



London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Cabinet

14 OCTOBER 2010

**CABINET MEMBER
FOR RESIDENTS
SERVICES**

Councillor Greg Smith

**PETITIONS: CONSULTATION TO CLOSE
BARON'S COURT LIBRARY**

The Council has received a petition requesting it to find a way of keeping Barons Court Library open.

**Ward:
Avonmore and
Brook Green**

CONTRIBUTORS
Petitions Officer
ADLDS

Recommendation:

That Cabinet decide action to be taken in relation to the petitions, as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report.

**HAS A PEIA BEEN
COMPLETED? N/A**

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The Council consulted on the proposed Library Strategy from 27 July to 18 September 2010. The outcome of this consultation and the recommended Strategy will be reported to Cabinet on 16 December.
- 1.2. Two petitions have been received against the proposed closure of Baron's Court Library from people living, working or studying in the borough, with the following number of signatures:

Petition 1: some 2350 signatures, and

Petition 2: 28 signatures (residents of North End House and West Kensington Court, W14)

In addition, 8 students of Normand Croft Primary School have written letters asking for the library to remain open.

- 1.3. The Petition prayer is as follows:-

"H&F Council plan to close Barons Court Library, as part of its library strategy. We, the undersigned local residents and/or users of the library, wish to register our objection to this proposal, and the lack of a meaningful and transparent consultation process. We call upon H&F Council to:

- (i) Find a strategy to keep our library open.
- (ii) Consult in a meaningful and transparent manner with the local residents on any future proposals affecting the library".

- 1.4. Under the Council's Petitions Scheme, a petition attracting a minimum of 250 valid signatures (of people who live, work or study in the borough) triggers consideration of the petition by the Cabinet.

2. COUNCIL RESPONSE TO THE PETITION

- 2.1 In accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, the petition organiser (or someone he/she nominates) may address the Cabinet for up to 5 minutes on the subject of the petition. The Cabinet may then decide to take one or more of the following courses of action:

- a) take the action requested in the petition
- b) remit the petition for consideration at a Council meeting
- c) hold an inquiry into the matter
- d) undertake research into the matter
- e) hold a public meeting

- f) hold further consultation
- g) hold a meeting with petitioners
- h) refer the petition for consideration by the relevant Select Committee
- i) write to the petition organiser setting out its views about the request in the petition.

3. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES

3.1. There are no financial implications to this report.

4. COMMENTS OF THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (LEGAL AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES)

4.1. The petition is valid under the Council's statutory Petition Scheme under Part 1 of the Democracy Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 and falls to be considered by Cabinet.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2000
LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of hold of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Petitions and letters in relation to saving the Baron's Court library	Kayode Adewumi ext. 2499	Finance and Corporate Services, Head of Councillor Services
CONTACT OFFICER		NAME: David Viles EXT. 2063	