

PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC - PETITION FOR SDC TO COMPULSORILY PURCHASE THE SITE OF THE FORMER FARMERS PUBLIC HOUSE

Council - 25 February 2020

Report of	Chief Officer Customer & Resources
Status	For Consideration
Key Decision	No

Recommendation to Council: That, in accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the Council consider the petition submitted by the lead petitioner John Stabollouian, on 18 June 2015 and determine any action that it wishes to take in response.

Introduction and Background

- 1 The lead petitioner John Stabollouian has submitted a petition with 1463 signatures in the following terms:

'We the undersigned petition the council to make a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable the District Council to acquire the site of the former Farmers public house opposite the Sevenoaks Railway Station on London Road so as to bring it into productive use at an early date with a residential development which includes affordable housing.

Permission was first given in 2005 on appeal for the demolition of the Farmers, a much loved local pub, and the construction of 23 flats and maisonettes. In 2015 a second permission was given, again on appeal, for a revised scheme, the construction of 39 flats together with retail units on the ground floor. During all that time the site has lain as it remains today, unused and unkempt, an eyesore surrounded by scruffy hoardings contributing no rates or Council Tax.

It is time for the Council to follow up what they have said in the Local Plan about getting vacant sites into development and act to put an end to this eyesore. In collaboration with the right development partner or housing association much needed homes could be provided on this site including an element of affordable housing.'

- 2 This ePetition and concurrent paper petition ran from 24/09/2019 to 24/01/2020 and has now finished.

The Council's Petition Scheme

- 3 The Council's Petitions Scheme provides for petitions containing more than 1,000 signatures to be debated at full Council and also that petitions which relate to an issue which affects a particular area of the District and have a significant level of support from people who live, work or study in that area are also likely to be debated at a full Council meeting.
- 4 The Council can take whatever action it deems appropriate to respond to the petition which could include referring the petition to Cabinet or any council committee, to commission further investigation or to take no action at all for reasons put forward in the debate.

Key Implications

Financial

Any financial implications would depend any action taken.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

None directly arising from this report.

Equality Assessment

The decisions recommended through this paper have a remote or low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act. There is no perceived impact on end users

Conclusions

The Council is asked to consider the petition and to determine what action it wishes to take in response.

Appendices

None

Background Papers

[Sevenoaks District Council Constitution](#): Appendix Y - Petition Scheme

[Petition for SDC to compulsorily purchase the site of the former Farmers public house](#)

Jim Carrington-West

Chief Officer Customer Resources