

LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS

COUNCIL MEETING

WEDNESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 2014

PETITIONS

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

SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be received at each Council Meeting. These are taken in order of receipt. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 10th September 2014.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 4th September. However, at the time of agenda despatch the maximum number of petitions has already been received as set out overleaf.
3. The texts of the petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report. In each case the petitioners may address the meeting for no more than three minutes. Members may then question the petitioners for a further four minutes. Finally, the relevant Cabinet Member or Chair of Committee may respond to the 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, other than a Cabinet Member or Committee Chair responding at the end of the item, should confine their contributions to questions and not make statements or attempt to debate.

5.1 Petition for Road Hump in Carr Street, E14 (Petition from Mr Muhammad Shamim and others)

“For the last few years in our street which is Carr Street E14, we had youths driving cars dangerously and racing up and down during the day and night time through Carr Street towards Ben Johnson Road E1. Residents cannot sleep and during the night time and during the day no one is safe specially the children. For the last year we had a few meagre accident happened few of them when through the gate of the roundabout and other collided with another vehicles. And last week we had another accident during the day time just after school, where this time this youth was driving about 50 to 60 mph and hit one of the parked car before collided with another car, thank god no one got killed this time police did attended. If nothing has been done then one day they will kill a child or a resident. We are the resident had enough of this nightmare and we do not want to see any child or resident been killed. Therefore we are requesting for few reasonable road hump to put in place to stop this youths joyriding through our road. Currently we do have a hump which is useless because it is such a low that anyone can speed as much they want it does not serve its purpose.”

5.2 Petition to stop the building of a new school in the Burdett Estate (Petition from Mr Junayd Miah on behalf of Burdett Independent Community Welfare Organisation (BICWO))

“We hereby submit these petitions and forms in opposition to the proposed development of the new primary school in our estate. Our opposition is based on the following:-

1. To have a major development such as this in our estate should be in consultation with the wider community and not with a select few. Harca's communication with the estate board has been at best amateurish, and at worst, a sinister ploy to pursue its interest over the interests of the community. We have lost all confidence and trust in this board and Harca!
2. The school is too close to the existing primary school (which is being currently expanded at the cost of our historic football pitch). The estate will become too congested, noisy and closed off. This is just poor design and a total disregard for the welfare of the greater community!
3. The expansion of the current primary school and the proposed development of the new school will mean there are no more football or any other play areas for children within the estate. This is just not right, especially as the estate has a very high number of children per household. This is just common sense, surely Harca is aware of this reality and the importance of having safe play areas for the well being of the children and their families.
4. The proposed development will result in the last bit of premium open green space, used as the community congregation area by children, teenagers and the elderly, being taken away from the community. What is astounding is that all modern development in the inner cities incorporate a communal green

space, for us it is the opposite, it is being taken away! We have no choice but to question Harca's commitment to the welfare of our community.

5. Harca has proposed a new Mosque, which is very well thought out and nicely designed. It would have been wonderful if they had paid the same amount of attention to rest of the development. Two floors for the Mosque isn't sufficient for the growing number of worshippers. The younger generation are naturally choosing to actively practice their religion. Our estate has a very high number of children and within a few years the two floors will not be sufficient. Currently we have access to the green space (facilitates same number of worshippers as the proposed new second floor) adjacent to the Mosque, and it can't cater for the Friday or Ramadan worshippers.
6. We as a community have serious concerns the impact the development will have for the shift in gentrification. We are seeing this happen all around us and we want safeguards in place.

In summary, we believe this development is not in the interest of the community and we want Harca and all the active decision makers to rethink the proposed development with the concerns mentioned above. If our concerns are addressed adequately, we are more than happy to work with Harca or anyone else to help improve the welfare of the community."

5.3 Petition regarding Vic Johnson House (Petition from Mr Mehmet Djafer and others)

"We the undersigned are opposed to Gateway Housing Association's plans to demolish part of Vic Johnson House, decant a dozen or more residents out of their homes and build new flats at either end of the homes of the remaining residents.

If it is allowed to go ahead this will cause massive disruption to the lives of the elderly and vulnerable residents of Vic Johnson House, some of whom have already been decanted out of John Bond House and William Guy Gardens when Gateway demolished those blocks.

We believe this proposal is not in keeping with the promises made to tenants by Bethnal Green and Victoria Park HA (Gateway HA) before the ballot on stock transfer and call on the Mayor and the Councillors in Tower Hamlets to block these plans."