

## **Response to Jackey Bakers Petition**

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>12 October 2023</b>
<b>Report Author</b>	Nicholas Hughes, Committee Services Manager
<b>Portfolio Holder</b>	Cllr Albon, Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Coastal Services
<b>Status</b>	For Information
<b>Classification:</b>	Unrestricted
<b>Ward:</b>	Northwood

### **Executive Summary:**

The report outlines a petition that was received by the Council. The petition requests that the Council improves its management of Jackey Bakers. This included improvements towards the facilities for football matches, bins to improve the amount of littering, updated and working changing room facilities and a hard standing car park to improve congestion. The proposed response notes that such improvements would be looked into by the Open Spaces team, this included signs regarding no parking, improvements to the facilities for football matches and additional bins.

### **Recommendation(s):**

The report is for information only.

### **Corporate Implications**

#### **Financial and Value for Money**

Response to petition has no financial implications.

#### **Legal**

Response to petition has no legal implications.

#### **Risk Management**

Response to petition poses no considerable risk to the council.

#### **Corporate**

Petitions are an important way of the public engaging with the Council on matters of importance to them and responses should be timely and in accordance with the Council's agreed procedures.

## **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.

This report relates to the following aim of the equality duty: -

- To advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it
- To foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and people who do not share it.

## **Corporate Priorities**

This report relates to the following corporate priorities: -

- Communities and Community engagement.

### **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 The Council received a petition with 1941 valid signatures on 30 June 2023 relating to the Council's management of the public open space, Jackey Bakers from Mrs June Tyrell. This included improved facilities for football matches, more bins to improve the amount of littering, changing room facilities and a hard standing car park.

### **2.0 The Current Situation**

2.1 The petition contained the following petition prayer:

*"Jackey Bakers is a public open space, given to the people of Ramsgate, by Dame Janet back in 1924. Over the years, we have seen a decline in the way Jackey Bakers is managed. We want a safe place to be able to walk our dogs, somewhere the children can run around and improved facilities for the weekly football matches. Jackey Bakers is lacking bins, both normal waste and dog waste. More bins should improve the amount of littering that is left on a daily basis. The changing room has had no hot water or electricity for a couple of years, meaning the footballers have nowhere to change or clean up. The football pitches are in a very poor state, not being rolled and the grass not being cut, especially around the goals. This is causing injuries each week. Car parking is also another concern. Planning permission has previously been requested for a hard standing car park to be built at the Sainsbury's end of Jackey Bakers, yet has never happened. Highfield Road is becoming*

*congested due to the amount of cars being parked there on a Sunday morning, and only recently caused issues for emergency services to get through. Each week the pitches are in use, funds are accumulating, but where is this money going? Some weeks, this amounts to just over £400! So let's all come together and make Jackey Bakers fit for purpose, by the people of Ramsgate, for the people of Ramsgate!"*

## 2.2 The Response

The formal response to the petition that was sent to the petitioner is attached at Annex 1 to the report.

## 3.0 Decision Making Process

- 3.1 A petition that receives over 1500 signatories would normally be subject to a debate at a meeting of the Full Council. However in this case due to the date that the petition was received, this would have meant that the Council taking no action regarding the petition until this meeting, a wait time of some months. This would have been unfair on the petitioner, so after discussing this issue with the petitioner, they agreed for the petition to be treated as a petition with 50 - 1500 signatories, so that the Council could act much sooner namely that a "senior officer of the Council, after consulting with the relevant portfolio holder, should respond to the petition, and a report on the petition noting what action has been taken should be referred to the next meeting of Cabinet or Council for their information."
- 3.2 This approach has allowed for a great deal of work to be planned and undertaken in relation to the wishes of the petitioners as set out in the petition response at Annex 1, whilst retaining transparency and accountability to the public, which is an important aspect of democratic governance.

Contact Officer: Nicholas Hughes (Committee Services Manager)

Reporting to: Sameera Khan (Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer)

### Corporate Consultation

**Finance:** Matt Sanham (Head of Finance and Procurement)

**Legal:** Sameera Khan - Interim Head of Legal & Monitoring Officer