

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2009**

**DEPUTATIONS AND PETITIONS**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE HEAD,  
DEMOCRATIC SERVICES**

**SUMMARY**

1. The Council's constitution provides that a maximum of three deputations and three petitions are received at any meeting. These are taken in the order of receipt. This report sets out the deputations and petitions submitted by members of the public for presentation at Council on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2009.
2. The deadline for receipt of deputations and petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April. However, Members will note that the attached report already includes the maximum three deputations and three petitions for the meeting.
3. In each case the members of the deputation/petitioners may address the meeting for no more than five minutes. Members may then question the deputation/petitioners for a further five minutes. The relevant Lead Member or Chair of Committee may then respond to the deputation or petition for up to three minutes.
4. Any outstanding issues will be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will respond to those outstanding issues in writing within 28 days.
5. Members should confine their contributions to questions and answers and not make statements or attempt to debate.

## **5.1 DEPUTATIONS**

Three deputations have been received as set out below:-

### **5.1.1 Deputation from Mr John Budis, Tower Hamlets College UCU Branch Secretary and others in support of the motion regarding the Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning:**

“We, the undersigned, wish to send a deputation to the council meeting to support the motion about the Campaigning Alliance for Lifelong Learning (see motion from Councillor Mamun Rashid at agenda item 11.15)

We feel very strongly about the existing and future threat to lifelong learning in the borough. Some of our ESOL students are being asked to pay on average £800 to attend English classes.”

### **5.1.2 Deputation from residents of Poplar and others objecting to the establishment of a Tesco Metro store in Poplar (see motion 11.13):**

“We, the undersigned, wished to object to the establishment of a Tesco’s Metro in Poplar. We believe this will adversely affect a lot of small businesses in the area. We also believe there are sufficient large chain stores operating in Tower Hamlets to meet the residents’ needs.”

### **5.1.3 Deputation from Mrs V Lashmar and others calling for lighting to be installed in Brickfield Gardens, E14 (see motion 11.5):**

“We, the undersigned, are concerned that there are no lights in our local park, Brickfield Gardens (on Copenhagen Place and Southwater Close) and about the level of crime and anti-social behaviour that goes on in our park after dark. We want lights installed in our park now.”

## **5.2 PETITIONS**

Three petitions have been received as set out below:-

### **5.2.1 Petition from Ms Nazel Hassan Onder and 47 parents regarding Arnhem Wharf Primary School:**

“We, the undersigned, say no to expanding Arnhem Wharf Primary School, say no to moving Arnhem Wharf Primary School bus stop, we want larger lunch hall, we want play equipment.”

**5.2.2 Petition from Mr Mike Costin, Chairman, Millwall RFC, and others regarding Millwall Park rugby pitch:**

“We, the undersigned, support Millwall Rugby Club’s campaign for Tower Hamlets Council to permit adult rugby games on the Millwall Park rugby pitch.”

**5.2.3 Petition from Mr Dave Coker and residents of Exmouth Estate regarding vandalism and the management of the estate:**

“We, the undersigned, wish to formally protest to the Tower Hamlets Council Swan Housing’s mismanagement of the Exmouth Estate.

While examples of this mismanagement are legion, the most socially disruptive pertains to Swan’s failure to responsibly combat vandalism on the Exmouth Estate.

Since Swan Housing assumed stewardship of the Exmouth Estate, there have been tens, if not hundreds of separate examples of vandalism on this property. In spite of repeated queries presented to Swan Housing since Q4 2008, they have refused to confirm how many - if any - of these incidents were reported to the Metropolitan Police.

Further, Swan Housing has refused to reply to reasonable queries from residents regarding buildings insurance; specifically how many of these incidents were claimed against during the same period.

Swan has refused to open an internal complaint into this matter, leaving us no alternative but to escalate to the Tower Hamlets Council.

We urgently need the Council to intercede on our behalf, and ensure:-

- 1) Swan Housing immediately answers these critical queries
- 2) Swan Housing communicates going forward in an appropriate manner with concerned leaseholders and tenants
- 3) Swan Housing immediately file any outstanding police reports regarding vandalism on the Exmouth Estate.