

SLOUGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Overview and Scrutiny Committee

DATE: 7th April, 2022

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WARDS: All

PART I **FOR INFORMATION**

ANNUAL PETITIONS REPORTS 2021/22

1. **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with details of the Annual Petitions Report for information.

2. **Recommendation**

The Committee is requested to note the Annual Petitions Report 2021/22.

Commissioners Review:

Commissioners have reviewed and noted this report.

3. **The Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy, the JSNA and the Five Year Plan**

3a. **Slough Joint Wellbeing Strategy Priorities**

Overview and Scrutiny is a process by which decision-makers are accountable to local people, via their elected representatives for improving outcomes relating to all priorities for the Borough and its residents. Scrutiny seeks to influence those who make decisions by considering the major issues affecting the Borough and making recommendations about how services can be improved.

4. **Other Implications**

(a) **Financial**

There are no financial implications of this report.

(b) **Risk Management**

None associated with this report.

(c) **Legal Implications**

None associated with this report.

(d) Equalities Impact Assessment

None associated with this report.

4. **Supporting Information**

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, an annual summary detailing all petitions submitted under the Petitions Scheme is reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4.2 For the period 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022 a total of 12 petitions were received - 6 paper petitions and 6 e-petitions on the Council website. The table below summarises the subject matter and total number of signatures received for each petition.

Paper Petition Title	Signatures
21-06 - Against New Parking Restrictions - Scholars Walk	15
21-07 - Cippenham Lane Parking Restrictions - 30 Minutes Limit	36
21-08 - Parking Issues - Broad Oak Court	29
21-09 - Public Footpath Obstruction at 111 & 161 Tamar Way	10
21-10 - Increase in Residents Parking Permits - Kings Road	11
21-11 - Arthur Road Residents Only Parking Scheme	16

Date Range: 1st April, 2021 to 31st March, 2022 - 6 – ePetitions

ePetitions Title	Signatures
Petition to Reject The Planning Application (Ref: P/07584/011) For The Stoke Wharf Development Project in Slough, which will be Redeveloping The Bowyers Recreation Ground and The Surrounding Areas and to Save The Bowyers Recreation Grounds from being Destroyed	228
Slough Hockey Club Official Objection to Slough Cricket Clubs 3rd Pitch Planning Application	383
Support Slough Cricket Clubs 3rd Pitch Planning Application Number- P/10482/013	438
Resignation or Vote of No Confidence	1, 112
Abandon Planned Closure of Day Centres	804
St Mary's Road Speeding	0

4.3 Responses to the petitions are detailed in Appendix A.

4.4 The number of petitions received in 2021/22 is significantly lower than the previous year (12 in 2021/22 compared to 26 in 2020/21), as set out in the table below.

Year	Paper petitions	E-petitions	Total petitions
2017/18	23	4	27
2018/19	25	4	29
2019/20	18	2	20
2020/21	16	10	26
2021/22	6	6	12

4.5 Whilst Covid restrictions limited the ability of petitioners to collect paper petition signatures during the year, this does not explain the reduction in total petitions as similar restrictions were in place through much of the previous year as well. The number of e-petitions is broadly average was previous years.

4.6 Two petitions reached the threshold of over 750 signatures for consideration at a scrutiny meeting. These included the closure of day centres at which the petitioners addressed the People Scrutiny Panel in September 2021 prior to scrutiny of the proposed closure.

4.7 In view of the reduction in the number of paper petitions submitted this year, Democratic Services will carefully monitor the number submitted in 2022/23 to determine whether this is a sustained fall and the Petition Scheme will be reviewed later in the year.

5. **Conclusion**

Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members are requested to note details of the report.

6. **Appendix Attached**

A - Annual Petitions Report 2021/22

7. **Background Papers**

None.