

RAVENS PARK PETITION

Submitted by: Head of Planning and Development- Guy Benson

Portfolio: Planning, Regeneration and Town Centres

Ward(s) affected: Audley and Bignall End

Purpose of the Report

To advise Members of action taken by officers in respect of the petition submitted by the Ravens Park Resident Association in relation to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

Recommendations

- (a) That the action taken by officers in respect of the Ravens Park petition be noted.
- (b) That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

Reasons

To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved Petitions Scheme.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council has recently completed a full public consultation exercise in relation to the first stage of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. A consultative document entitled 'Draft Issues and Options' formed the basis for this consultation.
- 1.2 During the consultation period, a petition was handed in at the Council meeting on 12 September, 2012, by Councillor Eddie Boden on behalf of the Ravens Park Residents Association. The petition signed by 418 people relates to seven areas of green space on the Ravens Park Estate. Six of the areas are in the ownership of the Borough Council and one is in private ownership. The sites were included in the "draft long list of Strategic housing sites for potential allocation" within the 'Draft Issues and Options' paper.
- 1.3 The petition is unusual in that the signatures are attached to 11 separate Response Forms, provided for the purposes of recording representations relating to the 'Draft Issues and Options' consultation paper. The responses, which have been provided in respect of; Issue 2: Non Strategic Sites; Issue 3 Development of Greenfield Sites and Issue 8: Open Space Allocations form the basis of the petition. In respect of Issues 2: Non Strategic Sites, the petitioners state that the seven areas of green space on the Ravens Park estate are not suitable for development. In respect of Issue 3: Development of Greenfield Sites, it is stated that the lack of brownfield sites (highlighted during the public consultation) does not justify the overcrowding of existing and established developed areas to the detriment of existing communities and the environment. In respect of Issue 8: Open Space Allocations, the petitioners state that the development of open spaces contravenes the Green Space Strategy.

2. **Issues**

- 2.1 Your officers are able to give consideration to these comments through the process of preparing the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan. This will then be incorporated into a report on the outcome of the full public consultation exercise together with a 'Draft Options Report,' setting out the Council's draft site allocation proposals. The process is unlikely to be completed until late spring next year. The consultation results and 'Draft Options Report' will be reported to Planning Committee prior to going forward to Council for decision. A second stage of full public consultation will then take place.
- 2.2 A letter has been sent to the petition organiser advising that the contents of the petition will be given consideration as part of the process of considering representations received during the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process.

3. **Proposal**

- 3.1 That the petition and the action already taken by your officers be noted.
- 3.2 That the existence of the petition be reported to both the Planning Committee and Council in the context of the results of the full public consultation exercise, which has been recently undertaken in relation to preparation of the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan.

4. **Reasons for Preferred Solution**

- 4.1 To comply with the provisions of the Council's approved Petitions Scheme.
- 4.2 To enable the comments made in respect of the seven areas of open space on the Ravens Park Estate to be considered in the context of both the representations received from all other consultees who responded to the Site Allocations and Policies Local Plan Issues and Options consultation, and other evidence that will need to be given due consideration under the statutory town planning process.

5. **Outcomes Linked to Sustainable Community Strategy and Corporate Priorities**

- Creating a cleaner, safer, and sustainable Borough
- Creating a healthy and active community

6. **Legal and Statutory Implications**

- 6.1 The Council has an approved petitions scheme, which sets out the procedure for consideration of petitions received from the local community.

7. **Equality Impact Assessment**

No adverse impact has been identified.

8. **Financial and Resource Implications**

There are no additional financial or resource implications arising from the recommendation.

9. **Major Risks**

None identified relating directly to this report.

10. **Sustainability and Climate Change Implications**

Not applicable.

11. **Key Decision Information**

Not a key decision

12. **List of Appendices**

Paper copies of the petition will be available in the Members' Room prior to the meeting.