



Report of the Head of Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer

Council – 2 February 2023

Petition – Waunarwydd Playing Fields

Purpose:	To allow consideration of a 500+ petition which has been received by the Council.
Policy Framework:	Constitution – Petition Procedure.
Consultation:	Access to Services, Finance, Legal.
Recommendation(s):	It is recommended that: 1) Council considers the petition received
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Finance Officer:	Ben Smith
Legal Officer:	Tracey Meredith
Access to Services Officer:	Rhian Millar

1. Introduction

1.1 The Council received a petition, which is attached at Appendix A, on 15 August 2022, with further signatories being received on 6 and 29 September 2022. The total number of signatories exceed 500. The petition was responded to by the Director of Place on 4 October 2022 and the response is attached at Appendix B.

1.2 The petition states:

'We the undersigned object to the erection of a fence which has been recently constructed around the Waunarwydd playing fields. This has caused significant disruption within the community on multiple levels. Loss of green space, areas for local families to enjoy free of charge, footpaths across the field which was a shortcut to the welsh school and local amenities to name just a few. Many flats in the immediate vicinity do not have gardens and now have no access to open spaces which is paramount for peoples mental health and wellbeing. Also substantial increase in the amount of traffic especially around the only entrance now available on Roseland Road.'

- 1.3 The petition submitted indicates that it was signed by those that agreed to do so following door to door requests and/or using opportunities in local businesses and across the local community. The petition was physically signed as opposed to being generated via an online platform.

2. The Petition Procedure

- 2.1 The Petition Procedure was approved by full Council on 24 May 2022 and is set out in the Constitution. The Procedure provides that any petitions which contain over 500 signatories are referred for debate at a meeting of the full Council.

- 2.2 The Lead Petitioner will be given 3 minutes to address the Council on the subject matter of the Petition. The relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder will then be given 3 minutes for a right of reply and the Petition will then be discussed by the Council for a maximum of 30 minutes. The relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder has a further right of reply, for no more than 3 minutes, at the end of the debate on the matter.

- 2.3 Once the right of reply has been given the Cabinet Portfolio Holder will then propose that either:

- Council takes the action requested
- Council does not take the action requested
- Council commissions further investigation into the matter.

- 2.4 The proposal must be moved and seconded and will then be voted on by Council.

3. Integrated Assessment Implications

- 3.1 The Council is subject to the Equality Act (Public Sector Equality Duty and the socio-economic duty), the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure, and must in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Acts.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Deliver better outcomes for those people who experience socio-economic disadvantage
- Consider opportunities for people to use the Welsh language
- Treat the Welsh language no less favourably than English.
- Ensure that the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

- 3.2 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 mandates that public bodies in Wales must carry out sustainable development.

Sustainable development means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the 'well-being goals'.

- 3.3 Our Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) process ensures we have paid due regard to the above. It also takes into account other key issues and priorities, such as poverty and social exclusion, community cohesion, carers, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and Welsh language.
- 3.4 This report reflects the process for dealing with the petition as outlined within the petition policy. The council meeting will address the immediate needs expressed by the Petitioners and offer increased opportunities for engagement with the petitioners to allow them further opportunity for them to express their views on the matter. An IIA screening has been completed and has concluded that a full IIA is not required. A further IIA may be required subject to the Council decision on this matter.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

Background Papers: None

Appendices:

Appendix A - Petition

Appendix B - Letter from Director of Place dated 4/10/22

Appendix C - IIA Screening