



HILLINGDON  
LONDON



# Petition Hearing - Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services

**Date:** WEDNESDAY, 20 MARCH  
2019

**Time:** 7.30 PM

**Venue:** COMMITTEE ROOM 6 -  
CIVIC CENTRE, HIGH  
STREET, UXBRIDGE

**Meeting  
Details:** Members of the Public and  
Media are welcome to attend.

You can view the agenda  
at [www.hillingdon.gov.uk](http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk) or  
use a smart phone camera  
and scan the code below:



**Cabinet Member hearing the petition(s):**

Councillor Jonathan Bianco (Chairman)

**How the hearing works:**

The petition organiser (or his/her nominee)  
can address the Cabinet Member for a  
short time and in turn the Cabinet Member  
may also ask questions.

Local ward councillors are invited to these  
hearings and may also be in attendance.

After hearing all the views expressed, the  
Cabinet Member will make a formal  
decision. This decision will be published  
and sent to the petition organisers shortly  
after the meeting confirming the action to  
be taken by the Council.

**Published:** Tuesday, 12 March 2019

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Putting our residents first

Lloyd White  
Head of Democratic Services  
London Borough of Hillingdon,  
Phase II, Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

# Useful information for petitioners attending

## Travel and parking

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## Accessibility

For accessibility options regarding this agenda please contact Democratic Services. For those hard of hearing an Induction Loop System is available for use in the various meeting rooms.

## Attending, reporting and filming of meetings

For the public part of this meeting, residents and the media are welcomed to attend, and if they wish, report on it, broadcast, record or film proceedings as long as it does not disrupt proceedings. It is recommended to give advance notice to ensure any particular requirements can be met. The Council will provide a seating area for residents/public, an area for the media and high speed WiFi access to all attending. The officer shown on the front of this agenda should be contacted for further information and will be available at the meeting to assist if required. Kindly ensure all mobile or similar devices on silent mode.

Please note that the Council may also record or film this meeting and publish this online.

## Emergency procedures

If there is a FIRE, you will hear a continuous alarm. Please follow the signs to the nearest FIRE EXIT and assemble on the Civic Centre forecourt. Lifts must not be used unless instructed by a Fire Marshal or Security Officer.

In the event of a SECURITY INCIDENT, follow instructions issued via the tannoy, a Fire Marshal or a Security Officer. Those unable to evacuate using the stairs, should make their way to the signed refuge locations.



# Agenda

## CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PART 1 - MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS MAY ATTEND

- 1 Declarations of Interest in matters coming before this meeting
- 2 To confirm that the business of the meeting will take place in public.
- 3 To consider the report of the officers on the following petitions received.

Please note that individual petitions may overrun their time slots. Although individual petitions may start later than advertised, they will not start any earlier than the advertised time.

	<b>Start Time</b>	<b>Title of Report</b>	<b>Ward</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>4</b>	7.30pm	Stockley Country Park - Petition to the Council	<b>YIEWSLEY</b>	1 - 10

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## STOCKLEY COUNTRY PARK - PETITION TO THE COUNCIL

<b>Cabinet Member(s)</b>	Councillor Jonathan Bianco
<b>Cabinet Portfolio(s)</b>	Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services
<b>Officer Contact(s)</b>	Stuart Hunt, Residents Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Appendix 1 - Stockley Park is not fit for purpose - Petition Appendix 2 - Maintenance Schedule

### 1. HEADLINE INFORMATION

<b>Summary</b>	This report concerns a petition received requesting that the Council considers taking back direct control of Stockley Country Park and Kingston Lane Playing Fields.
<b>Putting our Residents First</b>	This report provides an overview of the current arrangements for the management of Stockley Country park and Kingston Lane Playing Fields and the steps taken in addressing the petitioners' concerns.
<b>Financial Cost</b>	No direct financial cost or implications resulting from considering the raised petition at this early stage of consideration.
<b>Relevant Policy Overview Committee</b>	Residents, Education and Environmental Services Policy Overview
<b>Ward(s) affected</b>	Yiewsley

### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

**Meeting with Petitioners, the Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Business Services:**

1. **Notes the petition received;**
2. **Instructs officers to continue to work with the operators Stockley Park Golf to ensure that the level of maintenance is in line with country parks maintained and managed by the Council directly;**
3. **Instructs officers to continue to work with external agencies to prevent and manage anti-social behaviour.**

## Reasons for recommendations

A paper petition was received by Democratic Services in October 2017 containing 102 valid signatures stating “Stockley Park is not fit for purpose! We, the residents of Hillingdon, demand that Hillingdon Council investigate and take action, as a matter of urgency, and resume direct control if required.” The Council’s procedures enable such petitions to be heard by the relevant Cabinet Member.

## Background

The petition outlines issues raised:

- Car Park gates, locking and unlocking
- Rubbish not removed in a timely manner
- Rubbish not picked up prior to mowing operations
- The dog bins are regularly overflowing
- Disabled access is very poor
- The gravel paths are poorly maintained
- The grass paths are not mown regularly
- The water level in the lake by Horton Road is low
- Young people on Motorbikes and Scooters are gaining access to the park

The issues raised by the petitioners have been taken up with the operators of Stockley Park and a schedule of potential breaches sent to Stockley Park Golf Club in July 2018. The summary of annual frequencies is attached as Appendix 2. Improvements to the standard of maintenance have been made and officers will continue to work with the operator to make further improvements to the general standards.

The operator has also worked with the Community Pay Back Team to undertake litter collection and is looking to restart this scheme.

The car parks are locked by the team at Stockley Park and officers are working with the residents to provide a log of when the gates are left unlocked in order to continue dialogue with the Stockley management team to find a solution to effective locking and unlocking. The car parks do face significant challenges through traveller incursions and users' anti-social behaviour. The car parks have been locked at times with Hillingdon’s agreement to ensure that they remain secure.

The Council’s specialist waste contractor undertakes the emptying of the dog waste bins; it is accepted that problems with access to the site have sometimes delayed collection but the Council is working to ensure that the bins are emptied at a schedule to ensure they are not overflowing. The bins are subject to park users using them for non dog waste which does affect the capacity.

The path network is mainly of a gravel construction and requires maintenance to provide a standard of level access. The operator is aware of the requirements and will continue to top up the paths when the condition deteriorates.

Young people using motorbikes and scooters on sites continue to be a problem across all parks and open spaces. A multi agency meeting was held in March 2018 to try and address the problems at Stockley. This meeting included The Police, The Golf Course Operator, The Council's Anti Social Behaviour team and Green Spaces Team. The outcome of this meeting was a number of recommendations, one of which was to install some physical barriers to prevent motorbikes accessing the site. These physical measures were installed during the summer of 2018 and have resulted in some reductions to the amount of bikes entering the site. Unfortunately, due to the site maintaining full public access including access for people with limited mobility it is almost impossible to exclude all access by motorbikes. Officers will continue to work with the operator and other agencies to restrict access and take enforcement action if appropriate.

Other improvements have also been undertaken at the Kingston Lane Playing fields site including the installation of a new playground and gym. These enhancements have proved popular with local residents and officers will continue to work with the operator to make appropriate enhancements across the site.

The operator is currently discussing with the Council's Planning team the finer details of a planning submission for improvements to the Country Park and its playing pitches. The application will be lodged by the operator rather than the Council. Once the application is validated (the term 'validated' is when the Council receives a complete application with the right fees, plans, reports and completed forms) public consultation will occur on the application. The council's planning team will ensure that there is extensive public consultation.

The planning application process will enable public representations/opinions to be put forward, to be considered and, if applicable, revisions to be obtained to the application. If the application is recommended for approval, conditions can be imposed which address material planning issues raised through the public consultation process. The application will go to a planning committee meeting, where anyone who has lodged a petition in support or objection to the planning application will have public speaking rights. The Council strongly advises that the planning application process provides an additional route to enable a discussion into the issues raised by petitioners.

A complaint about the country park was referred to the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman; the summary decision is as follows:

### **The Ombudsman's decision**

Summary: Mr B complains the Council failed to ensure the country park and playing fields near his home are adequately maintained. The Ombudsman will discontinue this investigation. This is because the Council is in continuing legal talks with the tenant responsible for maintenance. The Council intends to hold a petition hearing to address residents' concerns once these talks finish.

### **Alternative options considered / risk management**

None at this stage.

## **Policy Overview Committee comments**

None at this stage.

## **3. INFORMATION**

### **Financial Implications**

There are no finance implications at this stage.

## **4. EFFECT ON RESIDENTS, SERVICE USERS & COMMUNITIES**

### **What will be the effect of the recommendations?**

The Council will continue to work with the Golf Course Operator to ensure that the country park and playing fields are maintained to a standard suitable for a country park.

### **Consultation Carried Out or Required**

Once the Council has received petitions, the Petition Hearing is the appropriate democratic process by which views of the residents can be considered.

The Planning application process also offers local residents the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed developments.

## **5. CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Corporate Finance**

Corporate Finance has reviewed the report and confirms that there are no financial implications arising from the recommendations.

### **Legal**

The Borough Solicitor confirms that there are no specific legal implications arising from this report this stage.

Should there be a decision that further measures/actions are to be considered then the relevant statutory provisions will need to be identified and considered at that time.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL.

### Stockley Park is not fit for purpose!

We, the residents of Hillingdon, demand that Hillingdon Council investigate and take action, as a matter of urgency, and resume direct control if required.

Stockley Park Golf Club (The current managers) does not appear to be capable of managing or maintaining the park to a reasonable standard. They have been approached on numerous occasions by Hillingdon residents but refuse to listen or take any action.

As residents of Hillingdon we care passionately about the preservation of our parks and green spaces for the enjoyment of all and many of us use this park every day, all year.

### Issues

- The car-park gates on both Chestnut Avenue and Stockley Road have remained locked for over two weeks; previously they were often opened sporadically and at irregular times. This makes access for residents/visitors difficult and unpredictable. It affects local residents living in the vicinity when visitors to the park are unable to access the car-parks, as they have to park in nearby residential streets, on grass verges or on the side of the road.
- Rubbish is not removed in a timely manner.
- Rubbish is not being picked up before grass-mowing commences; therefore broken glass and ripped cans are left strewn about the park presenting a hazard to both our children and pets.
- The bins for dog excrement are regularly overflowing for more than 24hrs, presenting a health hazard and a very bad smell.
- Disabled access is very poor, the only suitable entrance gate (when carpark gates are locked) is the pedestrian gate by the Stockley Road carpark which is an awkward turn and very uneven.
- The gravel paths are poorly maintained which makes them very rough and bumpy to walk on and is difficult for mobility scooter and wheelchair users to navigate.
- The grass paths are often not mown for long periods.
- The water in the lake, by the golf course on Horton Road side, has been left unattended and is now very low. The wild-life that depend on the lake appear to be suffering as a result.
- Young people on mopeds/scooters roam around the park at will and at speed causing damage to the football pitches, grassy areas and paths in the park and presenting danger to visitors and their pets. Speaking to them only causes them to shout abuse, use foul language and threatening behaviour.

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SUMMARY OF ANNUAL FREQUENCIES

Section 2: Maintenance of General Grassed Areas

CLIENT: The Operator

OPERATION	ANNUAL FREQUENCY	MONTHLY FREQUENCY														
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec			
Grass Cutting (Frequency Defined)	16*			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		
Litter Picking Prior to Grass Cutting (Frequency Defined)	16*			1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1		
Grass Cutting - Conservation Areas	1												1			
Leaf Clearance	3													1	1	1
Reform Grass Edging to Hard Surfaces	1															
Trim Grass Edging to Hard Surfaces	4															
Trim Grass Edging to Walls, Fence-lines etc and around obstacles in conjunction with herbicide application	2															
Strim Grass Edging to Walls, Fence-lines, etc and around obstacles where no herbicide application	4															
Trim Grass Edging to Channels and Tree Rings	8			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Reform Grass Edging to All Beds, but excluding Annual Beds	1															

Section 2: Maintenance of General Grassed Areas (Cont'd)

CLIENT: The Operator

OPERATION	ANNUAL FREQUENCY	MONTHLY FREQUENCY																
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
Trim Grass Edging to All Beds (Performance Standard Defined)	As required																	
Reform Grass Edging to Annual Beds	2					1										1		

Section 3: Tree Maintenance

CLIENT: Operator

The following applies only to trees that are in areas of play on the golf course or those lying alongside paths that are in use at the date of this agreement. The condition of these trees to be covered in the Schedule of Condition annexed to this agreement.

OPERATION	ANNUAL FREQUENCY	MONTHLY FREQUENCY																
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
Application of Herbicide to Newly Planted Trees	1			→								→						
Stake Maintenance and Removal to Newly Planted Trees	1			→														
Weaning of 5-10 year old Trees away from Stakes	1			→								→						
Removal of Suckers and Epicormic Shoots to all Trees, but excluding Lime Trees	1			→								→						
Removal of Suckers and Epicormic Shoots to Lime Trees Only	2			→								→						
Application of Herbicide Around Bases of All Trees in Concrete, Block or Paved Areas	2			→								→						
Application of Herbicide to All Tree Boxes where Trees set in Tammac	1			→								→						

Section 3: Hedge and Hedgerow Maintenance

CLIENT: The Operator

The following applies only to the hedge that is currently maintained around the clubhouse

OPERATION	ANNUAL FREQUENCY	MONTHLY FREQUENCY															
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
Pruning of Box Hedge Removal of Weeds, Litter, Rubbish and Debris from Base of Hedge	1											1					

Section 5: Miscellaneous Works and Operations

CLIENT: The Operator

The following applies only to fence lines that are currently maintained

OPERATION	ANNUAL FREQUENCY	MONTHLY FREQUENCY															
		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec				
Clearance of Ditches and Banks to Ditches where applicable	1					↑											
Mowing of Grass to Ditches and Banks to Ditches where applicable	1					↑											
Ditch Bed Clearance Where applicable	1					↑											
Clearance of All Fence Lines	1					↑											
Maintain Sites to ensure they are litter free	As required			↓													

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