Council – 31st March 2021

Petitions Received from Members of the Public

Name	**Petition**	**Cabinet Member**
Michelle Hinson	Requesting that Bring Out Your Rubbish Days be brought back to prevent fly tipping. The petition has been signed by 552 people. <u>Response from Cllr Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)</u> *As Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change, I resent fly tipping, it is illegal and unacceptable for the few selfish people who choose to discard their rubbish in our city to blight our local environment and damage wildlife and habitats. We are all responsible for our waste and that includes the time and costs involved in disposing of it safely and legally.* *However, we do recognise that some do genuinely struggle to manage their waste, as such we are always exploring how we can better help our fellow citizens to do the right thing. As such we have recently increased the opening hours of our Household Waste Recycling Centres, providing more opportunity for people to manage their waste. In addition, the bulky waste collection service is for customers that are unable to take waste to a site. We are continuing to work on solutions to help people act responsibly in disposing of waste.* *With regards to your petition submitted to the council requesting Bring Out Your Rubbish Days, I can confirm that currently Bring Out Your Rubbish Days are available on request and subject to funding. This means the Council does not directly provide a budget for Bring Out Your Rubbish Days but if groups wish to request the service and pay for it the Council will organise the service through Veolia.* *Typically, Bring Out Your Rubbish Days are limited to around 700 properties per event. As part of a wider community engagement and support I do recognise the value of Bring Out Your Rubbish Days in both helping communities thing about waste and helping communities improve their environment. Unfortunately as Cabinet Member overseeing Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change I do not have a budget specifically to fund such collection days.*	Mark Jones

	However, there is a significant amount of money being devolved to ward Councillors to spend on local community prioritise through the establishment of Local Area Committees. As we move out of Covid-19 restrictions, hopefully towards a return to a more normal way of meeting and interacting, I would very much encourage local groups, such as yours to work with local Councillors to fund, organise and deliver Bring Out Your Rubbish Days. As a Burngreave Councillor it is something that I have considered, and will very much be considering as we look to emerge from the long series of Covid lockdowns. Please do work with your local Councillors to help deliver the support your community needs.	
Damian Callaghan	Requesting a CCTV system in Page Hall The petition has been signed by 6 people. <u>Response from Cllr Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)</u> *The Council and its Partners continue to dedicate resources to reduce anti-social behaviour in and around Page Hall, this includes maintaining a uniformed presence and investing in how we can reduce fly-tipping and other street scene issues which remain a priority for the community as a whole. Our response includes a mix of preventative work and enforcement, including the deployment of other tools such as CCTV at key locations, not only to increase community confidence, but help to identify those responsible for littering and fly-tipping, something we know is of concern to the community as a whole.* *We have also recently introduced a dedicated manager into the area to support all partnership services and deliver a co-ordinated response.* *An important aspect of our response to ASB is encouraging members of the community to report it as and when it happens. This allows the Council and its Partners to respond effectively by ensuring we have the right resource in the right place at the right time, something which I am confident we can achieve if we continue to work together to reduce ASB in the area.*	Paul Wood
Chloe Cheeseman	The petition calls for priority action by the Council to ensure safe pedestrian crossings over Abbey Lane between Ecclesall Woods (2 and 3), on the stretch	Julie Grocutt

	from the junction with Whirlowdale Road to the junction with Abbey Croft, where there are currently no safe pedestrian crossing facilities or measures in place. The petition has been signed by 5,700 people <u>Response from Cllr Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)</u> *The pandemic has resulted in many requests for crossings and speed reduction measures as residents have taken the opportunity to explore their neighbourhoods on foot and become frustrated by driver behaviour on their local roads. We would like to encourage this increase in pedestrian activity for leisure purposes and are considering what measures would be suitable on Abbey Lane to reflect the increased popularity of Ecclesall Woods.* *There are many points where people walking in Ecclesall Woods cross Abbey Lane and we would consider what measure would be most appropriate to address this demand. This part of Abbey Lane is a pleasant, tree lined route and any measures introduced must be sympathetic with the surroundings whilst also being effective.* *In conclusion, a feasibility study has been commissioned to identify various options to install. I will of course keep you updated on progress.*	
Kurtis Crossland	We, the undersigned, call upon Sheffield City Council to provide Mosborough with a speed camera, to work with the Police and implement other local measures to tackle speeding in Mosborough. The petition has been signed by 424 people <u>Response from Cllr Julie Grocutt (Cabinet Member for Transport and Development)</u> *Thank you for your petition requesting a safety camera in Mosborough. The introduction of safety cameras is managed by the South Yorkshire Safety Camera Partnership who are part of the South Yorkshire Police Service. Although fixed cameras are an effective solution, the process of installing one takes a long time and is very expensive. The Camera Partnership have adopted mobile speed enforcement as an effective and flexible alternative way of encouraging drivers to adhere to the posted speed limit. I am happy to report that the request made by*	Julie Grocutt

	the petitioners has been forwarded to the Camera Partnership for their attention. However, there has been an unprecedented increase in such requests and it may be some time before mobile enforcement occurs in Mosborough. *Similarly, I have requested that the South Yorkshire Police consider Mosborough for an initiative called Community Speed Watch. This is a road-side intervention undertaken by local volunteers and Police Officers to monitor the speed of passing vehicles using a hand-held speed detection device. The details of those drivers observed to break the speed limit are processed by the Police, who then issue a letter to the vehicle owner, advising them of the dangers of speeding, and reminding them of the law. The Covid restrictions mean that this initiative has been paused, but it will recommence once the restrictions are lifted.*	
Adil Mohammed	The petition is to call upon the council to: - Open all household recycling centres 7 days a week & - reintroduce "bring out your rubbish days" so people who can't get to a tip can dispose of their rubbish easily and legally The petition has been signed by 265 people. <u>Response from Cllr Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change)</u>*I can confirm Blackstock and Beighton Household Waste Recycling Centres will open 7 days a week from 1st April.* *Bring out your rubbish days can be organised by any community group, TARA or local area with the funding available to cover the costs.* *The maximum number of households served by a bring out your rubbish day is around 800.* *Also the temporary sites in Attercliffe, for garden and household waste have been well used. Council activity has gone well beyond anything asked for and we hope you can recognise and acknowledge this.*	Mark Jones

Questions Received from Members of the Public

Name	Question	Cabinet Member
Lindsay Hewson	1. Will there be any help to stop managing agents being able to take back peoples homes when they are trying to pay what they owe in but can only afford to do so in small instalments. I owe over £14,000, this is for fire compartmentalise works, waking watches, upgrading of fire alarms, increased insurance payments and increased service charges. I was made redundant due to the pandemic and only just got back into work. The managing agents are asking for very high monthly repayments which I just can't afford. ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4	Paul Wood
Peter Housley	1. Many thanks for your involvement with the urgent, ongoing and soon to escalate issues on fire risks in many apartments in Sheffield. One of my many questions (as a directly involved leaseholder), is : How can so many buildings be built to an inferior standard, with poor workmanship, incorrect design , unsuitable and not up to specification materials ? There are, correctly so, authorities and official bodies in place to monitor, check and sign for these works before being declared safe (Building Control, Architects, surveyors, legal, insurers, developers, NHBC etc etc) Where did it all go so very wrong? ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4	Paul Wood

Jennie Garrat - Sheffield CAG	1. We note that Sheffield City Council is due to consider a Motion given by Cllr Paul Wood at the upcoming meeting regarding the cladding and building safety crisis which is impacting thousands of leaseholders and residents in Sheffield. We ask 'Will the Council commit to questioning any developer which applies for construction contracts/planning permission within Sheffield on their suitability for the works if existing residential buildings of theirs have unresolved cladding and/or fire safety issues related to the original construction of the building?' We do not think it is fair for developers which have left leaseholders in their existing buildings without support in remediating fire safety defects to be granted further work in our city until the urgent remedial work is funded by the responsible party. ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4	Paul Wood
Olivia Hill	1. How can the council help spread the word on the severity of the situation to people living in these effected buildings? How can we prevent people unknowingly buying these problem properties (many of which are for sale)? How can estate agents and local law firms ensure people's life savings are making a safe investment. ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4 2. How could the council support Sheffied CAG. Is there any funding for volunteer groups such as ourselves? Help with scaling up our activism, support for planning events in future such as protests etc.	Paul Wood

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William Martin	1. I welcome the motion regarding "Demanding An End To The National Cladding Scandal" given by Councillor Paul Wood and to be seconded by Councillor Jim Steinke. As an affected leaseholder at the Metis building this issue has consumed by life for nearly 4 years. I cannot sell, the building remains unsafe and given the issues that lie behind the external brickwork are not covered by current Government funds we as leaseholders face life changing bills. This situation affects thousands of people and is arguably the most pressing issue outside of Covid for Government and local authorities right now. To date Metis leaseholders have already spent over £130,000 on waking watches, an estimated £70,000 on internal works and seen service charges double & our insurance increase by 60%. This doesn't even include the estimated £6.2m work required which would see leaseholders facing bills of around £50,000 each. **Leaseholders did not cause this mess and cannot be held responsible.** I would like to ask the committee what steps it proposes the council take to ensure those responsible are held to account and are not awarded further developer contracts until they remediate their existing portfolios. ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4	Paul Wood
Phil Carter	1. Re agenda item on Building Safety, this is so important for thousands of Sheffield leaseholders / voters it should be higher up the agenda. 36 buildings in Sheffield have applied to the government´s Building Safety Fund for grants, in the hope that crippling remediation costs (that the original developers should be paying) are not	Paul Wood

	passed down to them. Lots of words on the Agenda about what the government should be doing, but what about the Council & commitments made months ago to write to those developers & others who were culpable? The council needs to be as proactive as its MPs. ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4	
Nigel Slack	1. With the closure of the John Lewis store, how can SCC help ensure that the partnership provides proper support for the employees that are about to be thrown out of a job? Answers from Cllr Mazher Iqbal (Cabinet Member for Business and Investment) *Answer: The mainstream response to large redundancies is led by JobCentre Plus, however SCC is able to work with employers and employees to make sure they are able to access every support available and to help match staff affected with other opportunities we are aware of.* 2. What is the financial impact of the loss of rent and rates on the building? *Answer: No loss is expected in terms of the deal with John Lewis. Alternative uses will be evaluated in due course.* 3. Will this be compensated by the penalty clause for the early end of the lease and to what amount? *Answer: The Council and John Lewis will be in discussion about this matter.* 4. There is a deal of positivity about future uses for the building but much of this will depend on the refurbishment needs of the building. Is the building in need of structural repair as well as refurbishment? What are the current estimates for that refurbishment and will SCC be carrying that out before future plans are in place?	Mazher Iqbal

	Answer: John Lewis have announced their plans for the building. The Council will come forward with plans later this year.	
Zobia Rafique	1. I am aware that some of the Councilors in this meeting are friends or associates of an association called Acorn Sheffield. I am also aware that a few of the Councillors in this meeting have had similar experiences of people hoaxing and turning up outside their homes protesting. You had all condemned this behaviour then, so do you today Councillors of my city also condemn Acorn's action of protesting on this occasion towards me? <u>Answers from Cllr Paul Wood (Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Community Safety)</u> *Answer: Due to legal advice provided to Councillor Wood after the meeting, a written response has not been provided on this occasion.* 2. Acorn failed to investigate this landlord/tenant matter prior to marching to my home and later to accept the DPS decision. Do you agree that they discriminate against landlords as all bad and act as vigilantes? *Answer: Due to legal advice provided to Councillor Wood after the meeting, a written response has not been provided on this occasion.* 3. Do you think that the Council should offer support for not only tenants but also landlords such as myself who felt particularly targeted due to being not only an Asian but also a female, I was labelled as "one of the 50 rogue Landlords" in a recent protest outside the Town Hall by Acorn? *Answer: Due to legal advice provided to Councillor Wood after the meeting, a written response has not been provided on this occasion.* 4. Disregarding whether this is a criminal matter or not do you find this behaviour acceptable? *Answer: Due to legal advice provided to Councillor Wood after the meeting, a written response has not been provided on this occasion.*	Robert Johnson / Paul Wood

Justin Buxton	1. Further to the 'Archive' that the council has promised it's citizens, of all information relating to the Street Tree felling scandal in Sheffield. Please could the council categorically confirm and rigorously ensure that ALL information (data as specified by FOIA legislation) held by 'Amey' pursuant to Clause 90.2.1 of the Streetsahead contract is retained and will be archived - over and above any 'Data Retention Policy' agreed between the Council and Amey. <u>Answer from Cllr Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment. Streetscene and Climate Change)</u> *Answer: Clause 90.2.1 obliges Amey to cooperate with the council if a Freedom of Information request is made. Historic tree related FOIA answers for the relevant period are to be provided to the archive and this will include the information provided by Amey to answer requests.*	Mark Jones
	2. Does the Council's action (policy) of reading out public questions submitted to February's Full Council meeting (03/02/2021) demonstrate and prove that it is unnecessary for the questioner to be present at council meetings for both their question(s) and any subsequent response(s) to be minuted? <u>Answer from Cllr Terry Fox (Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Governance)</u> *Answer: The answer is No, it doesn't go in the minutes but is published with an answer in a schedule.*	Terry Fox
Janet Ridler	1. During the pandemic, capacity at the Gleadless Valley Recycling Centre has been greatly reduced whilst essential social distancing measures have been in place. However, demand for the recycling facility continues to grow and the resulting queues of traffic waiting to use the facility is now causing serious problems for local residents, with local buses having to be diverted and the real possibility of a serious road traffic accident happening on Blackstock Road. This is understandably causing great concern amongst local residents and frustration from people queueing to use the recycling centre but who are being moved on. I would be grateful if the cabinet member responsible for Environment, Streetscene and Climate Change could please outline what is being done to resolve the problem of lack of capacity at	Mark Jones

	the Blackstock Road centre and to relieve the impact that this is having on local residents? ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4	
Russell Johnson	1. In the context of the Liverpool City Council scandal triggered in part by an investigation into failure to ensure 'Best Value', is SCC confident that the destruction of public assets with a CAVAT value of c. £30m during the Tree Felling Fiasco does not constitute a breach of the legal requirement for the Council to secure Best Value in its actions or those undertaken on its behalf? Answer from Cllr Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment. Streetscene and Climate Change) *Answer: "Best Value" is defined by Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999 and requires the council to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.* *The Council can confirm that BV requirements were taken into account in the PFI process which led to the Streetsahead contract being entered into* 2. Furthermore, is the Council aware that the charade (which was a politically driven, less than sincere sham consultation exercise, as clearly and undoubtedly evidenced by facts now available in the public) known as the 'Independent Tree Panel' costing £132K itself may well be deemed unlawful under Best Value obligations?' An Elected Member's answer should in this case be supported by a named senior SCC legally qualified Officer: clearly the view of a layperson in a matter such as this would not carry any credibility. Should this be unavailable at the meeting please assure me that a proper written answer will be provided within a reasonable time period and that this will form part of the Meeting Public Record.	Mark Jones

	<u>Answer from Cllr Mark Jones (Cabinet Member for Environment. Streetscene and Climate Change)</u> *Answer 2. With regard to the ITP, it's clear that you don't feel it was an objective process. Nevertheless, it was felt to be the right thing at the time as a way of engaging with citizens on tree works in their street. The ITP process ended some time ago and there is a new street tree engagement strategy now* *This is very much a live learning process and over the coming years I would expect the existing working street tree strategy will evolve and look different to what it does now.* 3. Please would The Leader explain the Council's alarmingly dismal performance in complying with its legal obligations to provide the public with responses to Freedom of Information and Subject Access Requests in a timely manner? Long delays are being experienced even where the work required is minimal and even where the Information Commissioner has expressed concern. Cabinet Members should note that the reason for this systemic obstruction, where given, is not pandemic or staffing capacity related. Is Cllr Johnson aware that this pattern is building suspicion that The Council is seeking to hide incriminating information, and would he not prefer that further reputational damage to his organisation and Party is avoided by demonstrating transparency, honesty and conscientious adherence to the law? *Answer is outstanding* 4. Please would Cllr Johnson on behalf of the Cabinet distance himself from the scurrilous tweets made by a back bench Labour Councillor, whom I understand I may not name in a PQ, which sought to dishonestly suggest that the It's Our City community group is a front for a political party? *Answer is outstanding*	Robert Johnson
Oli Johnson	1. Will the council put a temporary play street policy into place to make it easier for residents to apply for regular play streets and to show council level	Julie Grocutt

	support for the idea. My original letter and further information about this policy is attached below. play streets Sheffield.docx Play-Streets-as-covid -recovery-councils-v5 ***This question was answered at the meeting and the webcast and minutes (when published) can be found here (copy and paste the link into your browser):*** https://democracy.sheffield.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=7679&Ver=4	

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