall be provided within three weeks of the meeting.

CONTACT OFFICER: Kate Norton, Senior Members Services Manager. Ext 63876

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS: None