

Enquiries to:
Committee Services

Direct Dial: 024 7637 6215

Email: committee@nuneatonandbedworth.gov.uk

Date: 21st November 2023

Our Ref: MM

Dear Sir/Madam,

Housing, Environment and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel
23rd November 2023

I refer to Item 8 (Petition – Closure of Pool Bank Street Carpark) on the Agenda for the Housing, Environment and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel scheduled for Thursday 23rd November, 2023 and attach the report for the panel to consider.

Yours faithfully,

Brent Davis

Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Housing
Environment and Health Overview and
Scrutiny Panel

Councillors K. Evans (Chair), E. Shiers (Vice-Chair),
B. Beetham, C. Cape, T. Cooper, S. Harbison, J.
Kennaugh, J. Singh and M. Wright.

Closure of Pool Bank Car Park

The Council received a petition containing 181 signatories requesting:

The car park has new restricted hours being imposed due to complaints from a small number of residents relating to Anti-social behaviour. The decision to restrict the hours was done without prior conversation or dialogue with local business located in the proximity to the car park, and also residents from Pool Bank Street who use and rely upon the parking facilities.

There has been no prior consideration given to the impact of the closure on the wider community and local residents who also use the car park when street parking is full. There is also no consideration given to the increase in crime that the closure will cause - with the area being closed off to traffic, the area will become a hotspot due to less "public" being around to witness anything. There is also no consideration given to disabled and vulnerable users for local business such as Scouts, Army Cadets or the Abbey Theatre who all immediately surround the car park, and use the parking in the evenings, the time the car park will now be closed.

No consideration has been given to how these businesses will manage confrontation with members of the public - we have been given access to open the car park if it is closed on arrival - but how are members of the public supposed to police who enters the car park, and how should they deal with cars left afterwards when we want to close them?

There appears to be no other consideration given to other solutions such as ANPR cameras - or unmanned traffic control such as Alligator Teeth (i.e leaving one gate open which is exit only). There appears to be no review or assessment on each of these solutions, to justify why the closure is the best and only option.

Anti-social behaviour can only be controlled with engagement with offenders and better policing, simply closing the area off is going to have little to no effect and will only increase the crime in the area. We need an increase in community patrols in the area and community engagement with possible offenders by the safer neighbourhoods policing team.

There is public outcry over this decision and I therefore raise this petition for the council to re-consider their decision and re-engage with the local residents (including those not consulted) and businesses to come to a better outcome that will benefit all.

The petition was received via the NBBC led e-petition scheme

In accordance with the Councils petition scheme the following acknowledgement of the petition was sent to the petition organiser Craig Barnes on Friday 29th September, 2023 and follow up email on Thursday 9th November 2023:

Friday 29th September 2023

Dear Craig Barnes,

In accordance with the Petition Scheme Section of the Borough Council's Constitution, I am e-mailing you to formally acknowledge your E-Petition that came to a close on the 15th September 2023.

At the close of the petition on the 15th September there were 181 signatories. As per our Petition Scheme this falls under the category of an Ordinary Petition and will be forwarded to the appropriate Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Panel for consideration. I will be back in touch by the end of next week with more information on the progress of your petition.

Thursday 9th November 2023

Dear Craig,

Further to below I have now had confirmation from the Chair of Housing, Environment and Health OSP that your petition will be considered at the next meeting of the panel on Thursday 23rd November. The meeting will start at 6pm in the Council Chamber, Nuneaton Town Hall.

Prior to the meeting you as the Petition Organiser will have the opportunity to submit a list of questions that you would like to put forward for response to the appropriate officer at the meeting. These questions will be provided to the Chair of the Panel, who will decide whether they are appropriate, and to the officer concerned, in advance of the meeting. If the questions could be submitted to this email address no later than the 17th November to enable the Chair and officer to prepare a proper response.

At the meeting, the Chair will invite yourself to address the panel for a maximum of three minutes on your petition.

Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding any of the above.

The petition organiser has not submitted any questions to the panel by the date specified in the email. The Petition Officer did try to establish contact with the petition organiser via the details supplied but has to date not received a response.

Kelly Baxter
Member and Committee Services Support Officer