

Notice of meeting and agenda

Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 8 September 2016

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend

Contact

E-mail: stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 4106

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1. Order of business

- 1.1 Including any notices of motion and any other items of business submitted as urgent for consideration at the meeting.

2. Declaration of interests

- 2.1 Members should declare any financial and non-financial interests they have in the items of business for consideration, identifying the relevant agenda item and the nature of their interest

3. Minutes

- 3.1 Minute of the Petitions Committee of 14 April 2016 (circulated) – submitted for approval as a correct record.

4. Rolling Actions Log

- 4.1 Petitions Committee Rolling Action Log of 8 September 2016 (circulated)

5. Business Bulletin

- 5.1 Petitions Committee Business Bulletin of 8 September June 2016 (circulated)

6. Reports

- 6.1 Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report – report by the Chief Executive (circulated)
- 6.2 Ongoing, Invalid and Unsuccessful Petitions: Overview Report – report by the Chief Executive (circulated)

7. Motions

- 7.1 If any.

Kirsty-Louise Campbell

Interim Head of Strategy and Insight

Committee Members

Councillors Booth (Convener), Balfour, Dixon, Donaldson, Edie, Gardner, Keil, Key, Lunn and Paterson

Information about the Petitions Committee

The Petitions Committee consists of 10 Councillors and is appointed by the City of Edinburgh Council. The Petitions Committee usually meets every eight weeks.

The Petitions Committee usually meets in the Dean of Guild Court Room in the City Chambers on the High Street in Edinburgh. There is a seated public gallery and the meeting is open to all members of the public.

Further information

If you have any questions about the agenda or meeting arrangements, please contact Stuart McLean, Committee Services, City of Edinburgh Council, Waverly Court, East Market Street, Edinburgh EH8 8BG, Tel 0131 529 4106, e-mail stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk.

A copy of the agenda and papers for this meeting will be available for inspection prior to the meeting at the main reception office, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh.

The agenda, minutes and public reports for this meeting and all the main Council committees can be viewed online by going to www.edinburgh.gov.uk/cpol.

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If you have any queries regarding this, and, in particular, if you believe that use and/or storage of any particular information would cause, or be likely to cause, substantial damage or distress to any individual, please contact Committee Services on 0131 529 4106 or committee.services@edinburgh.gov.uk

Petitions Committee 8 September 2016

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
1	3 February 2016	Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report	<p>Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt</p> <p>To request that a progress update be included in the Petitions Committee Business Bulletin in 6 months time.</p>	<p>Strategy and Insight Lead Officer: Stuart McLean, Committee Clerk 0131 529 4106 stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>	8 September 2016		Please see Item 5.1 - Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt

No	Date	Report Title	Action	Action Owner	Expected completion date	Actual completion date	Comments
2	3 February 2016	Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report	<p>Re-Union Canal Boats location at Fountainbridge</p> <p>To note the Convener would write to Scottish Canals to encourage dialogue with representatives of Re-union.</p>	<p>Chief Executive Lead Officer: Stuart McLean, Committee Clerk 0131 529 4106 stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>	8 September 2016		<p>Please see Item 5.1 - Response from Steve Dunlop (Chief Executive - Scottish Canals) circulated to Petitions Committee and Principal Petitioner – 19 May 2016.</p>
3	3 February 2016	Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report	<p>Charges relating to The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006</p> <p>The Convener to write to the Scottish Government to highlight the issues raised by the petition seeking a response.</p>	<p>Chief Executive Lead Officer: Stuart McLean, Committee Clerk 0131 529 4106 stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk</p>	8 September 2016		<p>Please see Item 5.1 - Response from Shona Robinson (Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport) circulated to Petitions Committee and Principal Petitioner – 10 May 2016</p>

Minutes

Petitions Committee

2pm, Thursday, 14 April 2016

Present

Councillors Booth (Convener), Gardner, Dixon, Donaldson, Edie, Keil, Key and Paterson.

1. Minute

Decision

To approve the minute of the Petitions Committee meeting of 3 February 2016 as a correct record.

2. Rolling Actions Log

The Petitions Committee Rolling Actions Log updated to 14 April 2016 was presented.

Decision

To note that future actions agreed by the Committee calling for further reports or information would be added to the Rolling Actions Log.

(References – Rolling Actions Log 14 April 2016, submitted)

3. Petitions Committee Business Bulletin 14 April 2016

The Petitions Committee Business Bulletin for 14 April 2016 was presented.

Decision

- 1) To note the Business Bulletin.
- 2) To note the update regarding the Edinburgh Conscientious Objectors Memorial Petition circulated alongside the agenda..

(Reference – Petitions Committee Business Bulletin 14 April 2016, submitted.)

4. Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

The Committee was asked to consider one valid petition.

(a) Lothian Buses to continue to accept Adult City Single Tickets

Mr Paul Stevenson (Principal Petitioner), Mr Ewan Walker and Mr Gordon Watson explained that Lothian Buses decision to end the use of Adult City Single tickets would have an impact on organisations that work with vulnerable people. The tickets are routinely handed to people to enable them to attend health appointments, engage in leisure activities and meet with other vital services. Mr Stevenson asked that the City of Edinburgh Council do everything within its powers and remit to persuade Lothian Buses

to continue to accept Adult City Single tickets or introduce a cost effective alternative ticket.

George Lowder (Chief Executive – Transport for Edinburgh) and Nigel Serafini (Head of Commercial - Lothian Buses) regretted the removal of the Adult City Single tickets, adding that it was necessary due to the loss in revenue created by this particular type of ticket and that they were susceptible to counterfeiting. Mr Lowder added that Lothian Buses had introduced a Daysaver Scratch Card as an alternative to the Adult City Single ticket and that this was available to charities at a discounted rate.

Decision

- 1) To thank the Principal Petitioner for raising the issues contained within the petition.
- 2) To note that there is ongoing dialogue between the Principal Petitioner, Transport for Edinburgh and Lothian Buses regarding the issues contained within the petition.
- 3) To note that Transport for Edinburgh Board would discuss the issues raised by the petition on 26 May 2016.
- 4) To refer the petition to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee to highlight the impact that the issues raised within the petition may have on some charities.
- 5) To note that an update regarding subsequent actions regarding this petition would be included in a future Petitions Committee Business Bulletin.

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

5. Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

The Committee was asked to note that there were four petitions open for signatures on the Council website, two petitions did not receive the minimum number of signatures by the closing dates and that one invalid petition had been received.

Decision

- 1) To note that there are currently four petitions open for signatures on the Council website, 'Edinburgh Council to Keep Our Trees!', 'Edinburgh Currency (Similar to that in Bristol)', 'Gull de-nesting in North Merchiston' and 'Statue of Thomas Aikenhead'.
- 2) To note that two petitions 'Future of Powderhall Refuse Plant' and 'Make Calton Hill ready for Hogmanay 2016/17' did not receive the minimum number of signatures required by their closing dates and had now closed for signatures on the Council website.

- 3) To note that one petition had been received which did not meet the petitions criteria set out in the table below.

Petition Name	Details
No confidence in CEC Planning Committee	To note that the petition 'No confidence in CEC Planning Committee' was invalid in terms of Paragraph 2.2 of the Petitions criteria which states that we are unable to accept a petition that contains false or defamatory statements' and Paragraph 3.2 'it is not within the Council's powers and remit'

(Reference – report by the Chief Executive, submitted.)

Item 5.1 - Business Bulletin

Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday, 8 September 2016

Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh

This is a public meeting and members of the public are welcome to attend

Contact

Stuart McLean

E-mail: stuart.mclean@edinburgh.gov.uk

Tel: 0131 529 4106

Petitions Committee

Convener	Members	Contact
<p>Councillor Booth</p> 	<p>Councillor Balfour Councillor Dixon Councillor Donaldson Councillor Edie Councillor Gardner Councillor Keil Councillor Key Councillor Lunn Councillor Paterson</p>	<p>Stuart McLean Committee Clerk Tel: 529 4106</p> <p>Samuel Ho Committee Support Officer Tel: 529 4210</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt</p> <p>On 3 February 2016, the Petitions Committee considered a petition entitled ‘Call on the Council to invest in improved facilities and to increase the number of inspections to tackle dog dirt’ the Petition asked for the Council’s support and investment to improve facilities, tackle problem dog fouling, and ensure that the Friends and Residents can enjoy a park that is safe clean, well used facility now and in the future.</p> <p>Environmental Wardens continue to regularly patrol and monitor levels of dog fouling at Westfield Park. The park currently shows a significant reduction in dog fouling.</p> <p>The park is currently within the Council’s archived area of the Dog Fouling Tracking System (DFTS) which allows officers to assess the impact of dog fouling on an area and implement a suite of actions to resolve the issue. The DFTS allows residents to contact the Council with specific reports of fouling and where possible identify/describe the owner or description of the dog. There have been no complaints in regard to dog fouling for Westfield Park for the months of March, April or May 2016.</p>	<p>Petitions Committee – 3 February 2016</p> <p>Transport and Environment Committee - 15 March 2016</p> <p>Watch the webcast here - LINK</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>The Council has installed a new piece of play equipment (cat springer) on 21 March 2016 which has been welcomed by the residents. Officers have developed a draft proposal for the play area which will be used for consultation purposes amongst local residents and funding applications to determine the future facilities in the park.</p>	
<p>Lothian Buses to continue to accept Adult City Single Tickets</p> <p>On 14 April 2016, the Petitions Committee considered a petition entitled 'Lothian Buses to continue to accept Adult City Single Tickets' the Petition asked that the City of Edinburgh Council do everything within its powers and remit to persuade Lothian Buses to continue to accept Adult City Single Tickets.</p> <p>The Committee agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To thank the Principal Petitioner for raising the issues contained within the petition. 2) To note that there is ongoing dialogue between the Principal Petition, Transport for Edinburgh and Lothian Buses regarding the issues contained within the petition. 3) To note that Transport for Edinburgh Board would discuss the issues raised by the petition on 26 May 2016. 4) To refer the petition to the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee to highlight the impact that the issues raised within the petition may have on some charities. 5) To note that an update regarding subsequent actions regarding this petition would be included in a future Petitions Committee Business Bulletin. <p>On 10 May 2016, the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee considered a referral from the Petitions Committee. The Committee agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To request Lothian Buses to meet with the petitioner and relevant Council officers to explore all options towards identifying an alternative resolution to the decision by Lothian Buses not to continue to accept adult city single tickets. 2) That a report on the outcome of these discussions be submitted to a future meeting of the Transport and 	<p>Petitions Committee - 14 April 2016</p> <p>Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee - 10 May 2016</p> <p>Watch the webcast here - LINK</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Environment Committee for consideration.</p> <p>3) To agree that a record of the discussions on this item be circulated at the next Transport for Edinburgh Board.</p> <p>Lothian Buses attended the Communities and Neighbourhood Committee and reported that they had had ongoing dialogue with a number of organisations and as a result of this put in place a heavily discounted ticket that can be used by these groups. Lothian Buses has now provided an alternative ticketing solution to this issue and will not be re-instating the Adult City Single Ticket.</p> <p>Lothian Buses will continue to engage with the petitioner as they have been doing regularly to date, along with other vulnerable user groups to inform and educate about bus usage in line with their activities</p> <p>Lothian Buses will continue to review and adjust their Commercial ticketing strategy in line with their plan to refine the products on offer to ensure ease of understanding and use by the customer.</p>	
<p>Re-Union Canal Boats location at Fountainbridge</p> <p>On 3 February 2016, the Petitions Committee considered the petition 'Re-Union Canal Boats location at Fountainbridge'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Economy Committee and that the Convener would write to Scottish Canals to encourage dialogue with representatives of Re-union.</p> <p>On 26 April 2016, the Economy Committee considered a referral from the Petitions Committee and a related report by the Executive Director of Place.</p> <p>The Committee agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To note the activity which was on-going with Re-Union to secure a canalside location at Fountainbridge. 2) To note that the Executive Director of Place would facilitate a cross party meeting, including Re-Union, to focus on finding a solution to the issues raised by the petitioner. <p>The response from Steve Dunlop (Chief Executive - Scottish Canals) is attached at appendix 1.</p>	<p>Petitions Committee – 3 February 2016</p> <p>Economy Committee – 26 April 2016</p> <p>Watch the webcast here - LINK</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>Charges relating to The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006</p> <p>On 3 February 2016, the Petitions Committee considered the petition 'Charges relating to The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Regulatory Committee and that the Convener would write to Scottish Government highlighting the issues raised by the petition.</p> <p>On 26 April 2016, the Regulatory Committee considered a referral from the Petitions Committee and a related report by the Executive Director of Place.</p> <p>The Committee agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To note the content of the report by the Executive Director of Place. 2) To agree to introduce an annual licence renewal in respect of Skin Piercing and Tattooing licences, setting the fee at £260. <p>The response from Shona Robinson MSP (Cabinet Secretary for Health, Wellbeing and Sport) is attached at appendix 2.</p>	<p>Petitions Committee – 3 February 2016</p> <p>Regulatory Committee – 26 April 2016</p> <p>Watch the webcast here - LINK</p>
<p>Fly the EU Flag over the City Chambers</p> <p>Following receipt of a petition entitled 'Fly the EU Flag over the City Chambers' on 30 June 2016 the Lord Provost agreed to fly the flag from the City Chambers. As the purpose of the petition had been met the Principal Petitioner requested that the petition be removed from the website and no further action should be taken.</p>	
<p>Pedestrian crossing near the foot of Yeaman Place</p> <p>Following receipt of a petition entitled 'Pedestrian crossing near the foot of Yeaman Place' on 2 January 2016 Council Officers agreed to undertake an assessment of the area regarding the possible introduction of a pedestrian crossing.</p> <p>The area meets the Council's criteria for the construction of a signalised pedestrian crossing. This will be reported to the Transport & Environment Committee for approval, as part of the annual pedestrian crossing update report,</p>	

Recent news	Background
early in the new year.	
<p>Redhall House and Lawn</p> <p>On 23 January 2014, the Petitions Committee considered the petition 'Save Redhall House and Lawn'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Finance and Resources Committee, where the issues raised by the petition have been considered on several occasions.</p> <p>On 3 August 2016 the Development Management Sub Committee refused a planning application for the erection of eight mews buildings as an enabling development for the conversion and restoration of Redhall House.</p>	<p>Finance and Resources Committee - 20 March 2014</p> <p>Finance and Resources Committee - 7 May 2014</p> <p>Finance and Resources Committee - 5 June 2014</p> <p>Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee - 19 June 2014</p> <p>Finance and Resources Committee - 4 June 2015</p> <p>Finance and Resources Committee - 29 October 2015</p> <p>Development Management Sub Committee – 3 August 2016</p> <p>Watch the webcast here - LINK</p>
<p>Dalmahoy Traffic Lights Needed</p> <p>On 4 September 2014, the Petitions Committee considered the petition 'Dalmahoy Traffic Lights Needed'. The Committee agreed to refer the petition to the Transport and Environment Committee.</p> <p>On 30 August 2016 the Transport and Environment Committee considered a report by the Executive Director of Place and agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) To note that sufficient detailed design work had been undertaken to produce a workable junction layout and a more detailed cost estimate. 2) To note that there was a projected funding shortfall of between £132,380 and £222,380 3) To agree that negotiations would be undertaken with affected landowners, seeking to acquire the land required for a signalisation scheme by agreement. 4) To agree that the detailed design would be completed, such that the scheme would be 'shovel ready' and that a further report would be submitted to Committee on possible funding options. 	<p>Petitions Committee - 4 September 2014</p> <p>Transport and Environment Committee - 28 October 2014</p> <p>Transport and Environment Committee - 17 March 2015</p> <p>Transport and Environment Committee – 30 August 2016</p> <p>Watch the webcast here - LINK</p>

Recent news	Background
<p>5) To agree that a low cost safety scheme involving vehicle activated signs would be introduced as a interim measure to address the current collision profile at the junction</p> <p>6) To agree to receive a report within 3 cycles outlining proposals for meeting the funding shortfall referenced within the report.</p>	
<p>Petitions Live</p> <p>The most recent Petitions Committee on 14 April 2016 has been viewed by 88 people and is still available to view in the webcast archive.</p> <p>Our webcast facility allows you to watch the committee as it happens. You can also catch up on what you have missed by visiting our webcast pages, where previous meetings of the Petitions Committee and the full Council can be viewed. Other Committees are now being webcast and are available to view.</p> <p>There are options to pause, fast forward and rewind this recording and to view the reports and minutes at the same time.</p>	
<p>Petitions to the Council</p> <p>Since the Petitions Committee launched on 8 October 2012, the Council has received a total of 73 petitions. Of these, 44 were valid and the remaining 29 petitions were deemed invalid as they did not meet the Petitions Criteria.</p> <p>Of the 44 valid petitions, the Petitions Committee has, so far, considered 31 petitions. In each case, the Committee has agreed that the issues raised merit further action and have taken action as appropriate.</p>	<p>Current Petitions</p>
<p>Contact Us</p> <p>If you have any comments or suggestions, or if you would like information on how to submit a petition please contact us</p>	<p>Stuart McLean Tel: 529 4106</p> <p>Samuel Ho Tel: 529 4210</p>

Forthcoming activities:

The next meeting of the Petitions Committee will be at 2pm on 10 November 2016 in the Dean of Guild Court Room, City Chambers.

21st April 2016

Cllr Chas Booth
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Edinburgh
EH1 1YJ

Canal House
1 Applecross Street
Glasgow
G4 9SP

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Dear Cllr Booth,

Re: ReUnion Canal Boats

Thank you for your letter dated 31st March 2016 in relation to the recent petition from Re-Union Canal Boats regarding their search for premises at Fountainbridge following their recent relocation. In your letter, you asked for clarification on what dialogue we have had on this subject with Re-Union and EDI and the potential for future dialogue.

Our team at Scottish Canals is in frequent dialogue with both parties. Firstly, EDI has been liaising with ourselves as adjoining landowners on their development aspirations for the council's landholding at Fountainbridge. This dialogue has taken place in a number of formats, including the regular Fountainbridge Sounding Board chaired by Cllr Andrew Burns. We have also had a number of more technical discussions with EDI on how their plans interface with the canal environment, which formed part of their planning proposals. These are regular ongoing discussions. Scottish Canals and EDI are yet to agree a Memorandum of Understanding for the development works to cover the interface with the canal. This is something we would like to progress with EDI and would welcome the Councils support with further dialogue.

Secondly, we have regular meetings with Re-Union on a number of fronts; predominantly as one of the core businesses operating on our canal network. Scottish Canals are a long term supporter of their business and have been a funder and partner since their inception in c2004. As a social enterprise, Re-Union also benefit from substantial discounts and extremely favourable rates from ourselves. Our collaboration with Re-Union is entirely supportive and we have recently jointly launched a lock-keeping and volunteer base on our canal network which has been received positively by all parties involved. We have worked in partnership over the years and recently supported Re-Union's successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund and are working in collaboration to deliver this exciting engagement programme along the Union Canal.

When we became aware of Re-Union's notice on their former leased premises, we helped them look at other opportunities around the vicinity of Fountainbridge. One of the options suggested was a floating venue, however this was deemed unfeasible by Re-Union. We also suggested the possibility of sharing office space at our Operations base at Lochrin, however, as the space is restricted, this was also dismissed by Re-Union. We suggested a number of alternative canalside options that may be available within the Edinburgh area as temporary solutions, however these were unpalatable to Re-Union as they were not within the Fountainbridge area. In addition, we also provided a number of alternative contact details for other landowners so Re-Union could make their own commercial approaches separately.

Scottish Canals are aware that Re-Union wants to be located within the City of Edinburgh / EDI's landholding in the longer term, however we do not have any legal role to influence this matter. If EDI and Re-Union would like to meet up to discuss aspirations in this regard and how best to collaborate with ourselves we would, of course, be willing to do so. We do find it disappointing that the parties involved in the petition did not raise these issues directly with ourselves.

In terms of helping to facilitate a shorter term solution to house Re-Union in a canalside environment whilst development is undertaken in the Fountainbridge area, we would be happy to arrange a meeting with Pat Bowie and Jane Jones to discuss remaining possibilities more fully. We have offered assistance to date and will continue to do so.

As you may be aware, Scottish Canals own landownership in this vicinity is limited. We have appended a copy of our legal title for your ease of reference. In addition to this, we note that there are some landownerships under the governance of Edinburgh Quay Limited, a joint venture between ourselves and Miller Developments. This covers limited landholdings on Lower Gilmore Place and some strips of land along the towpath. Having discussed this with our partners at Miller Developments, we would be willing to arrange a discussion with the parties and Re-Union to discuss whether this presents a viable short term solution. There are technicalities regarding the habitable condition of the properties which would need addressed. This is best taken forward as a separate discussion between the relevant parties and we will contact Pat Bowie directly to arrange. We would also be keen to have discussion with the City Council on a longer term strategy for Lower Gilmore Place to ensure a shared partnership approach for the area.

Within the petitions committee hearing, I noted that frequent reference to our partnership arrangements with Glasgow City Council were made. We would like to note for the record, that we approached both City of Edinburgh Council, as well as EDI, to formalise a shared partnership approach. Various discussions were held with both Sue Bruce and with EDI proposing a collaborative partnership during 2013, however, despite our best endeavours, this was not viewed as a favourable option and EDI have since progressed other opportunities.

Subsequent to this, discussions were held with the Council on our concerns on achieving the aspirations outlined in our shared Edinburgh Canal Strategy, which included a number of formal letters between our organisations. I have attached a copy of these, not with the purpose of re-opening the developer contribution discussion which is clearly a closed matter, but to make the point that we have had longstanding concerns about achieving a high quality waterspace and public realm. The commentary in my own letter to John Bury back in 2011, copy attached, are still as relevant today as the day they were originally voiced. Over the years, we have seen the dissipation of canalside aspiration in the area – we do not wish this to diminish further.

We have discussed the opportunity of using the waterway as an alternative mechanism for water management – something we are achieving in Glasgow through our Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership. If the City Council are minded to take this potential seriously, we would be open to arranging discussion with Scottish Water and ourselves to explore this further. To date we have had little support.

We remain committed to supporting City of Edinburgh Council in the delivery of our shared Edinburgh Canal Strategy and our joint aspiration to create a vibrant canalside quarter at Fountainbridge and would welcome positive discussion with the parties to deliver this.

We have also received an invitation to attend the Economy Committee on 26th April regarding this matter. Unfortunately, we cannot send representation on that day, however, we are going to provide a copy of this letter to demonstrate our commitment to addressing the issues raised.

I would be happy to arrange a meeting with CEO Andrew Kerr to discuss this further if necessary.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch with me if you would like to discuss this matter further.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Dunlop
Chief Executive

cc. Rebecca Miller for Gavin Barrie, SNP Councillor for Inverleith
Caryn Elder – CEC
Cllr Gordon Munro – Canal Champion
Helena Huws – Scottish Canals

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Councillor Chas Booth
Convenor, Petitions Committee, City of Edinburgh Council
City Chambers
High Street
EDINBURGH
EH1 1YJ

RECEIVED
- 5 MAY 2016

Your ref: CB/AG
Our ref: 2016/0013368
3 May 2016

Dear Councillor Booth

Thank you for your letter of 31 March, in which you ask what consideration has been given by the Scottish Government to the issues raised in the British Acupuncture Council (BAC's) petition on the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006.

Firstly, I can confirm that the Scottish Government has no plans to amend the Order.

This legislation requires that premises must be licensed for public safety and includes provisions to set an appropriate fee to cover associated costs. However, it does not make it mandatory for local authorities to recover the associated costs. It is therefore open to the City of Edinburgh Council to waive this charge or set a reduced fee for acupuncture practitioners. You may wish to approach the convenor of the City of Edinburgh Council's Regulatory Committee in respect of this matter.

In addition, the Scottish Parliament website contains supporting documents relating to Petition PE01590: Licences for Acupuncturists which you may find useful:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01590>

I hope you find this information helpful.



SHONA ROBISON

Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 8 September 2016

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Item number	6.1
Report number	
Wards	All/Forth

Links

Coalition pledges	
Council outcomes	CO23 & CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

Contact: Stuart McLean, Committee Clerk

E-mail: petitions@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4106



Executive Summary

Petitions for Consideration: Overview Report

Summary

The Committee is asked to consider two petitions at this meeting.

Valid petitions -

A plaque for the Melville monument

A valid petition entitled 'A plaque for the Melville monument' has been received. The petition received 264 signatures.

Save Granton Castle Walled Garden

A valid petition entitled 'Save Granton Castle Walled Garden' has been received. The petition received 694 signatures.

Details of the petitions are set out in appendix one.

Recommendations

The Committee is asked to consider the petitions:

- 1.1 A plaque for the Melville monument as set out in 6.1(a) of Appendix one.
- 1.2 Save Granton Castle Walled Garden as set out in 6.1(b) of Appendix one.

Measures of success

There are no immediate measures of success applicable to this report.

Financial impact

There are no financial impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

Equalities impact

There are no equalities impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

Sustainability impact

There are no sustainability impacts arising from the consideration of the petition.

Consultation and engagement

There are no consultation or engagement requirements at this part of the process.

Background reading / external references

[Petitions webpages](#)

[Council Webcasting](#)

Links

Coalition pledges

Council outcomes CO23 Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
CO26 The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives

Single Outcome Agreement

Appendices Appendix one: Petitions for Consideration

Appendix 1 - Petitions for Consideration

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petitions Title and Petitions Statement	Wards affected	Total Number of Signatories
6.1(a)	17/05/2016	<p><u>A plaque for the Melville monument</u></p> <p>Henry Dundas, Viscount Melville, was known in his day as "the Great Tyrant". As Home Secretary, he ensured the transatlantic slave trade was allowed to continue; he used Black Watch troops to enforce the Highland Clearances, and he crushed movements for democracy.</p> <p>Dundas has one of Edinburgh's largest statues; in the middle of St Andrew Square. But there is no plaque on the monument explaining who he is. We ask that the city add one, acknowledging the full brutality of what he did.</p>	All	264 signatures
6.1(b)	10/06/2016	<p><u>Save Granton Castle Walled Garden</u></p> <p>We, The Friends of Granton Castle Walled Garden are intent on saving the B-listed walled garden from certain destruction. We believe that the rare historical land use, social and environmental value of the garden is unique in Edinburgh, and should be opened up for sustainable uses which will benefit the well-being of the local and wider community.</p> <p>We therefore ask that the City of Edinburgh Council support us in our aims to ensure that the once pristine medieval walled garden is protected, accessible & well maintained so that the heritage environment is preserved for future generations.</p>	Forth	694 signatures

Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 8 September 2016

Ongoing, Unsuccessful and Invalid Petitions: Overview Report

Item number	6.2
Report number	
Wards	All/ Liberton/Gilmerton/ Meadows/Morningside/ Pentland Hills

Links

Coalition pledges	
Council outcomes	CO23 & CO26
Single Outcome Agreement	

Andrew Kerr

Chief Executive

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Ongoing, Unsuccessful and Invalid Petitions: Overview Report

Summary

The Committee is asked to note that there are currently three ongoing petitions open for signatures on the Council website and that three petitions did not receive the minimum number of signatures required by their chosen closing date and have now closed for signatures on the Council website. The Committee are also asked to note that two invalid Petitions had been received.

Recommendations

- 1.1 To note that there are three petitions currently open for signatures on the Council website as set out in Appendix one. Details of these petitions are set out in Appendix one.
- 1.2 To note that the petitions 'Make Calton Hill ready for Hogmany 2016/17', 'Edinburgh Currency (Similar to that in Bristol) and Statue of Thomas Aikenhead did not receive the minimum number of signatures by the closing dates and have now closed for signatures on the Council website. Details of these petitions are set out in Appendix two.
- 1.3 To note that two invalid petitions had been received. Details of these petitions are set out in Appendix three.

Measures of success

There are no immediate measures of success applicable to this report.

Financial impact

There is no financial impact arising from this report.

Equalities impact

There is no equalities impact arising from this report.

Sustainability impact

There is no environmental impact arising from this report.

Consultation and engagement

There are no consultation or engagement requirements from this report.

Background reading / external references

[Petitions webpages](#)

Links

Coalition pledges

Council outcomes CO23 Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community
CO26 The Council engages with stakeholders and works in partnership to improve services and deliver on agreed objectives

Single Outcome Agreement

Appendices

Appendix One: Ongoing Petitions
Appendix Two: Unsuccessful Petitions
Appendix Three: Invalid Petitions

Appendix One – Ongoing Petitions

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petition Title and Petition Statement	Wards Affected	Total number of signatures
6.2(a)	21 January 2016	<p>Gull de-nesting in North Merchiston</p> <p>We the residents of North Merchiston request adequate support from the City of Edinburgh Council for the instigation and rolling out of a pilot programme of gulls de-nesting in order that the breeding of gulls on tenement roof tops is disrupted.</p>	Fountainbridge/Craiglockhart	205
6.2(b)	28 July 2016	<p>Edinburgh music and exhibition arena</p> <p>SSE Hydro is a multi-purpose indoor arena located on the site of the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in Glasgow, Scotland.</p> <p>Edinburgh has nothing in comparison that would attract international performers, as such city residents and tourists have to make the trip to Glasgow in order to see them. As Scotland's capital city this is a dear shame and also a gap in the market, as money spent on rail or bus travel to Glasgow plus ticket sales could be money in Edinburgh's pocket !</p> <p>We request that the City of Edinburgh Council investigate the possibility of developing an multi-purpose indoor arena within the City.</p>	City Wide	123

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petition Title and Petition Statement	Wards Affected	Total number of signatures
6.2(c)	23 August 2016	<p>Return Edinburgh's main roads to 30mph</p> <p>On the 13 January 2015 the Transport and Environment approved a proposed network of 20mph roads.</p> <p>We the undersigned ask that the City of Edinburgh Council to reverse this decision immediately.</p> <p>Furthermore we feel that the claim there is "Popular Support" for the 20mph zone is not accurate and ask that proof of this 'popular support' be made available for public scrutiny.</p>	City Wide	0

Appendix Two - Unsuccessful Petitions

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petition Title and Petition Statement	Wards Affected	Total number of signatures
6.2(b)	16 August 2015	<p>Edinburgh Council to Keep Our Trees!</p> <p>Edinburgh was voted the fourth most beautiful city in the world in 2015. Edinburgh's balance of wondrous architecture and mix of green spaces attracts visitors and new residents every year.</p> <p>What would happen if we didn't maintain the greenery I wonder.... I am pursuing Edinburgh Council to provide the services we all pay so dearly for.</p> <p>Specifically, the trees that line many of our streets. Edinburgh is a gem of a city and we need to ensure our Council keeps it so. This Petition seeks to gather support given the Council has recently decided not to maintain the existing trees in Edinburgh's streets.</p> <p>Here follows an example : One of Edinburgh's longest tree lined streets is Saughtonhall Drive and dead, dying and broken trees will not be replaced:</p> <p>https://www.fixmystreet.com/report/672038 (external link)</p>	All	34

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petition Title and Petition Statement	Wards Affected	Total number of signatures
6.2(c)	12 January 2016	<p>Edinburgh Currency (Similar to that in Bristol)</p> <p>A growing number of towns and communities in Europe and elsewhere round the world have, in the aftermath of the financial crises, taken it upon themselves to create a currency that may only be used in the locality.</p> <p>In all cases where this has been successfully introduced the initiative has bought a new lease of life into the area, helping to create jobs, bring together communities and stabilise the local economy making it more resilient to fluctuations in the international market.</p> <p>Bristol has one of the most successful of these kinds of currencies, but has only been able to do so with the backing of the council. Many other schemes are now being deployed throughout the UK and I feel it would be an excellent way to increase our independence from Westminster along with a host of other advantages. Instead of money forever flowing out of the local economy into offshore bank accounts and international corporations, the money is instead redirected back to where it can do most good.</p>	All	75

Item Number	Date made available for signatures	Petition Title and Petition Statement	Wards Affected	Total number of signatures
6.2(d)	01 April 2016	<p>Statue of Thomas Aikenhead</p> <p>Thomas Aikenhead was a 20 year old medical student in Edinburgh with fairly outspoken religious views for his time.</p> <p>Despite being a first time offender he was sentenced to death and was hanged in January 1697. He was the last person to be hanged for blasphemy in the UK.</p> <p>His story has come to light recently after Iain Johnstone wrote a play called 'I am Thomas' which is currently showing at Edinburgh's Lyceum Theatre.</p> <p>To commemorate Thomas's story and to support free speech, I propose, as does Iain Johnstone's characters in his play, that we build a statue where he died.</p>	All	21

None of these petitions can be considered as they did not receive the minimum number of signatures required by their closing dates and have now closed for signatures on the Council website. A petition requires 200 signatures before it can be considered by the Petitions Committee. Where a petition refers to a local issue, the Convener has the discretion to declare a petition with more than 50 signatures valid.

Appendix Three – Invalid Petition

Item Number	Date Received	Petition Title and Petition Statement	Wards Affected	
6.2(e)	24 May 2016	<p>Lothian Bus Service No 70</p> <p>That City of Edinburgh Council make the strongest representation possible to Lothian Buses to reintroduce the bus service (number 70) with immediate effect.</p>	Pentland Hills	<p>Invalid in terms of paragraph 1(3) of the Petitions Criteria in that it was a decision of the Council or a committee within the previous six month period</p>
6.2(f)	31 May 2016	<p>Save Our Inch House Community Centre</p> <p>The Inch House Management Committee has been told by the Council that the much needed repairs to Inch House & Community Centre are not possible and that they will recommend to close the building and perhaps dispose of it. We all hold the Inch House dearly to their hearts with many good memories from over the years. This closure would have a devastating effect on the local community.</p> <p>We, the undersigned, love Inch House, know the contribution it makes to the local community and we demand that for Council leave no stone unturned in making.</p>	Liberton/ Gilmerton	<p>Invalid in terms of paragraph 1(2) of the Petitions Criteria – in that it was a matter already being considered or scheduled to be considered by the Council or a committee.</p>

Item Number	Date Received	Petition Title and Petition Statement	Wards Affected	
		sure there is a bright future for Inch Community Centre. Furthermore, we request that the Council works the wonderful Inch Community Centre management Committee to give Inch House and the Community Centre a bright future		