
REPORT BACK TO COUNCIL - PETITION RELATING TO PLEASURAMA SITE

To: **Council – 3 October 2013**

Main Portfolio Area: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **Eastcliff**

Summary: **To report back to Council on a petition from the Friends of Ramsgate Seafront, requesting that the Council reassure them that under no circumstances would a discretionary extension of the practical completion be given to SFP Ventures (UK) Ltd or any developer of Royal Sands before or after 22 May 2013.**

For Information

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 11 July 2013, Council received a petition containing 1056 valid signatures from the Friends of Ramsgate Seafront, as follows:

“We wish TDC to explicitly reassure Friends of Ramsgate Seafront that under no circumstances will a discretionary extension of the practical completion date be given to SFP Ventures (UK) Ltd or any developer of Royal Sands before or after 22nd May 2013. Should SFP Ventures (UK) Ltd fail to meet this deadline, TDC must act immediately and restore the site to the People of Ramsgate to implement their own Vision for the Future.

“We, the undersigned, believe extensions to deadlines for the uncompleted work on the Pleasurama site will only compound the problems and leave the people of Ramsgate with a useless eyesore for many years to come.”

- 1.2 Council referred the petition to Cabinet for determination.

2.0 The Current Situation

- 2.1 Upon considering the petition at its meeting on 1 August 2013, Cabinet AGREED:
“That due to legal considerations Cabinet cannot agree to a request to rule out any extension to the practical completion date for the Royal Sands development, but seeks for the matter to be considered by the Pleasurama Site Development Review Task and Finish Group and form part of the final recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny Panel.”
- 2.2 The Pleasurama Site Development Review Task and Finish Group has met on two occasions and a further meeting is scheduled to take place on 31 October 2013.
- 2.3 The agenda reports and minutes of the Group’s meetings can be found on the Council’s website, <http://www.thanet.gov.uk/> .

3.0 Review of Petitions Scheme

- 3.1 It should be noted that, after the Council meeting held on 11 July 2013, a complaint was made to the Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager that no debate had taken place upon the petition at the Council meeting. In accordance with the Council's petitions scheme, the complaint was referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 20 August 2013.
- 3.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered that although it was right that the Council's Constitution requires a petition to be submitted to a meeting of the Council under certain circumstances, it was less clear that a debate should be mandatory if, for example, a consensus emerges very quickly at the Council meeting on the most appropriate way forward. The Overview and Scrutiny Panel AGREED:

"to refer the issue of re-wording the Constitution in relation to debating of petitions at Council to the Constitutional Review Working Party"
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- 3.3 A report setting out options will be presented to a future meeting of the Constitutional Review Working Party.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial and VAT

- 4.1.1 None arising directly from this report.

4.2 Legal

- 4.2.1 None arising directly from this report.

4.3 Corporate

- 4.3.1 None arising directly from this report

4.4 Equity and Equalities

- 4.4.1 None arising directly from this report.

5.0 Recommendations

- 5.1 This report is for information only

6.0 Decision Making Process

- 6.1 This report is for information only

Contact Officer:	Glenn Back, Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager, ext 7187
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Annex List

None	N/A
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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
Petition	Democratic Services

Corporate Consultation Undertaken

Finance	n/a
Legal	