

**Environment and Neighbourhood Committee**

**Thursday, 30 March 2017**

**7.30 pm at the**

**Civic Offices, St Nicholas Way, Sutton SM1 1EA**



**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA**

To all members of the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee:-

Please bring the following papers with you to the meeting:-

**5. PETITION: NEW WASTE RECYCLING** (Pages 1 - 4)

To consider a petition from the Circle Residents Association, as submitted to full Council on the 6 March 2017.

**6. PETITION: HACKBRIDGE RAILWAY BRIDGE** (Pages 5 - 8)

To consider a petition from Wandle Valley Forum, submitted to full Council on the 6 March 2017.

Niall Bolger  
Chief Executive  
21 March 2017

*Enquiries to: Davena Palmer, Committee Services Tel: 020 8770 4990 Email: [committeeservices@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:committeeservices@sutton.gov.uk)*

*Copies of reports are available in large print on request*

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<b>Report to:</b>	Environment and Neighbourhood Committee	<b>Date:</b>	30 March 2017
<b>Report title:</b>	Petition: New waste and recycling collection services		
<b>Report from:</b>	Mary Morrissey - Strategic Director, Environment, Housing and Regeneration		
<b>Ward/Areas affected:</b>	Borough Wide		
<b>Chair of Committee/Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Jill Whitehead		
<b>Author(s)/Contact Number(s):</b>	Matt Clubb - Executive Head of Environment Commissioning, 020 8770 6116		
<b>Corporate Plan Priorities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● An Open Council</li> <li>● A Green Council</li> <li>● A Fair Council</li> <li>● A Smart Council</li> </ul>		
<b>Open/Exempt:</b>	Open		
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	21 March 2017

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 To consider a petition from the Circle Residents Association, as submitted to full Council on the 6 March 2017.

## 2. Recommendations

The Environment and Neighbourhood Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the petition and note the proposed course of action as set out in 4.3 of this report.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Councillor Jason Reynolds, Wandle Valley ward, submitted a petition on behalf of the Circle Residents Association, which has been referred to this committee for consideration.
- 3.2 The petition has 1,890 signatures and the petition prayer is set out below:

*We are presenting this petition to the London Borough of Sutton Council to ask for a Public Meeting to be held to answer questions and give the residents of the Borough a chance to say what they feel could be changed to make the new recycling system work for them in April.*



*We have collected 1,890 signatures on line and in person there has been a vast response to this petition and it has proved just by the comments on the petition that this really needs to go ahead,*

- 3.3 In accordance with Part 4E of the Council's Constitution, the Scheme for dealing with petitions and e-petitions states that the spokesperson may talk to the petition for up to 5 minutes and the petition will then be debated.

#### **4. Issues**

- 4.1 Following a procurement exercise by the South London Waste Partnership (SLWP), of which Sutton (along with Kingston, Merton and Croydon) is a partner, the Environment and Neighbourhood Committee agreed the changes to waste collection services at the meeting held on the 27 June 2016. The benefits of these changes included:

1. savings of c£10.3m over the first eight years of the contracts
2. significantly increased recycling capacity and the introduction of more recycling services from residential properties (food, textiles and battery collections)
3. increased recycling performance, predicted to surpass 40%

- 4.2 A comprehensive communications campaign was agreed between Sutton, Veolia and the SLWP. This included visiting every Local Committee and four roadshow events where residents were given information about the new services and could ask questions or raise concerns. In addition to these meetings the changes have been publicised through a number of channels, including

1. three leaflets have been distributed to every household
2. posters have been placed in council buildings and on bus stops/kiosks around the borough,
3. articles have been placed in Sutton Scene
4. online advertising via social media and the website

- 4.3 As outlined above, significant effort has been made to ensure that residents are aware of the forthcoming changes. However, following receipt of the petition from the Circle Residents Association and in order to address the concerns raised, a public event has been arranged in the hall at Shearing Drive between 10am and 8pm on Tuesday 28 March 2017. This will provide a further opportunity for residents to receive information about the changes to the waste collection services and ask questions or raise concerns.

#### **5. Options Considered**

- 5.1 The option of considering the petition at Environment and Neighbourhoods Committee in advance of the public event was available to the Council, however, it was felt that the event would have greater impact if it was held in advance of the commencement date of the changes.

## 6. Impacts and Implications

### Financial

- 6.1 Any costs of running the public event will be met from existing communications budgets.

### Legal

- 6.2 The Council's scheme for dealing with petitions is contained in Part 4E of the Council's constitution.

## 7. Appendices and Background Documents

Appendix letter	Title
n/a	

Background documents
Petition received from the Circle Residents Association

Audit Trail		
Version	Final	Date: 21 March 2017
Consultation with other officers		
Finance	Yes	Sue Hogg
Legal	Yes	Fiona Thomsen
Equality Impact Assessment required?	Yes	Completed as part of the original committee paper.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Environment and Neighbourhood Committee	<b>Date:</b>	30 March 2017
<b>Report title:</b>	Petition: Hackbridge Railway Bridge		
<b>Report from:</b>	Mary Morrissey - Strategic Director, Environment, Housing and Regeneration		
<b>Ward/Areas affected:</b>	Borough Wide		
<b>Chair of Committee/Lead Member:</b>	Councillor Jill Whitehead		
<b>Author(s)/Contact Number(s):</b>	Mehmet Mazhar, Service Manager, Traffic Management and Design, 020 8547 5943		
<b>Corporate Plan Priorities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Open Council</li> <li>• A Green Council</li> <li>• A Fair Council</li> <li>• A Smart Council</li> </ul>		
<b>Open/Exempt:</b>	Open		
<b>Signed:</b>		<b>Date:</b>	21 March 2017

## 1. Summary

- 1.1 To consider a petition from Wandle Valley Forum, submitted to full Council on the 6 March 2017.

## 2. Recommendations

The Environment and Neighbourhood Committee is recommended to:

- 2.1 Consider the petition and the options presented.

## 3. Background

- 3.1 Councillor Hanna Zuchowska, Wandle Valley ward, submitted a petition on behalf of the Wandle Valley Forum, which has been referred to this committee for consideration.
- 3.2 The petition has 530 signatures and the petition prayer is set out below:

*The Hundred Acre and Irrigation Bridges over the railway lines to the North of Hackbridge are being demolished by Network Rail in early 2017. This is despite more than 1000 people signing our petition to have them saved because of the role they can play in providing public access to the newly restored Beddington Farmlands when it opens. The bridges connect a vast*



*area of green space - three times the size of Hyde Park - right at the heart of the Wandle Valley Regional Park.*

*We share the dismay at Network Rail's decision and Sutton Council's failure to act to save the existing bridges. We now call upon Sutton Council to commit to supporting construction of a new replacement bridge.*

*A replacement bridge will help meet the aims of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan being prepared by the Hackbridge community to open up this large area of open space. It will also serve the needs of a new school being built by Sutton Council on open land right next to where a bridge will be needed. We believe it a fitting investment for this key location in the Wandle Valley Regional Park.*

- 3.3 In accordance with Part 4E of the Council's Constitution, the scheme for dealing with petitions and e-petitions, states that the spokesperson may talk to the petition for up to 5 minutes and the petition will then be debated.

#### **4. Issues**

- 4.1 Both Irrigation Bridge and Hundred Acre Bridge were assets owned by Network Rail. Neither bridge had a recognised 'public right of way' leading to, or over them. Access over the bridges has been physically blocked off with steel barriers and fencing for some considerable time. Before demolition on the weekend of 25/26 February 2017, the bridges were derelict and had fallen into considerable disrepair. Large sections of the parapet walls were missing, the surfacing and brickwork superstructures had been seriously undermined by progressive weathering over the years and the growth of invasive vegetation rooting themselves into the brick structure.
- 4.2 There remain two existing bridges over the Hackbridge railway lines, which are less than a kilometre apart and provide good access across lands on both side of the railway. Merton Footbridge, just to the north of the location of the Hundred Acre Bridge links the Metropolitan Open Lands (MOL), on the west side of the railway line to the Beddington Country Park land on the east side of the railway line, and Mile Road Bridge in Hackbridge itself, links Beddington Country Parks directly into Hackbridge Town Centre via Furlong Close by the Hackbridge roundabout.
- 4.3 The council did investigate the option to restore the bridges and negotiated with Network Rail in this regard. Network Rail's position has consistently been that the bridges had been identified for demolition by them some time ago and they had therefore placed this requirement on their capital programme for demolition. They had delayed the implementation of this decision on a number of occasions on the basis that the Council had approached them with a desire to save the bridges and was exploring potential options to finance the restoration of the bridges back into use for the public. Throughout the negotiations Network Rail confirmed that they neither had the necessary funding, nor the intention, to bring the bridges back into use themselves, as their view was that both assets served no useful purpose to them and were in effect a liability, both in terms of ongoing maintenance costs and potential safety liability. As no viable option had been



identified, in late Summer 2016 Network Rail advised the Council that if the necessary funding could not be found by the Council with which to take on the improvement works and maintenance liability of the bridges by the 26 September 2016, then it would proceed with its plan to demolish the bridges by the end of the 2016/17 fiscal year.

- 4.4 The cost to restore the bridges and to provide accessible footpaths linking Bedzed to the Beddington side was estimated to be in the region of £500k. The Council could not give a commitment to Network Rail that it could provide funding by the deadline. Grant funding and S106 funding was not available, and community grants insufficient. Network Rail therefore implemented its plan and demolished the bridges on the weekend of 25/26 February 2017. The Council shares its disappointment at this outcome with the petitioners.
- 4.5 The petitioners have requested investment is made into providing a replacement bridge to be constructed over the Hackbridge Railway lines in support of the aims of the emerging Neighbourhood Plan being prepared by the community to open up a large area of open space and to serve the needs of a new school being built by the Council nearby. Detailed costings have not been prepared to provide a new bridge. It is however clear that this would require very substantial capital investment to establish safe access in the area and the new bridge itself. This funding is not available in the current economic climate. Bearing in mind the existing and proximate access as described above, the absence of demonstrable need, and the capital and revenue implications the provision of a new bridge is not seen as feasible at this time. The situation could be reviewed again in future should the financial environment change.

## 5. Options Considered

- 5.1 The two possible options for the Council are:

Option 1 - To investigate and fund the construction of a new footbridge over the Hackbridge railway lines. Initially a budget would be required to be to fund the feasibility investigation of this option and to prepare some budget estimates based on various concept designs for the Council's consideration.

Option 2 - To not proceed at the current time but to reconsider if opportunities for funding emerge in the future. As previous efforts to secure funding to retain and improve the now demolished bridges was unsuccessful to agree not to commit further resources to this initiative at this time.

## 6. Impacts and Implications

### Financial

- 6.1 Information would be sought on resolution

### Legal

- 6.2 Information would be sought on resolution



**7. Appendices and Background Documents**

<b>Appendix letter</b>	<b>Title</b>
n/a	

<b>Background documents</b>
Petition received from the Wandle Valley Forum

<b>Audit Trail</b>		
Version	Final	Date: 21 March 2017
<b>Consultation with other officers</b>		
Finance	n/a	n/a
Legal	n/a	n/a
Equality Impact Assessment required?	No	n/a