

PETITION Re: ACCESS TO HODGES GAP

Council	13 July 2017
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Brimm, Cabinet Member for Operational Services
Status	For Information
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No
Ward:	Cliftonville East

Executive Summary:

A petition containing 45 valid signatures was received by the Council in December 2016 regarding access to the Hodges Gap promenade car park. The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting.

A report was considered by Council on 23 February and then subsequently by Cabinet on 9 March and it was agreed that the barriers should remain locked unless the concession in situ is open and trading to allow daytime vehicular access to the lower promenade at both Palm/Walpole Bay areas and that this was reported back to the Council within three ordinary meetings.

Recommendation(s):

To note the report.

No further action needs to be taken by the council.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money	Keeping the barrier unlocked could result in increased levels of vandalism and subsequent insurance claims for the Council's assets in the vicinity. The Council could incur a cost for the excess on insurance payments and the impact of repeated claims could increase insurance premiums on renewal.
Legal	This fits with the local authority's Seashore Byelaws for allowing access to lower promenades / seashore to authorised vehicles only.
Corporate	The main risks are opening back up the lower promenade areas vandalism and anti-social behaviour.
Equalities Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty	Walking access can be obtained from free parking along the public highway at Palm Bay Avenue at any time. The main access to the lower promenade is available to all users (walkers/vehicles) to the Hodges Gap lower promenade during the day when the concession is open.

	Please indicate which aim is relevant to the report. (tick those relevant)✓	
	Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act,	✓
	Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it	
	Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.	

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

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

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.

1.2 This report informs Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting of the 8 March.

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 Mrs Singer presented her petition to Council at the meeting that was held on 23 February and it was agreed as per the Council’s constitution to forward the petition to Cabinet.
- 2.3 Cabinet considered the petition at its meeting on the 8 March and agreed the following: “that the barriers should remain locked unless the concession in situ is open and trading to allow daytime vehicular access to the lower promenade at both Palm/Walpole Bay areas.”

Contact Officer:	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager and Deputy Monitoring Officer
Reporting to:	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

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	Ramesh Prashar, Head of Financial Services
Legal	Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance & Monitoring Officer