

Non-Executive Report of the: Council 20 January 2021	 TOWER HAMLETS
Report of: Janet Fasan, Divisional Director, Legal Services and Monitoring Officer	Classification: Unrestricted
Petitions to Council for presentation.	

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 20th January 2021.
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. Two petitions have been received for presentation at the meeting and the following process applies to these petitions:
 - 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 TO BE HEARD

5.1 Petition regarding Improve the safety and amenity of the Thames Path at the gate to KEMP (King Edward Memorial Park) submitted by Edwin Whipp and others

We the undersigned petition the council to Improve the safety and amenity of the Thames Path at the eastern, riverside gate to KEMP (King Edward Memorial Park).

This is a well-used part of the Thames path accessing a park that is popular with a diverse local community. It is currently a narrow, sharp-cornered bottleneck where cyclists, in particular, risk accidents with pedestrians. This improvement would be very much in line with Tower Hamlet's "Liveable Streets" initiative and the Borough's policy objectives of encouraging walking and safe cycling.

5.2 Petition regarding Stop the trial of all the time bus lanes submitted by Sundor Miah and others

We the undersigned residents of Tower Hamlets petition the council to request the Mayor of London to stop the trial of 'all the time' bus lanes in Tower Hamlets with immediate effect as this is likely to have an impact on the coronavirus rates as more people will use buses regularly and therefore come into contact with one another. There has been a huge spike in local traffic, in particular, at the time of the school runs and thus potentially increasing risks to the physical safety of parents and children. Local businesses have also been effected by this change. Statistics show that only 37% of households in Tower Hamlets own a car which is half the national average. This would suggest that the traffic around Tower Hamlets and the resulting air pollution is caused mainly by the drive through journeys and not necessarily by the people of Tower Hamlets. It is unfair to impose limitations and restrictions to those who have not caused the excessive traffic or the air pollution. Newham, Brent, Ealing and Barking and Dagenham, amongst other Boroughs also have high levels of air pollution., but none of the aforementioned Boroughs have all time bus lanes, so why was the trial imposed on Tower Hamlets?

PETITIONS TO BE NOTED

There are none.