


Non-Executive Report of the:  <b>COUNCIL</b>  Wednesday 20 January 2016	 <b>TOWER HAMLETS</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Law, Probity and Governance  <b>Report Title:</b> Petitions Submitted by the Public	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted

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

## SUMMARY

1. The Council's Constitution provides for up to three petitions to be presented at each ordinary 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 20<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
2. The deadline for receipt of petitions for this meeting is noon on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016. 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 relating to drug dealing and anti-social behaviour. (Petition from Mr Abdul Mohin, Nozrul Islam, and Derek England)**

We, the residents of Moray House, Azov House, James House, Sandalwood Close, and Emmott Close of Ocean Estate are extremely concerned about the drug dealing, anti-social behaviour and gang like behaviour of a group or people in and around the area. This has increasingly become a very serious and dangerous issue, and if no action is taken by the Council, this could lead to an unfortunate fatal incident. Local residents are very anxious about the safety and welfare of children, young people, and reputation of the area where they live and local families walk to and from their homes. The matter has been reported to the police, THEOs, who have visited, but the game of hide and seek seems to continue and the people involved in the questionable activities seem to have a good technique to disappear or be forewarned when any form of visits are made. We thank Cllr Mahbub Alam for taking the time to understand our concerns and arrange this petition to highlight this important issue.

We ask that the following steps be taken immediately:

1. Install CCTV in the forecourts of these buildings.
2. Raise pavements / speed bumps to slow the fast moving vehicles.
3. Community Safety Team to liaise with us and write to the Borough Commander to increase patrols in the area.

### **5.2 Petition relating to cuts to children's services. (Petition from Ms Christine Trumper and others)**

One of the most successful amenities that Wapping has on offer for parents of under-5s is the One O'Clock Club. The space is used by Wapping locals and families from Shadwell, Limehouse, Stepney, Docklands, Whitechapel, Tower Hill, Rotherhithe and surrounding neighbourhoods. The One O'Clock Club has suffered years of cuts and now operates only 7 hours a week on the current timetable, and 6.5 hours in the summer.

Residents feel short-changed by the cuts despite the private development and increase in tax contribution to Tower Hamlets.

We appeal to Mayor Biggs to open the One O'Clock Club for more play sessions and to allow parents/carers to host children's events at the space for a fee. If there are other barriers to hiring it out let's understand them clearly and try and make it a possibility. This kind of initiative would pay for itself, or raise extra income for reinvestment.

### **5.3 Petition calling on the Mayor and Council to reject the draft guidance for roof and rear extensions. (Petition from Mr Tom Gill and others).**

We, the undersigned, call on Tower Hamlets Council to reject the draft guidance for roof and rear extensions in eight conservation areas and accompanying guidelines for mansard roofs (draft addendum to the Character Appraisal and Management Guidelines) published 23 November 2015, and instead to revise planning rules on Mansard Roof extensions in Conservation Areas in line with its decision of April 2015.