


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 18 July 2018	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Committee Services Manager, Democratic Services.
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 18 July 2018. The texts of all petitions received for presentation to this meeting are set out in the attached report.
2. The Council's Constitution provides for up to four petitions to be heard at each ordinary Council meeting. These are taken in order of receipt, except that petitions for debate (those in excess of 2,000 signatures) will take precedence. Should more than four petitions be received, all remaining petitions will be listed to be formally noted by Council.
3. For Petitions listed as for debate:
 - a. petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. The petition will then be debated by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. All speeches are limited to a maximum of 3 minutes. During his or her speech, any Councillor may move a motion for the Council's consideration relevant to matters in the petition (this does not require the suspension of the Council Procedure Rules).
 - d. the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 3 minutes.
 - e. Following the petition debate, any motions moved will be put to the vote in the order they were tabled.
 - f. If no motion is agreed, the petition will stand referred to the relevant Corporate Director for a written response within 28 days of the meeting.

4. For Petitions listed as to be heard:
 - a. petitioners may address the meeting for no more than 3 minutes.
 - b. Members may then question the petitioners for a further 4 minutes.
 - c. Finally, the speaker will invite the Mayor or (at the Mayor's discretion) the relevant Lead Member or Committee Chair to respond to the petition for up to 2 minutes. The petition will then be referred to the relevant Corporate Director for attention who will provide a written response within 28 days of the date of the meeting.
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.
6. For Petitions listed as to be noted, petitioners may not address the meeting. The Speaker will state where they will go for a full response.
7. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

No petitions for debate had been received by the petitions deadline.

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

5.1 Petition regarding STOP Drug Dealing in Batty Street E1 (Petition from Rizwan Saleem and others)

We residents & traders of batty street e1, for the purposes of abolishing the illegal sale and supply of drugs in our local area, do hereby call on tower hamlets council to take action to increase police patrols & erect a cctv camera on batty street or any/and any other mechanism to stop the illegal presence.

Drugs are openly traded on Batty Street E1, facilitated by the lack police presence or any other deterring factor. The drug dealers quickly dispense items from their car window, and then make a speedy escape up Batty Street either towards Commercial Road or more frequently towards Fairclough Street. The issue of selling drugs from car windows and speeding away is far more prevalent and dangerous as school children from the 'Harry Gosling School' are crossing the streets nearby (during mornings & afternoons) and it is just a matter of time before an unthinkable accident happens involving a drug dealer and a child. Tower Hamlets Council must take steps NOW to avoid this.

Batty street also has an old peoples home situated towards Fairclough street. The situation of dealing drugs is so very dangerous to our OAP's where they have to cross the road to avoid the buyers and dealers. We have witnessed on occasions that OAP's are being pushed out of the way and/or knocked over whilst the drug deal happens at a fast pace. This situation is unacceptable.

Buyers gather in herds of 3 to 6 all day and dealing goes on till early hours of the morning making our quiet street a busy one with open trade. Residents of the street are fed up with this and safety concerns are high especially when the addicts sit in doorways taking the drugs.

Retailers and office's along Batty street have been approached by addicts begging for money, once refused they become aggressive and dangerous.

The current drug dealing brings a range of unsavoury characters to the local area, to the distress of residents, OAPs and their families. Local residents deserve better and so we call on the Council to take this action

5.2 Petition calling on Tower Hamlets Council to repair Frank Dobson Sq Fountain and replace statue (Petition from Tara Hudson and others)

The London Borough of Tower Hamlets should refurbish the fountain in Frank Dobson Square with new lighting, a water source and public art, either a replication of the Frank Dobson statue 'Woman and Fish' which was removed, or a new statue in the same style as the original.

5.3 Petition regarding Divestment from fossil fuels (Petition from Adam Schneider and others)

We call upon Tower Hamlets Council to:

1. Immediately freeze any new investments in fossil fuels - specifically, in the top 200 publicly-traded fossil fuel companies with largest known carbon reserves (oil, coal and gas) - made by Tower Hamlets Council Pension Fund or Tower Hamlets Council itself;
2. Divest from direct ownership and any commingled funds that include fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds within 5 years;
3. Pass a motion or make a public statement supporting the principle of divestment from fossil fuel companies, promising to move toward a fossil fuel free portfolio and advocating that the London Pension Fund and Local Government Pension Scheme members to do the same;
4. To show commitment to doing the above in a timely manner by setting up a working group to report back on a strategy to move toward the goal of divestment within three months of submission of this petition.

5.4 Petition regarding Buxton Street Empty Space (Petition from Caroline Hand and others)

We the undersigned petition the Council to stop plans to develop the empty space on Buxton Street, opposite St Ann's Primary school, into a car park for film units and allow a local independent social enterprise to operate keeping the area safe and secure.

Justification:

Shoreditch Dog House is a doggy daycare initiative that makes a difference. Since our launch in 2017, we have cared for dogs in East London, provided peace of mind for their owners and have contributed to our community through paying for food and drink for the local homeless community.

Tower Hamlets Council is proposing to turn the area - currently providing quality day care to many local dogs - into a carpark for film units. We believe that, if this plan goes ahead, it would have a huge detrimental impact on our community. Here's why:

We have put a stop to antisocial behaviour and drug abuse on the road, which occurred all day, every day until we started working in the site.

Our continued presence will help keep the area safe for both the two Primary schools next door and for the playgroup and the Farm where children of all ages visit daily. A film unit will mean:

Heavy construction work involving the removal of bollards and mature beautiful trees

Unavoidable impact on the two Primary Schools, Playgroup and Farm plus on the coming and going of the school children and the families dropping off and picking up.

The playgroup and the school opposite will be overlooked by large vehicles and the film crews.

Noise pollution of large vehicles moving around from early in the morning, throughout the day and till late at night.

Air pollution from large trucks and diesel generators running constantly in a dense residential area

We have reduced rubbish, with fewer dogs and dog waste in adjacent Allen Gardens

We're a social enterprise that employs and trains local people, gives back to its local community by providing meals for the homeless and contributing to canine charity, All Dogs Matter.

By signing our petition you can help us lobby Tower Hamlets Council to remain onsite and keep giving back to the community. If we're allowed to stay we plan on installing AstroTurf, building suitable shelter, as well as creating further exercise activities for the dogs, plus a pet shop.

Please help us save Shoreditch Dog House and build a stronger, safer community

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

None.