

**LONDON BOROUGH OF TOWER HAMLETS**

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**WEDNESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JULY 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 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July. 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 Saturation Zone Policy in the Brick Lane area (Petition from Mr Jon Shapiro, Spitalfields Regeneration and others)**

“SPIRE (SPItalfields REgeneration) was set up in November 2012 to enable local residents to address ASB issues in Brick Lane on a more co-ordinated basis. SPIRE’s “Working Group” includes representatives from all major local amenity groups including:

- Spitalfields Community Group (SCG) – Membership 200+ local residents
- Spitalfields Society (Spit Soc) – Membership 100+ local residents
- St. George Residents Association (SGRA) – which represents 183 flats
- The Exchange Building in Commercial Street – which represents 100 flats
- The Market Residents – which represents 32 flats in Old Spitalfields Market
- Woodseer Street – whose residents live with continual night- time ASB.

Thus SPIRE represents 600+ local households in the Brick Lane area.

SPIRE welcomed the introduction of the Brick Lane area Saturation Zone (or Cumulative Impact Zone – CIZ) on 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 and would like to thank all LBTH Councillors and Staff who were involved in creating the CIZ.

However, SPIRE is very concerned that some License Hearing decisions in the first three months of the operation of the CIZ, appeared to ignore some provisions of the Saturation Policy. We hope that any such decisions were merely “learning-curve” anomalies in the early days of the Saturation Policy and will not re-occur.

Please would all members of the Licensing Committee pay full attention to the Brick Lane area Saturation Zone Policy when hearing License Applications and License Reviews regarding premises in CIZ.”

## **5.2 Tenants’ Rights (Petition from Mrs Eileen Short, Tower Hamlets Benefit Justice and others)**

“We demand Tower Hamlets Council inform all tenants of their right to

- Claim Discretionary Housing Payments
- Exemptions (disabled people, pre-1996 claims etc)
- Appeal grounds for Bedroom Tax (including room size, room not used as bedroom, separated parents etc.) and instructs all local landlords to do the same. Landlords must check whether any of these grounds applies, and whether any repairs are outstanding, before taking legal action for eviction
- Tower Hamlets Council and local landlords should not evict tenants in arrears due to the Bedroom Tax and benefit cuts. Instead we call on all Councillors to join us to publicly demand repeal of the Bedroom Tax.”

### **5.3 Petition to protect Lincoln Estate and surrounding residents and traders from violence and abuse (Petition from Ms Syeda Choudhury and others)**

“We the undersigned are appalled at the increasing numbers of incidents of violence and abuse against the residents in Lincoln Estate. We residents repeatedly informed Police, Harca and council but there wasn't a noticeable action around, as a result a young boy was stabbed and seriously injured on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014.

We believe that resident have the right to be safe at their neighbourhood free from the fear of violence and abuse and treated with respect they deserve. We call on the Tower Hamlets Council, Metropolitan Police Authority and Poplar Harca to work together to resolve this problem forever. “