

**COMMITTEE:** COUNCIL

**DATE:** 5th April 2011

**SUBJECT:** RECEIPT OF PETITION TO SECURE A  
DEVELOPMENT ON THE OLD RECREATION  
CENTRE ON OLD BEDFORD ROAD

**REPORT BY:** HEAD OF DEMOCRACY AND ENGAGEMENT

**CONTACT OFFICER:** JOHN HARPER 01582 546045

**IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL

COMMUNITY SAFETY

EQUALITIES

ENVIRONMENT

FINANCIAL

CONSULTATIONS

STAFFING

OTHER

**WARDS AFFECTED:** HIGH TOWN

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**PURPOSE**

1. To ask the Council to consider a petition containing just over 2000 signatures seeking to secure a development on the Old Recreational Centre in Old Bedford Road.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. **COUNCIL is recommended to consider the petition and to determine what response should be made to it.**

## **BACKGROUND**

3. At its meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010 the Council approved a petition scheme in order to comply with the requirements placed on it at the time by the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009.
4. The petition scheme included a requirement a petition containing more than 500 signatures would be debated by the full Council unless it was a petition asking for a senior Council officer to give evidence at a public meeting.
5. This latter caveat does not apply to the petition now before the Council.
6. The scheme provides that the petition organiser be given five minutes to present the petition at the Council meeting and for the petition to then be discussed by the Council for a maximum of fifteen minutes. The Council then determines how to respond to the petition.
7. This response could include taking the action the petition requests if it is within the Council's powers or referring the matter to the Council's Executive if it falls within the functions of the Executive or to commission further investigation into the subject matter of the petition.

## **REPORT**

8. A petition in two parts relating to the securing of a development on the Old Recreational Centre in Old Bedford Road has been received, the first part received on 24<sup>th</sup> February and the second part on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011.
9. The petition has been prepared on behalf of "Housing the People" and is in support of residential development on the site in question.
10. Officers are satisfied that although some entries on the petition do not satisfy the Council's requirement for a valid name, address and signature the number of valid entries is well above the threshold number set by the Council in July, 2010.
11. A lead petitioner has been identified and he will be present at the Council meeting to formally present the petition and to speak in support of it.

## **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

12. It is proposed that the Council considers the petition and the case made for it and determine what action should be taken in response to it.

**LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

13. Petition received on 24<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
Petition scheme established on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2010