

This Report will be made public on 16 November 2021



Report Number **A/21/18**

To: Council
Date: 24 November 2021
Status: Non - executive decision
Responsible Officer: Susan Priest, Chief Executive

SUBJECT: PETITION – KEEP EAST CLIFF GREEN

SUMMARY: A petition asking for the council to withdraw its recently published regeneration proposal for East Cliff and instead work with the community to improve the existing play area and support the bowls club and existing sports facilities has been received and has a total of 950 signatures. As per the petitions scheme, set out in part 4 of the constitution, petitions which receive more than 250 signatures can be presented to a meeting of Full Council

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note report A/21/18.
2. To consider the options set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 An E-Petition was submitted by Bridie Hill on 26 September 2021. The E-Petition was live on the council's website until 14 November 2021, and received 741 signatures. An accompanying paper petition was also submitted to the council on Tuesday 9 November and included 209 signatures. The total of signatures are: 950.

1.2 The subject of the Petition is set out below:

"We the undersigned petition the council to withdraw its recently published regeneration proposal for East Cliff and instead work with the community to improve the existing play area and support the bowls club and existing sports facilities.

East Cliff/Jocks Pitch is an area of outstanding beauty and one of the few open green spaces left in Folkestone. The field and particularly the flat area used for ad hoc ball and sports by locals, school and visitors will be drastically reduced by this proposal. The area is serviced by buses so the need for a car park taking away areas of green space is questionable, especially as it conflicts with government and health advice on preserving and reinstating green spaces".

1.3 The petition was submitted by Bridie Hill, a resident of the district.

2. POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO THE PETITION

2.1 As per the Petitions Scheme, set out in part of 4 of the constitution, members should make one of the following decisions shown below. It should be noted that the matter raised by the petition relates to a function of the trustees of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity and so ultimately decisions on the proposals for East Cliff will be made by the Trustees.

- a) Note the petition and take no further action;
- b) Refer the petition to the Cabinet * or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as the case may be, for their observations before deciding whether to examine the issues raised by the petition;
- c) Agree to examine the issues raised by the petition, by debate, at the meeting or a future meeting;
- d) Agree to examine the issues raised by the petition, as part of a future scrutiny programme.

* The Cabinet will meet as the Trustees of the Folkestone Parks and Pleasure Grounds Charity if the matter is referred to them.

3. LEGAL/FINANCIAL AND OTHER CONTROLS/POLICY MATTERS

3.1 Legal Officer's Comments (AK)

Any legal issues are covered in the main body of the report.

3.2 Finance Officer's Comments (CS)

There are no financial implications to this report.

3.3 Diversities and Equalities Implications (GE)

There are no equality or diversity issues arising as a result of the report.

3. CONTACT OFFICERS AND BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Councillors with any questions arising out of this report should contact the following officer prior to the meeting

Jemma West

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The following background documents have been relied upon in the preparation of this report:

None.