

## Petition Submitted to Worthing Borough Council - Brooklands Lake

### Report by the Solicitor to the Council and the Director for Communities

#### 1.0 Summary

1.1 A Petition was received in August 2016 from W J Smith containing 1549 signatures.

1.2 The Petition is in regards to the condition of Brooklands Lake

#### 2.0 Background

2.1 The Council's adopted Petitions Scheme is available on the Council's website:  
<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/get-involved/petitions/>

2.2 The details of the petition state;

*"We have serious concerns about the condition of Brooklands Lake and request the Council to have it dredged and cleaned".*

2.3 Numerous comments within the petition request that the lake be cleaned, that the lake smells bad, that damage is being caused to wildlife, and that the condition of the lake detracts from local amenity.

2.4 Qualifying petitions are defined in the scheme as those petitions containing more than 1,000 signatures and including a minimum of 50 names, addresses and signature of people who live, work or study in Borough Council of Worthing. The petition contains 1549 signatures including the 50 person minimum and therefore meets the relevant criteria to be considered as a qualifying petition.

2.4 It is a requirement of the scheme that where a qualifying petition is received, and where time permits, the petition be debated by Full Council to determine how to respond to it. A range of suggested responses are set out within the scheme and include, but are not limited to:

- a) Taking the action requested;
- b) Holding an enquirer or undertaking research into the matters arising;
- c) Referring the petition for consideration by the overview and scrutiny committee; or
- d) Taking no further action.

2.5 The petition organiser was notified on the 31st August 2016 that the petition amounted to a qualifying petition.

### **3.0 Proposals**

- 3.1 The person submitting the Petition has 5 minutes to address Council to support their Petition.
- 3.2 The Executive Member for Environment has 5 minutes to address Council as the Council's right to reply to the Petitioner.
- 3.3 Council will then debate the Petition and determine what action to take in response to the Petition.

### **4.0 Legal**

- 4.1 Full details of the Borough Council's adopted Petitions Scheme is available here:

<https://www.adur-worthing.gov.uk/media/media.119104.en.pdf>

- 4.2 The requirement to have a Petitions scheme was contained in the Local Democracy, Economic Construction and Development Act 2009 (as amended).

### **5.0 Financial implications**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications in considering a Petition at the Council meeting.
- 5.2 However the cost of dredging the lake is substantial and so the decision taken at the Council may have significant financial implications for the Council. Therefore if the response requires action by the Executive, then the action to be taken and financial implications should be considered by the Executive (Joint Strategic Committee).

### **6.0 Recommendation**

- 6.1 Under the Petition Scheme the Petition Organiser has 5 minutes to address Council on their Petition

The Executive Member for the Environment has 5 minutes to address Council with their right of reply

- 6.2 Council will then debate the Petition determining what action it will take in response to the Petition
- 6.3 The Petition Organiser will have the written formal decision of the Council within 5 days of the Council meeting.

## **Local Government Act 1972**

### **Background Papers:**

Worthing Borough Council Constitution containing the Petition Scheme

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## Schedule of Other Matters

### **1.0 Council Priority**

1.1 Matter considered

### **2.0 Specific Action Plans**

2.1 No specific Council Action Plans

### **3.0 Sustainability Issues**

3.1 Matter considered

### **4.0 Equality Issues**

4.1 Matter considered

### **5.0 Community Safety Issues (Section 17)**

5.1 Matter considered

### **6.0 Human Rights Issues**

6.1 Matter considered

### **7.0 Reputation**

7.1 The Council has a petitions scheme, all petitions submitted to the Council should be determined within the scheme.

### **8.0 Consultations**

8.1 No consultations have taken place on this petition

### **9.0 Risk Assessment**

9.1 Matter considered

### **10.0 Health & Safety Issues**

10.1 Matter considered

### **11.0 Procurement Strategy**

11.1 Matter considered

### **12.0 Partnership Working**

12.1 Matter considered

