
PETITONS REFERRED FROM FULL COUNCIL 24 JULY 2008

To: **Cabinet – 4 December 2008**

Main Portfolio Area: **Corporate**

By: **Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Ward: **All**

Summary: **To provide Cabinet with relevant information in relation to four of the nine petitions received by Council on 24 July 2008 and enable a report back to Council with Cabinet recommendations**

For Decision

1.0 Introduction and Background

- 1.1 In accordance with the Constitution for Governance of Thanet District Council, members of the public may present petitions, supported by at least 25 signatories, and make a verbal statement introducing the petition to ordinary meetings of the Council.
- 1.2 Without debate, petitions are referred to the Cabinet or appropriate Committee(s) for a report to the Council within three ordinary meetings.

2.0 The petitions

- 2.1 At the meeting of Council held on 24 July 2008 a total of nine petitions were received.
- 2.2 This report seeks to advise Cabinet of the current situation in regard to the matters covered by four of the petitions to enable Cabinet to make their recommendations to the next appropriate meeting of Council.
- 2.3 The petitions dealt with in this report are;

Petition – Community Warden**Petition – Say no to the sale of Northdown House**

The Council received a petition collected by local residents concerning Say no to the sale of Northdown House.

The petition had been signed by 1898 residents and stated that:

“We the undersigned, vehemently oppose Thanet District Council’s proposed sale of Northdown house and its environs, which we firmly believe is held in trust for the use of local residents.

We further refer the Council to the Register for Title K903155, which covers the original generous conveyance of the land (13th January 1937). The covenants confirm the rights, benefit and protection of descendants and residents at East Northdown AND all the successors in title of Palm Bay Estates.

We demand Thanet District Council immediately withdraw this vital public amenity from its asset disposal list and confirm publicly that the ruling Conservative Group will abide by the covenants honourably agreed by the former Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Margate and the benefactors”.

3.0 The Current Situation

3.1 Say no to the sale of Northdown House

3.1.1 Legal advice has been received. In accordance with the decision taken by Cabinet, the Deputy Leader and the Head of Development Services will now meet the local community to seek its view on the way forward.

3.1.2 A date is being sought for mid December. It is envisaged that a drop in at Northdown House, with the public able to look round, will be followed by a meeting, at which the 2 main options available within the context of covenant, will be discussed.

3.1.3 There are a community, charitable, social housing, social services, health service etc usage/occupancy of Northdown House. With the property (and therefore covenants) transferred to the new owner. Or, transfer of the Northdown House (with covenants) to the community itself.

3.1.4 No report will be returned to Cabinet regarding the future of the House until there is public consensus on the best option.

4.0 Corporate Implications

4.1 Financial

4.1.2 Say no to the sale of Northdown House

Northdown House is a grade II Listed Building. The maintenance costs of the building are considerable and not budgeted for.

4.2 Legal

4.2.1 Say no to the sale of Northdown House

Usage or occupancy of Northdown House is subject to covenant, the content of which will be adhered to by the Council.

4.3 Corporate

4.3.2 Say no to the sale of Northdown House

Northdown House has been identified as surplus to Council requirements within the context of the Asset Management Strategy 2008-2011.

5.0 Recommendation(s)

5.2 Say no to the sale of Northdown House

That a date in mid December be identified for public consultation on options for the future of Northdown House, be fixed. With the results reported back to Cabinet.

6.0 Decision Making Process

6.1 In accordance with the Constitution a report must go to Council within three ordinary meetings.

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Background Papers

Title	Details of where to access copy
Minute 23 – Full Council 24 July 2008	Democratic Services