

Petitioner:	Bob and Sheila Simmonds
Petition:	Eglinton Road security doors
Number of signatures:	18
The petition read as follows:	<p>We the residents of Eglinton Road, have felt the need to come together to write a petition of concern to highlight the need for security doors for the 2 entrances into the building.</p> <p>We have become increasingly concerned for our welfare in the last year, this has been heightened in the last few months, several residents have experienced multiple episodes of anti-socialbehaviour, this has ranged from teenagers using the stairwells for loitering and drinking, to a serious situation that involved indecent exposure, this was reported to the police as the person involved has been caught numerous times within the building.</p> <p>This however is not our main cause for concern, we have seen more and more drug taking in the stairwells, there are mornings that needles have been found on the stairs by residents taking their children to school, as i'm sure you will agree that this is a completely unacceptable situation for parents to find themselves in.</p> <p>This building is full of many different people,some have children, some are pensioners, and women who live alone, this has become an increasing point of frustration for the residents as we feel that we are being ignored by our council and localrepresentatives.</p> <p>We have been told that there is "no money" available to put security doors on the building,we are very aware that the council are having to find more money in a time of austerity,but to be told that there is no money to help tenants and home owners, this feels very much like the councildoes not care for the safety and security of its own residents.</p> <p>We are aware that ethel brook house are likely to receive security doors within the next few weeks, the question we want answered is why are we unable to benefit from added security</p>

	<p>because there are no funds for our building only 200 yards away.</p> <p>We do implore you to look into this matter, as we feel that it is only a matter of time before a resident is subject to a crime within their own building.</p> <p>Please take this petition in to consideration.</p>
--	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Cabinet Member:	Housing
Ward(s):	Woolwich Common
Directorate:	DHSC

Submitted to Council on:	29 January 2020
Presented by:	Councillor David Gardner

## I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 Thank you for bringing the issues contained in this petition to my attention.
- I.2 I thank the petitioners for acknowledging the financial constraints placed upon the Council in recent years through Government austerity measures requiring the Council to reduce the rents charged by 1% per year for the last four years. This has prevented us undertaking much needed work like door entry schemes in favour of fire safety work which had to take priority.
- I.3 The Council recognises the benefits to residents derived from the installation of door entry systems and is now able to make a significant capital investment into a rolling programme of upgrading or new schemes.
- I.4 The scheme for Ethel Brooks House features in the programme due to commence from April 2020.
- I.5 Block numbers 175 to 269 Eglinton Road is considered a high priority and has been included in the programme for 2021/22 due to commence from April 2021.
- I.6 Before major works can commence it is a legal requirement that the Council formally consults all leaseholders in the blocks and advises them of the likely contribution they will have to make.

1.7 This preparatory process will begin in a few months' time to ensure the schemes in the 2021/22 programme can begin in a timely way and without undue delay.

## 2. **Action taken in response to the petition**

2.1 The safety and wellbeing of residents is of paramount importance to the Council and therefore in the interim until the entry system can be installed there will be a focus on enforcement and prevention work.

2.2 The Council now operates an Integrated Enforcement process bringing together the powers and skills of officers across the council along with the police.

2.3 It is vital that we are made aware of issues as they arise so we can instigate an appropriate problem solving initiative calling upon all resources available to us.

2.4 The Tenancy officer should be the first point of contact for residents and he will then coordinate the relevant actions.

2.5 Eglinton Road has now been prioritised for tasked patrols by The Tenancy Services Patrol Team. They operate from midday to eight pm and will disrupt activity and obtain evidence to take forward enforcement action.

2.6 On March 3<sup>rd</sup> The tenancy team will be holding an action day at the block.

2.7 They will door knock and deliver a letter to every address to explain how and where to report anti social behaviour and speak to residents who may have information as yet unshared.

2.8 With the support of residents it may become possible to identify perpetrators and put together sufficient evidence to either prosecute or commence possession proceedings if the perpetrators live in council property.

Petitioner:	Brian Shrosbree
Petition:	Troy Court
Number of signatures:	19
The petition read as follows:	<p>We, the undersigned residents of Troy Court, Woolwich, urge the Council to stop the proposed demolition of our homes.</p> <p>The Council has not properly consulted us over its intention both to demolish our homes and to immediately stop any further lettings.</p> <p>The proposed demolition is very distressing at this stage in our lives. We are elderly residents and wish to remain in our homes, not be moved elsewhere.</p> <p>We value our homes, our community and the lovely green space we have. We also enjoy the peace, security and closeness of Woolwich town centre, its amenities and transport links.</p> <p>Please think again and stop the demolition.</p>

Cabinet member:	Housing
Ward:	Woolwich Common
Directorate	DRES

Submitted to Council on:	29 January 2020
Presented by:	Councillor David Gardner

## I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 The Council recognises the seriousness of proposing a course of action that would result in the need to re-house its tenants to facilitate the demolition and redevelopment of a property that contains their homes. The Council is committed to engaging with its tenants in a sensitive, meaningful and open manner and will be consulting with affected tenants in accordance with its statutory obligations.

- I.2 The proposals for the future of Troy Court have arisen because it forms part of the Woolwich Leisure Centre Scheme ('WLC Scheme'), a major project to deliver a new leisure centre in Woolwich Town Centre, together with a residential element for both market sale and Affordable Housing. The scheme will deliver on the Council's high-level objectives agreed by the 2018 Cabinet, including those relating to healthy and safe living; environment, social care and health; housing; and tourism, culture and sport.
- I.3 Key principles of the proposed WLC Scheme propose to include the demolition of Troy Court, and this will require the rehousing of the existing secure tenants of the block. If following consultation the Council decides to proceed with demolition, the current timescales suggest that the actual works will not commence for at least two years which will enable the Council to fully engage with and support tenants and enable them to plan their futures.
- I.4 Letters have been delivered to tenants on three occasions since January 2019 advising them that the Council is considering including Troy Court in the WLC Scheme, and that consultation with them will be undertaken as proposals are developed.
- I.5 Formal consultation would have been premature when these letters were sent because the Council had not resolved to take forward the comprehensive regeneration of the site and formally determine the boundary of the proposed scheme. There was still uncertainty as to whether Troy Court would be included, hence the advisory nature of the engagement.
- I.6 A report on the WLC Scheme was considered by the [Cabinet on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020](#). The Cabinet made a number of decisions in relation to the overall scheme. One decision agreed (I.4.1) was to adopt the recommended Site Boundary Option (for the extended development site) which encompasses Troy Court.
- I.6 However, the Cabinet did not make a decision to demolish Troy Court – no such decision can be made without formal consultation being undertaken and its results considered by another meeting of Cabinet in due course.
- I.8 Accordingly, following the 29<sup>th</sup> January Cabinet meeting and the decision taken, it is necessary now to undertake a formal process of consultation in accordance with Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985. It is intended that this 'Section 105 consultation' will take place forthwith. In line with that decision the Council has decided to temporarily cease lettings pending the outcome of the consultation. It would not be appropriate to continue with lettings when

the long term future of the block has yet to be determined. A final decision on whether or not to cease lettings permanently will not be made until consultation has taken place.

- 1.9 A Notice will be issued clearly stating *inter alia* that the tenants of Troy Court will have a period (being not less than 28 days) to make their views known to the Council and that, before making a final decision on the matter, the Council will consider any representations made in accordance with the consultation arrangements. The Council will also inform the tenants of its proposals for the VLC Scheme by other means consistent with Section 105, likely to include face-to-face meetings, drop-in sessions and a FAQ document.
- 1.10 The options available to residents will be set-out in the consultation process and will be discussed with them on a one-to-one basis so that the support offered by the Council can be personalised as far as is possible taking in to account the specific circumstances of each individual tenant . In addition, the Council can offer other support services for elderly residents who require these.
- 1.11 The Council would reiterate the following:
- It appreciates the potential of these proposals to cause concern to its tenants and will seek to minimise this concern through a process of engagement and information.
  - It takes very seriously its responsibility to its tenants and will engage with them in a sensitive, meaningful and open manner.
  - It is considering these proposals because Troy Court is part of the Woolwich Leisure Centre Scheme which will deliver major benefits to the residents of the Borough.
  - No final decision has been taken on the future of Troy Court, nor will it be without formal consultation with tenants and the consideration by Cabinet of the results of that consultation.
  - This formal consultation, under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985, will take place forthwith and will set-out the options available to tenants.
  - A range of measures intended to reduce the impact of moving will be available to tenants.
  - Finally, any move from Troy Court is not an imminent prospect, but likely to be some two years off to enable residents to plan their futures, with the assistance of the Council if required.

## **2 Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**

- 2.1 The Council is preparing to carry-out the formal consultation under Section 105 of the Housing Act 1985.
- 2.2 Cabinet and Ward Councillors have met with the residents to reassure them that their views will be taken seriously and to outline the offer the Council will be making in respect of assistance in rehousing tenants.

The Council will pursue one-to-one meetings with residents to hear their individual views on the rehousing options available. In addition, the Council will employ an independent advisor, Advocacy for Older People, to act on behalf of the tenants.

All tenants will qualify for a £6,400 Homeless Payment, plus additional monies to cover costs such as removals, replacement white goods, carpets etc. Each resident will be given Priority A status for properties that become available. Residents will also be offered a right to return to the new development on a secure Council Tenancy and at Council rents. They will be offered properties of the same size or bigger and a property with the same number of bedrooms they have now.

Petitioner:	Carol Howcroft
Petition:	Keep our Parks locked at night.
Number of signatures:	216
The petition read as follows:	<p>We are extremely concerned by Greenwich Council's plan to move to 24/7 unlocking of Fairy Hill Park, Southwood Park and other parks in the borough that are currently kept locked overnight and call on the Council to abandon this proposal.</p> <p>Keeping these parks unlocked overnight will inevitably lead to an increase in crime and anti-social behaviour, and we do not believe the Council has taken these additional costs (and not to mention, harm to local residents) into account. The stated saving of just £9,000 a year shows how little this move will save from the Council's budget, and is likely to be outweighed by unexpected costs arising from damage and vandalism in the parks.</p> <p>The Council has previously attempted to make this change, and has previously abandoned this idea on the basis of significant opposition from local residents. This opposition still remains, and we call on the Council to shelve this plan for good.</p>

Cabinet Member:	Culture and Communities
Ward(s):	Charlton, Coldharbour & New Eltham, Eltham North, Eltham South, Eltham West, Greenwich West, Kidbrooke with Hornfair, Middle Park & Sutcliffe, Peninsula, Plumstead, Shooters Hill and Woolwich Riverside
Directorate:	DCE
Submitted to Council on:	26 February 2020
Presented by:	Councillor Matt Hartley

## I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 We understand the strength of feeling around the budget decision not to lock parks and park car parks that were previously locked overnight.
- I.2 The Council has faced a decade of austerity, which combined with increases in costs, means that at the time of the decision the Council was facing an estimated £57m budget<sup>1</sup> between now and 2024. The Council had to make difficult decisions to reduce expenditure at the Full Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020, as part of our Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS), to help balance the Council's budget.
- I.3 The decision not to lock parks and park car parks that were previously locked overnight was one of a number of budget reduction measures for the Parks, Estates and Open Spaces Service that were approved as part of the (MTFS).
- I.4 The Council had considered the potential risk of leaving these park sites unlocked overnight but from limited previous experience it had been considered that this risk was low. However, it is recognised that each site is different.
- I.5 Part of the decision not to lock parks and park car parks that were previously locked overnight was implemented on 1<sup>st</sup> April, as agreed at the Full Council meeting in February 2020. However, unfortunately people who were using park car parks were not social distancing in line with government guidance and therefore park car parks have been locked 24/7 to help reduce the risk of spreading the Coronavirus.
- I.6 The Council has always stated that it would keep this decision under review and has continued to listen to the concerns of park friend groups and residents regarding this issue.
- I.7 During the Coronavirus Pandemic usage of our parks and open spaces has increased significantly and their value and importance has been recognised by a wider section of the community and society generally.

---

<sup>1</sup> \*The estimated £57m pressure on the Council budget was prior to additional costs incurred from managing the impacts of the Coronavirus.

- 1.8 The Council recognises the important role our parks and open spaces will continue to play for the health and wellbeing of our residents especially during Coronavirus Pandemic and wants to reassure residents they are properly cared for and protected. Therefore, it has decided that it will start relocking parks overnight that were previously locked (prior to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020).
- 1.9 The Council will continue to keep park car parks locked to deter unnecessary car journeys, to encourage people to visit their local green spaces on foot or bicycle and to support social distancing.

Petitioner:	Coldharbour and New Eltham Ward Councillors
Petition:	Support Coldharbour Playcentre, Say No To Relocating
Number of signatures:	346
The petition read as follows:	Save The Course Playcentre

Cabinet Member:	Culture and Communities
Ward(s):	Coldharbour and New Eltham
Directorate:	DCE

Submitted to Council on:	26 February 2020
Presented by:	Councillor Roger Tester

## 1. **Petition Response**

- 1.1 We understand the strength of feeling around the budget proposal to consider the co-location of Coldharbour Library and Coldharbour Adventure Play centre into one community facility.
- 1.2 The Adventure Play service was transferred into the Library and Leisure contract with no additional funding and given the financial context for local government it makes sense to review the functioning, usage levels and options for the entire service. This review will take account of the usage levels for each facility, the proximity of other services and the opportunities for service improvement that could be achieved through service remodelling.

## 2. **Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**

- 2.1 As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) process for 2019/2020 it was proposed that consideration be given to the option of co-locating Coldharbour Library and Coldharbour Adventure Play Centre into one community facility based at the existing Coldharbour Leisure Centre. That proposal was an error and was changed ahead of Cabinet in February. A wider review process, which started in February with visits with members to the centres, will now be conducted to examine service improvement options for the Adventure Play Centre service as well as to manage the service within future resource levels.

- 2.2 Consideration will be given to building conditions, site location, programme/services offered, service user numbers and the distance travelled to reach their centre. In addition, consideration will be given to the opportunities presented by the presence of other services in each locality both to maximise service experience and to improve usage levels.
- 2.3 The Adventure Play service was transferred into the GLL contract in 2012 from Children's Services with no specific budget. As such the service is funded through the revenues generated by the leisure side of the GLL contract. This review and any subsequent proposal will need to find approximately £183,000 as a cost reduction from the revenue budget as per the MTFS target.
- 2.4 To review service provision to ensure it aligns with current corporate objectives and priorities.
- To review service provision so that it aligns with the available budget.
  - To review the site locations, activities available and participation levels of each Play Centre in the context of other available facilities, residents needs and population centres.
  - The review will attempt to capture the full preventative impact of the APCs including reducing the usage of higher cost services.
- 2.5 The review with recommendations was originally intended to report in October 2020. This may now be slightly delayed, and a new timetable will be produced.
- 2.6 It is intended to conduct a full consultation with all stakeholders of the APCs including young people, local residents, GLL, staff and unions associated with the Adventure Play Centres.
- 2.7 All directorates will be involved as required in the review which will be led by the leisure service, the Policy, Performance and Insight Team and conducted with the support of officers on the Strategic Property Board. The draft proposals will be considered and approved by the Board prior to submission as part of the budget process (MTFS).
- 2.8 Detailed consideration will be given to protected characteristics of users as well as social disadvantage.

Petitioner:	Martin Sheehan and Paula Sheehan
Petition:	Stop the closure of Coldharbour adventure playground
Number of signatures:	665
The petition read as follows:	The council has announced they are closing the local playcentre and also library to move it to the Coldharbour leisure Centre. This is part of the local community for everyone to use and enjoy, if it is moved it would become inaccessible for a lot of children, leaving them no where to go after school, at weekends and during the school holidays. It would be a massive loss to the local estate as we have all used it at some point going back 30 odd years!! Please sign and share so we can keep this amazing opportunity for our kids futures.

Cabinet Member:	Culture and Communities
Ward(s):	Coldharbour and New Eltham
Directorate:	DCE

Submitted to Council on:	26 February 2020
Presented by:	Councillor Roger Tester

## I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 We understand the strength of feeling around the budget proposal to consider the co-location of Coldharbour Library and Coldharbour Adventure Play centre into one community facility.
- I.2 The Adventure Play service was transferred into the Library and Leisure contract with no additional funding and given the financial context for local government it makes sense to review the functioning, usage levels and options for the entire service. This review will take account of the usage levels for each facility, the proximity of other services and the opportunities for service improvement that could be achieved through service remodelling.

## **2 Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**

- 2.1 As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) process for 2019/2020 it was proposed that consideration be given to the option of co-locating Coldharbour Library and Coldharbour Adventure Play Centre into one community facility based at the existing Coldharbour Leisure Centre. That proposal was an error and was changed ahead of Cabinet in February. A wider review process, which started in February with visits with members to the centres, will now be conducted to examine service improvement options for the Adventure Play Centre service as well as to manage the service within future resource levels.
- 2.2 Consideration will be given to building conditions, site location, programme/services offered, service user numbers and the distance travelled to reach their centre. In addition, consideration will be given to the opportunities presented by the presence of other services in each locality both to maximise service experience and to improve usage levels.
- 2.3 The Adventure Play service was transferred into the GLL contract in 2012 from Children's Services with no specific budget. As such the service is funded through the revenues generated by the leisure side of the GLL contract. This review and any subsequent proposal will need to find approximately £183,000 as a cost reduction from the revenue budget as per the MTFS target.
- 2.4 To review service provision to ensure it aligns with current corporate objectives and priorities.
- To review service provision so that it aligns with the available budget.
  - To review the site locations, activities available and participation levels of each Play Centre in the context of other available facilities, residents needs and population centres.
  - The review will attempt to capture the full preventative impact of the APCs including reducing the usage of higher cost services.
- 2.5 The review with recommendations was originally intended to report in October 2020. This may now be slightly delayed, and a new timetable will be produced.
- 2.6 It is intended to conduct a full consultation with all stakeholders of the APCs including young people, local residents, GLL, staff and unions associated with the Adventure Play Centres.

- 2.7 All directorates will be involved as required in the review which will be led by the leisure service, the Policy, Performance and Insight Team and conducted with the support of officers on the Strategic Property Board. The draft proposals will be considered and approved by the Board prior to submission as part of the budget process (MTFS).
- 2.8 Detailed consideration will be given to protected characteristics of users as well as social disadvantage.

Petitioner:	Coldharbour and New Eltham Ward Councillors
Petition:	Don't move Coldharbour Library & Adventure Play Centre!
Number of signatures:	405
The petition read as follows:	<p>We the undersigned call on Greenwich Council to abandon its plan to “co-locate Coldharbour Library and Coldharbour Adventure Play Centre into one community facility based at the existing Coldharbour Leisure Centre”, and instead keep both of these excellent facilities where they are.</p> <p>The Library and the Adventure Play Centre are both at the heart of the Coldharbour estate and both are vital community resources. There will be an unacceptable loss of service to local residents if they are tucked away in the Leisure Centre – and it is also doubtful that the Leisure Centre can physically accommodate the Library and Play Centre without significant costs, which would defeat the Council’s cost-saving objective. We call on the Council to scrap this proposal.</p>

Cabinet Member:	Culture and Communities
Ward(s):	Coldharbour and New Eltham
Directorate:	DCE

Submitted to Council on:	26 February 2020
Presented by:	Councillor Roger Tester

## I. **Petition Response**

- I.1 We understand the strength of feeling around the budget proposal to consider the co-location of Coldharbour Library and Coldharbour Adventure Play centre into one community facility.
- I.2 The Adventure Play service was transferred into the Library and Leisure contract with no additional funding and given the financial context for local government it makes sense to review the functioning, usage levels and options for the entire service. This review will take account of the usage levels for each facility, the proximity of other services and the opportunities for service improvement that could be achieved through service remodelling.

## **2 Current actions being taken in relation to matter raised in petition**

- 2.1 As part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) process for 2019/2020 it was proposed that consideration be given to the option of co-locating Coldharbour Library and Coldharbour Adventure Play Centre into one community facility based at the existing Coldharbour Leisure Centre. That proposal was an error and was changed ahead of Cabinet in February. A wider review process, which started in February with visits with members to the centres, will now be conducted to examine service improvement options for the Adventure Play Centre service as well as to manage the service within future resource levels.
- 2.2 Consideration will be given to building conditions, site location, programme/services offered, service user numbers and the distance travelled to reach their centre. In addition, consideration will be given to the opportunities presented by the presence of other services in each locality both to maximise service experience and to improve usage levels.
- 2.3 The Adventure Play service was transferred into the GLL contract in 2012 from Children's Services with no specific budget. As such the service is funded through the revenues generated by the leisure side of the GLL contract. This review and any subsequent proposal will need to find approximately £183,000 as a cost reduction from the revenue budget as per the MTFS target.
- 2.4 To review service provision to ensure it aligns with current corporate objectives and priorities.
- To review service provision so that it aligns with the available budget.
  - To review the site locations, activities available and participation levels of each Play Centre in the context of other available facilities, residents needs and population centres.
  - The review will attempt to capture the full preventative impact of the APCs including reducing the usage of higher cost services.
- 2.5 The review with recommendations was originally intended to report in October 2020. This may now be slightly delayed, and a new timetable will be produced.
- 2.6 It is intended to conduct a full consultation with all stakeholders of the APCs including young people, local residents, GLL, staff and unions associated with the Adventure Play Centres.

- 2.7 All directorates will be involved as required in the review which will be led by the leisure service, the Policy, Performance and Insight Team and conducted with the support of officers on the Strategic Property Board. The draft proposals will be considered and approved by the Board prior to submission as part of the budget process (MTFS).
- 2.8 Detailed consideration will be given to protected characteristics of users as well as social disadvantage.