


Non-Executive Report of the: Council 30 September 2020	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Asmat Hussain, Corporate Director, Governance	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council	

Originating Officer(s)	Matthew Mannion, Head of Democratic Services
Wards affected	All wards

SUMMARY

1. This report sets out details of the valid petitions submitted for presentation at the Council meeting on Wednesday 30 September 2020. The text of the petition received for presentation to this meeting is 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 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.
4. 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. 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.

6. Responses to all petitions will be sent to the lead petitioner and displayed on the Council's website.

PETITIONS FOR DEBATE

There are two petitions for debate. Details of these are set out in the separate report

PETITIONS TO BE HEARD

13.1 Petition regarding Locate & reinvest money from sale of estate land submitted by Tarling West.

Tower Hamlets sold off part of our estate to TFL without consultation. We paid for its upkeep for years and LBTH sold it for £130,000.00 with £0.00 reinvested back in to our estate. To this day, no one can tell us where the money went and LBTH has violated the terms of sale and existing covenants to allow inappropriate planning permissions. We want the permissions revoked by the land is vacant and the money made available for reinvestment in to our estate.

13.2 Petition regarding Provide all households in Tower Hamlets with food waste recycling service submitted by Bethany Penman

We the undersigned petition the council to provide food waste recycling service to all households. Currently only 30,000 of the over 125,000 households in Tower Hamlets are provided with food waste recycling services (1). This limited availability of food waste recycling is fundamentally damaging to the environment. Food waste accounts for over 40% of household waste for an average household in the borough (2). Currently the only option for those without food waste recycling is to put food waste in the standard black collection bins for landfill. Food waste in landfill rots and releases harmful methane gas, which is 25x more potent than carbon dioxide. This significantly contributes to climate change (3). This is an avoidable scenario. Food waste, when recycled, can be converted into renewable energy and natural farm fertiliser. Anaerobic digesters are used to break down the food waste, which converts it into biogas for energy production (4). Any left over residue from this process is used as a naturally occurring fertilise

13.3 Petition regarding Re-Open Old ford road submitted by Mohammad Mohib

The initial reason for closure was to aid social distancing and an alternative route for cycling. As Victoria Park has now permitted cycling and the COVID-19 restrictions being relaxed the closure is no longer necessary.

The closure has lead to an influx of traffic in to the surrounding areas. Stand still traffic on Roman road backing up to Bethnal green, Tredegar road, St Stephens road. This is currently with a reduced level of commuters. The

closure improves cycle safety, social distancing and pollution levels for 800 metres this inturn negatively impacts the surrounding areas by a concentration of pollution and traffic on routes which are more frequent with pedestrians and cyclists. As further restrictions are lifted and the number of road users increase the situation will exacerbated .

Alternative solutions should be considered with an aim to increase the safety of vulnerable road users throughout towerhamlets. The closure of Old ford road merely reduces safety in the surrounding area.

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

None.