

**Petition - "On the closure and change of use for the Millpond site at Bewbush and the site at Cherry Lane, Langley Green"**

LDS/174

The Council's Petition Officer

This item seeks consideration of a petition, submitted via [change.org](https://change.org) and in a CSV format, received by the Council's Petitions Officer. From 4124 signatures submitted, approximately 1950 were valid signatures, namely people who live, work or study within the Borough. As [change.org](https://change.org), unlike the Council's own e-petition function, only allowed signatories to show their address/postcode, this is the only factor that can be used to see if the signatories have met the criteria, namely that they should live within the Borough. As the petition has received over 1000 signatures, it will go to Full Council for members' consideration at their meeting on 20 October 2021.

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme, the Full Council has a maximum of 30 minutes at each meeting to consider petitions. Within this time the Principal Petitioner will be given five minutes to present the petition to the Council and the remaining time will be for the Council to consider the petition.

The Petition, submitted by the Principal Petitioner Natalie Campbell "*On the closure and change of use for the Millpond site at Bewbush and the site at Cherry Lane, Langley Green*", states as follows "*Please find attached the completed petition representing people's views regarding the closure and change of use for both the Millpond site at Bewbush and the site at Cherry Lane, Langley Green*"

The Petition above relates to two of the town's Adventure Playgrounds and the decision to close one (Millpond) and convert the other (Cherry Lane) to an unsupervised play area. This decision was made by [Full Council](#) on 24 February 2021 as part of the identified savings contained within report [FIN/514 – 2021/22 Budget and Council Tax](#). This report had been previously been considered at Cabinet (3 February 2021) and at Overview and Scrutiny Commission (1 February 2021).

A petition – "*Save Crawley's Adventure Playgrounds*" [HCS/26](#) was also considered at the same three meetings in February 2021. It should be noted that, in line with the Council's Petitions Scheme as set out in the Constitution, the current petition has been accepted as it has been 6 months since the previous petition was considered by the Council.

Full Council is asked to consider the petition and decide whether or not to make further recommendations. Full Council was the decision maker regarding the changes to the Adventure Playgrounds, as a clearly identifiable saving within the Budget setting report. Therefore, it will retain decision making power in respect of this petition.

The Principal Petitioner will receive written confirmation of the outcome. The confirmation will also be published on our website. Full Council decisions (relating to petitions) which are not unanimous require a recorded votes.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Full Council is recommended to:

1. Receive the contents of the petition and the views expressed by the Principal Petitioner.
2. Decide which of the following options to take (noting that any such recommendation **must** be formally moved and seconded):
  - a) Note the petition without making any recommendations to change the decision made by the Full Council on 24 February 2021.
  - b) Note the petition and invite the Cabinet (at its meeting on 24 November 2021) to consider whether it wishes to bring forward viable options (including any financial implications) in relation to the closure and / or change of use of the Millpond and / or Cherry Lane Adventure Playground sites for consideration by the Full Council at its next meeting on 14 December 2021.
  - c) Support the petition and request that the Cabinet (at its meeting on 24 November 2021) bring forward viable options (including any financial implications) in relation to the closure and / or change of use of the Millpond and / or Cherry Lane Adventure Playground sites to be put before the Full Council at its next meeting on 14 December 2021 for its consideration.
  - d) Make any other recommendations relating to the petition to the Full Council for its consideration.