

Environment and Communities Committee

Date of Meeting:	9 September 2021
Report Title:	Petition – Sandbach Cemetery
Report of:	David Brown, Director of Governance and Compliance
Report Reference No:	To be provided by Democratic Services
Ward(s) Affected:	Sandbach

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. To receive a petition which has been signed by over 5000 petitioners, which is within the remit of the Committee.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the petition be received.
- 2.2 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter.

3. Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1. In accordance with paragraph 4.29 to 4.32 of chapter 3 of the constitution, petitions signed by over 5000 petitioners may be accepted at the start of an meeting of a Committee.

4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. This section is not applicable.

5. Background

- 5.1. In accordance paragraph 4.29 to 4.32 of Chapter 3 of the Constitution, petitions regarding matters affecting the area or the

functions of the Council may be accepted at the start of a meeting of a service committee.

5.2. Petitions will not be accepted that are considered by the Monitoring Officer to be:

- *inappropriate, frivolous, derogatory, offensive, vexatious or otherwise improper;*
- *related to a Council employment or staffing matter*
- *potentially defamatory; or*
- *substantially the same as any question submitted to a meeting of Council during the preceding 6 months*

This petition does not fall within the above categories, and therefore may be accepted by the Committee.

5.3. The following petition has been received which has been signed by at least 5000 petitioners and now stands referred to the committee for consideration:

- *We, the undersigned, petition the council to Allocate part of the field off Hassall Road adjacent to the cemetery for future expansion of the cemetery as was originally planned by the council.*
- *It has recently been disclosed that Sandbach Cemetery has only enough spaces available for the next eight years and after that anyone wishing to be buried will be taken to Crewe or Macclesfield.*
- *It has always been in the plans that the field adjacent to the cemetery was earmarked as an extension to the Cemetery and this was changed without any consultation with the residents of the town.*
- *We are trying to establish local opinion and therefore have set up this petition to get the feeling of the townspeople as to whether the decision that was taken by the Council was in the interest of the town and if there is a strong enough feeling to get the decision reversed.*
- *We are not asking for the removal of the children's play area but the now defunct football pitch be used for its original intended purpose of a cemetery extension.*

5.4. The petition organiser will be permitted to speak at the committee for 3 minutes to outline the background to the petition.

5.5. The Committee can choose to:

- note the petition,
- Request that an officer report on the matter be submitted to the committee at a later date.

- 5.6. If the committee decides the petition is of significant importance to the whole Borough the committee may decide the petition should be debated at Full Council. The Committee is, however, recommended to call for an officer report to be brought to a future meeting.
- 5.7. The petition must be considered at Full Council if the committee recommend any action which may amend the budgetary or policy framework of the Council's Constitution Chapter 2, part 3, paragraph 1.7.

6. Implications

6.1 Legal

- 6.1.1. There are no direct legal implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.2 Finance

- 6.2.1 There are no direct financial implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.3 Policy

- 6.3.1 There are no direct policy implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.4 Equality

- 6.4.1 **There are no direct equality implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.**

6.5 Human Resources

- 6.5.1 There are no direct human resource implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.6 Risk Management

- 6.6.1 There are no direct risk management implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.7 Rural Communities

- 6.7.1 There are no direct implications on rural communities, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.8 Children and Young People/Cared for Children

- 6.8.1 There are no direct implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.9 Public Health

6.9.1 There are no direct public health implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

6.10 Climate Change

6.10.1 There are no direct climate change implications, however there may be as a consequence of any further action taken.

Access to Information	
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Appendices:	N/A
Background Papers:	Petition in relation to Sandbach Cemetery