

Petitions Committee

2.00pm, Thursday 8 September 2016

Ongoing, Unsuccessful and Invalid Petitions: Overview Report

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

Links

| | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Coalition pledges | |
| Council outcomes | CO23 & CO26 |
| Single Outcome Agreement | |

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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 | | |