

Petition - Park Avenue, Broadstairs

Report Back to Council

Council	25 February 2021
Report Author	Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager
Portfolio Holder	Councillor Ruth Duckworth, Cabinet Member for Estates and Economic Development
Status	For information
Classification:	Unrestricted
Key Decision	No

Executive Summary:

An Epetition containing 319 valid signatures and a paper petition containing 455 valid signatures was received by the Council requesting that Thanet District Council takes action to ensure the replanting of trees covered by tree protection orders.

The report is for information only and is to inform the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting on 17 December 2020.

Recommendation(s):

To note the report.

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. In regards to a paper and ePetition running simultaneously, the number of signatories to both petitions is reported separately but within the same report. The Council will take a course of action based on the largest threshold met by either petition.

Equality Act 2010 & Public Sector Equality Duty

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.

Protected characteristics: age, sex, disability, race, sexual orientation, gender reassignment, religion or belief and pregnancy & maternity. Only aim (i) of the Duty applies to Marriage & civil partnership.

There are no specific equalities issues arising from this report.

However it is important to be aware of the Council's responsibility under the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), and show evidence that due consideration had been given to the equalities impact that may be brought upon communities by the decisions made by Council.

Corporate Priorities

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- *Communities*
- *Environment*

1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 This report informs the Council of the result of the Cabinet meeting held on 17 December 2020.

2.0 The Current Situation

2.1 An Epetition and paper petition organised by Mr David Tate has been validly signed by 319 and 455 people respectively. The petition prayer reads:

“We the undersigned petition the council to require the owner of the area of woodland off Park Avenue - East of Park Wood Close-, Broadstairs (Land Registry Ref K61934), to replant any trees covered by tree protection orders within that area following the recent heavy felling and to reaffirm its current view that the area should remain as open space/woodland.”

2.2 The petition was considered at the full Council meeting on 10 September 2020. It was referred to the meeting of Cabinet on 17 December 2020 for decision in accordance with the Council's petition scheme.

2.3 Cabinet agreed to:

1. Note the on-going enforcement action when considering the petition in relation to the felling of trees on a site in Viking Ward, Broadstairs;
2. Include the consideration of open space and green infrastructure in the district within the Local Plan review, in accordance with the recommendations of the

separate Cabinet report, (that was also considered at this Cabinet meeting), relating to the scope of the Local Plan Update.

Contact Officer: Nick Hughes, Committee Services Manager

Reporting to: Tim Howes, Director of Corporate Governance and Monitoring Officer

Annex List

There are no Annexes with this report.

Background Papers

There are no Background Papers with this report.

Corporate Consultation

Finance: Chris Blundell, Director of Financial Services

Legal: Estelle Culligan, Director of Law and Democracy