

Full Council – 14 March 2022

Agenda item 7

Petitions notified / presented by councillors



- Petitions can be about any matter the Council is responsible for or which directly affect the city.
- Councillors presenting petitions will be permitted to read out the objectives of the petition.
- A written reply will be provided to the councillor / lead petitioner within 10 working days of the meeting.



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Petitions to be presented by councillors:

The following petitions have been notified:

Petition CP 01 – Cllr Barry Parsons to present petition

Petition title: Save Cafe5 in Greenbank

Petition wording: We the undersigned ask the City Council to allow Cafe5 in Greenbank to maintain an outdoor space for the community to continue to use this space for food and socialising.

Cafe5 is a small community cafe located in a renovated container in Greenbank. The container has no indoor seatings hence the cafe was originally meant for take away service only. Since May 2020, thanks to the newly introduced pavement licences, the Cafe could make use of two outside tables on Bruce Road. As there is plenty of parking space in this road, the loss of two parking slots was never controversial in the neighbourhood.

On the contrary, over time this outdoor space has become a lively and welcoming community space that has benefitted local residents as well as visitors to Easton: elderly neighbours have been meeting there after the closure of the local church group coffee mornings, kids and parents stop by for a cake and a chat on their way back from Whitehall School, and over the summer the place has provided a stage for local poets and musicians. The Cafe is a safe space where all ages and cultures meet.

If the outdoor space is shut down, it will not survive and the community reliant on it would be let down. The Cafe should be showcased as an example of how a simple change and provision led by the community can generate many outcomes for a variety of people, and not be lost.

Number of signatures – 1065

Petition CP 02 – Cllr Ani Stafford Townsend to present petition

Petition title: Save Bristol Harbour community - ask the City Council to give us our Democratic process

Petition wording: Bristol's harbour community needs your support. The Council has published new fees for the harbour to be implemented with just 3 months' notice and no consultation with Harbour users or an Equalities Impact Assessment . For some boat dwellers there is a potential immediate increase in mooring fees of up to 177% depending on the location and licence offered. There is no phasing of the dramatic increases (in the past there have been yearly cost of living fee increases e.g. circa 7% in 2022). Many boat dwellers are key workers and are amongst the poorest most vulnerable in society. These increases are potentially unachievable for many families and the dramatic change could significantly impact quality of life: health, education, or standard of living. Many families will now need to turn urgently to Housing Benefit provision or other charitable provision.



The ferries, the boat dwellers, community organisations, leisure users and vast majority of the citizens and businesses who live and work in the harbour were not consulted by the Harbour Review Board beyond an initial "introductory meeting". The Board have not conducted even a basic impact assessment. We ask for a transparent democratic process of communication before implementation of this onerous price rise to ensure the protection of people's livelihoods, homes and families. It should be noted that the aforementioned groups have been trying to initiate a dialogue with Harbour authorities for the past year without success.

We urge Mayor Marvin Rees to get a full understanding of how the new charging structure will impact harbour stakeholders before implementation - for example learning activities take place on the harbour for children from some of the most disadvantaged families in Bristol and the provision of these harbour based youth activities may no longer be possible going forward.

Boat dwellers are not mentioned in Bristol City Docks-Fees and Charges Review North Bristol Local Plan. It is evident that there is a lack of understanding about this sizeable community. We believe now is the time for consideration of the boating community to be part of council planning and decision making.

The iconic Ferry companies and all businesses operating in the Harbour could now face severe financial impact and some will close. We believe that an understanding of the impact of the new charges on Bristol's iconic harbour businesses means involving them fully in this democratic process. Please don't ignore them or just assume they will be able to pass the charges on to consumers.

The facilities around the Harbour are very outdated compared to other harbours and marinas across the Southwest. Users regularly face poor sanitation, pump out facilities not working, ,water turned off on winter months plus lack of security. Often these issues are not communicated before or as they arise and put a strain on basic family hygiene. Yet boaters are the eyes and ears around the harbour and regularly report safety issues to the authorities.

ACT NOW and sign/share this petition to request that Mayor Marvin consults urgently with Harbour users and delays the proposed fees increases until a thorough equalities impact assessment has been undertaken by engaging with all impacted stakeholders.

Number of signatures – 4566

