

PETITION - ACCESS TO HODGES GAP PROMENADE CAR PARK

Meeting – 23 February 2017

Report Author **Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager**

Portfolio Holder **Councillor Crow-Brown, Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance Services**

Status **For recommendation**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Key Decision **No**

Ward: **Cliftonville East**

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 45 valid signatures has been received by the Council from residents who ask for the barrier to Hodges Gap promenade car park to remain unlocked.

This report sets out how the Council deals with petitions of this size; it explains that the petition organiser will present the petition to the meeting and sets out the next steps as to how the Council will deal with the petition.

Recommendation(s):

Under the Council's petitions scheme, Council is required to refer the petition to Cabinet without debate for report back to Council.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	There are no identified financial implications from this report.
Legal	This matter is dealt with under the Council's scheme for dealing with petitions from the public which is contained within the constitution.
Corporate	In accordance with the Council's petition scheme if a petition has over 25, but less than 650, signatories, it will be referred to Cabinet or an appropriate committee without debate for report to Council within three ordinary meetings.
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	<p>Members are reminded of the requirement, under the Public Sector Equality Duty (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010) to have due regard to the aims of the Duty at the time the decision is taken. The aims of the Duty are: (i) eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act, (ii) advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it, and (iii) foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.</p> <p>Protected characteristics: age, gender, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.</p>

	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report.	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	x
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	x
	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	x
There are no specific equity and equalities issues arising from this report.		

CORPORATE PRIORITIES (tick those relevant)✓	
A clean and welcoming Environment	
Promoting inward investment and job creation	
Supporting neighbourhoods	x

CORPORATE VALUES (tick those relevant)✓	
Delivering value for money	
Supporting the Workforce	
Promoting open communications	x

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 Under the terms of the Council's petitions scheme, members of the public may present petitions at ordinary meetings of Council; and if a petition has over 25, but less than 650, signatories, it will be referred to Cabinet or an appropriate committee without debate for report to Council within three ordinary meetings.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 A petition organised by Ms Singer has been validly signed by 45 persons. The petition prayer reads:

"We the undersigned petition the Council to not lock the barrier leading to the Hodges Gap Promenade car park.

Currently, the barrier is being locked with 2 padlocks and is rarely open. This is certainly the case in the early morning when many people walk their dogs, go for a walk on the beach or swim in the tidal pool. This is very inconvenient to the residents of Margate since this is the only location where you can park with easy access to the beach. Older dog walkers have difficulty managing the ramps leading down from the cliff top to the beach and vice versa, while Palm Bay is the only beach in Margate that can be used by dogs all year round. Workers who need access to Hodge Gap Promenade do not seem to have a key to the second lock and have difficulty in performing their job.

People are now parking in between Hodges Gap Promenade and Newgate Lower Promenade (which also has a barrier). There is only space for 4 cars without blocking the access to anything but many times there are many cars and the barriers are being blocked all together since there is a lack of space or people drive down and leave again. This could potentially lead to a dangerous situation such as emergency services not being able to access either promenade."

2.2 The petition organiser is entitled to present their petition to Council, and in accordance with the Council's petition scheme has three minutes to present the petition.

2.3 Ms Singer has informed the Council that she will be in attendance to present the petition

3.0 Next Steps

3.1 Under the Council's petitions scheme, Council is required to refer the petition to Cabinet for report back to Council.

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager (7208)
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance

Annex List

<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
<i>None</i>	<i>N/A</i>

Corporate Consultation

Finance	Matt Sanham, Corporate Finance Manager
Legal	Ciara Feeney, Head of Legal Services & Deputy Monitoring Officer