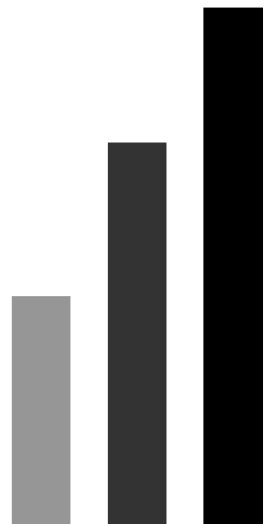


Agenda 2018

Petitions Committee

For meeting on:

I	February	2018
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A meeting of the Petitions Committee will be held on Thursday 1 February 2018 at 3pm within the Municipal Buildings, Greenock.

GERARD MALONE
Head of Legal & Property Services

BUSINESS

1.	Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest	Page
NEW BUSINESS		
2.	Petitions Update Report Report by Head of Legal & Property Services	p
3.	Port Glasgow Town Centre Residents Parking Scheme Report by Head of Legal & Property Services	p
4.	Long Term Lease to Inverclyde Leisure of Inverclyde Indoor Bowling Club Report by Head of Legal & Property Services	p

Report To:	The Petitions Committee	Date:	1 February 2018
Report By:	The Head of Legal and Property Services	Report No:	LP/015/18
Contact Officer:	Peter MacDonald	Contact No:	01475 712618
Subject:	Petitions Update Report		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on petitions previously reported on and on new petitions received since the last meeting of the Committee.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 The position in relation to petitions received and previously reported on, and on new petitions received since the date of the last meeting of the Committee, is as detailed in Appendix 1.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee

- 3.1 Notes the position in relation to (a) petitions previously reported on and (b) new petitions received since the date of the last report, all as detailed in Appendix 1

Gerard Malone
Head of Legal and Property Services

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Committee received and noted a report to its meeting on 15 June 2017 providing an overview on the position in relation to all petitions received to that date and confirmed if in each case further updates would be brought to the Committee at a later date. Appendix 1 includes such updates in respect of the relevant petitions.
- 4.2 Appendix 1 also includes details of the position in relation all new petitions received since the preparation of the above report, and how these have been dealt with by officers.
- 4.3 The Committee will note from Appendix 1 that the following petitions have both achieved the level of support necessary for them to be brought before this committee:
- petition for a residents parking permit scheme in Port Glasgow Town Centre, submitted by Mrs Eileen Catterson; and
 - petition for IC support of the grant of a long term lease of the Indoor Bowling Facility to Inverclyde Leisure, submitted by Mr Angus Munro
- Each of these is the subject of a separate report to the Committee.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Finance

None from this report.

Legal

- 5.2 Petitions submitted are evaluated by officers in Legal and Property Services with reference to the approved criteria, and either rejected or progressed on that basis. Individual petitions will only be brought before the Committee as a separate item of business when they have been published and attracted the necessary level of support, all in terms of the Council's Standing Orders and the approved petitions procedures.

Human Resources

- 5.3 None from this report.

Equalities

- 5.4 None from this report.

Repopulation

- 5.5 There are no repopulation implications.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 None.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None

Appendix 1 – update on petitions in progress as at 18/1/18.

Petitioner (where published)	Title	Last update	Submitted	Start Date	Update	Next Steps
Miss Lynn Simpson	Traffic Calming Measures on Kilmacolm Road, Greenock.	15/06/2017	18/1/2016	05/02/2016	Progressed to next stage after achieving 210 signatures. Roads colleagues confirmed completion of surveys at this and other locations in Inverclyde. From these, this location has been added to the list of priority sites for such traffic calming measures in the area, with two other locations they have assessed as a higher priority. It would only be if works were completed at those two locations and there were surplus funds remaining in the budgets for such works, that they would be in a position to progress matters at Kilmacolm Road. In light of this update, the petitioner did not wish the matter taken any further.	Closed - There will be no further updates to the Committee.
John B Houston	The creation of crawl spaces, opening the Inverclyde Academy AstroTurf pitches for use by local youngsters out of hours.	15/06/2017	07/04/2017	N/A	This petition was supported by the Committee at the 15 June 2017 Committee. A report on the proposal was subsequently submitted to and approved by the Education and Communities Committee on the 5 September 2017 for the installation of crawl spaces have at the Inverclyde Academy 3G pitch for a trial period of 1 year, with a further report to be submitted to that Committee following that trial. The installation was completed in October 2017.	Closed - No further updates to the Committee.
	Antisocial Behavior at Taransay and Barra Way	15/06/2017	15/06/2017	15/06/2017	This petition did not receive the required level of support for it to be brought before the Committee for consideration.	Closed - No further updates to the Committee.
Cats Matter	Petition for IC staff to scan dead cats found at roadside	NEW	07/11/2017		This petition was submitted for evaluation, but following discussions with the relevant Council services, the Petitioner was satisfied with a combination of existing Council practices and some changes to same being implemented by the service.	Closed - No further updates to the Committee on this petition.
Miss Eileen Catterson	Petition for a residents parking permit scheme in Port Glasgow Town Centre	NEW		28/09/2017	The petition has received the requisite level of support and is being brought before the Committee for consideration.	Petition being brought before the Committee for consideration.

Mr Gus Munro	Petition for IC support of granting of a long term lease of the Indoor Bowling Facility to IL	NEW	10/10/2017	10/10/2017	Petition has achieved the requisite level of support and is being brought before the Committee for consideration.	Petition being brought before the Committee for consideration.
	Petition for IC to encourage construction of more 1 to 3 bed affordable bungalows developers and Social Landlords.	NEW	04/01/2018		Rejected on basis beyond Council remit and area of functional responsibility. The petitioner was advised of the role that the Council does undertake in relation to housing need and planned housing provision, and further discussion with colleagues in Safer and Inclusive Communities was offered.	Closed - No further updates to the Committee.
Mrs Jackie McPherson	Petition to re-open Paton Street Community Centre.	NEW	08/01/2018	15/01/2018	The petition has been accepted on the system and is presently live on the website.	A further update will provided to the Committee in due course.
	Petition to Save Lamont's Pier	NEW	08/01/2018		The petition is at the evaluation stage, with discussions ongoing both internally with the relevant Council service and with the petitioner.	A further update will provided to the Committee in due course.
Mrs Patricia Gannon	Petition to remove the requirement to display a parking disc in relation to Council regulated parking.	NEW	16/01/2018	17/1/18	The petition has been accepted on the system and is presently live on the website.	A further update will provided to the Committee in due course.

Report To:	The Petitions Committee	Date:	1 February 2018
Report By:	The Head of Legal and Property Services	Report No:	LP/013/18
Contact Officer:	Peter MacDonald	Contact No:	01475 712618
Subject:	Port Glasgow Town Centre Residents Parking Scheme		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is bring before the Committee for consideration a petition by Miss Eileen Catterson (the Petitioner) seeking the introduction of a residents parking scheme in Port Glasgow Town Centre (King Street / Church Street) in areas currently subject to a 30 minute restriction.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 A petition has been created on the Council's website seeking the introduction of a residents parking scheme in Port Glasgow Town Centre (King Street / Church Street) in areas currently subject to a 30 minute restriction.
- 2.2 This petition was initiated on 28 September 2017 and as it has gathered in excess of 100 signatures within the publication period, it is now being brought before the Committee for consideration.
- 2.3 The comments on the Petition by the Council Services affected by it are set out in Appendix 2 and the comments on the Petition by the Petitioner are set out in Appendix 4.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee

- 3.1 considers the terms of the petition as set out in this report, and as part of that consideration consider oral representations (if any) made by the relevant Council officers and by the Petitioner, all in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations adopted previously by the Committee (Appendix 1); and
- 3.2 following such consideration **either**:
- (a). supports this petition, remitting to the Head of Environmental and Commercial Services to bring a report to the appropriate substantive Committee of the Council with recommendations on this matter; **or**
 - (b). reject the petition, bringing matters to an end.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Petitioner, an individual residing in the Inverclyde Council area created an online petition on the Council's website on 10 October 2017 seeking the introduction of a residents parking scheme in Port Glasgow Town Centre (King Street / Church Street) in areas currently subject to a 30 minute restriction.
- 4.2 The full description of this petition entered by the Petitioner and shown on the website is as follows:
- “Petition to allow residents to park in town centre (King Street / Church Street etc.) similar to the Greenock residents parking already in place i.e. allowing us to park with no restrictions in 30 min zones.”
- 4.3 As at the date of this report, this petition has received 103 signatures. As it has within the publication period received more than 100 signatures, the petition is being brought forward for consideration by the Committee, all as provided for in the Council's Petitions Criteria.
- 4.4 The Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations at the Petitions Committee were approved by the Committee at its meeting of 15 June 2017, and are designed to ensure a fair hearing for all concerned, in relation to petitions coming before the Committee. These will apply in relation to the consideration of this petition by the Committee and are reproduced at Appendix 1 for ease of reference.
- 4.5 The appropriate Council service, in this case Environmental and Commercial Services, has set out its view in relation to the Petition in terms of Appendix 2. The attention of the Committee is also drawn to the plan at Appendix 3. This plan is taken from the Council website and shows the parking restrictions presently in force through the Council in the Port Glasgow Town Centre area.
- 4.6 The Petitioner has also provided written additional written comment in relation to the Petition in terms of Appendix 4. This makes reference to a diagram which is included as Appendix 5.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 None from this report.

Legal

- 5.2 The Committee approved “The Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations at the Petitions Committee” on 15 June 2017, which designed to ensure a fair hearing for all concerned, in relation to petitions coming before the Committee. These rules will apply at this meeting of the Committee in relation to the consideration of this petition
- 5.3 In terms of the Council's approved petitions procedures, in their consideration of a petition, the Committee can decide that:
1. that the issues raised merit further action and will refer the matter to the relevant decision making body (which may be within the Council) and which may require further work, resolution or influence from the Council;
 2. that the issues raised do not merit any further action; or
 3. to take any other action, provided there is no financial impact for the Council's service committees, as may be decided as appropriate.

It is the view of Officers that, by its nature, support of this petition will have financial implications and that the appropriate route, should the Committee decide to support the petition, is that the matter be remitted to the appropriate Service Committee. Furthermore, the introduction of a scheme of the type sought will involve the promotion of a Traffic Regulation

Order, with a requirement for public consultation and the adherence of officers to the statutory procedures applying.

Human Resources

5.5 None from this report.

Equalities

5.6 None from this report.

Repopulation

5.7 There are no repopulation implications.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

6.1 The Head of Environmental and Commercial Services has been consulted on the terms of this report.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

PETITIONS COMMITTEE

RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ORAL REPRESENTATIONS AT THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE.

During the consideration of a petition as an item of business (“**the Petition**”) at the Petitions Committee, the person responsible for the submission of the Petition (“**the Petitioner**”) will be given an opportunity to make oral representations in relation to the subject matter of the Petition. Council Officers (“**the Council Officer(s)**”) from affected Council Services will also be given the opportunity to make such representations, as will any Ward Members (see g) below). Below are the rules of procedure under which such representations will be heard at meetings of the Petitions Committee (“**the Rules of Procedure**”), and they have been designed to:

- create the right atmosphere for discussion;
- eliminate or reduce formalities; and
- give everybody a fair hearing.

The Rules of Procedure are as follows:

- a) The Convener will conduct the consideration of the Petition.
- b) At commencement of consideration of the Petition, the Convener will identify those intending to make oral representation on the merit of the Petition, namely : the Council Officer(s) present; the Petitioner (if present, or any person who, with the approval of the Convener, the Petitioner wishes to speak on his or her behalf); and any Ward Member in terms of g) below.
- c) The Convener will outline the procedure, explaining that it will take the form of a discussion which he will lead based on the Report to the Petitions Committee issued in relation to the Petition (“**the Report**”). The Report will have been circulated to the Members of the Committee, the Council Officer(s) and the Petitioner prior to the meeting. Copies will also be made available at the meeting.
- d) The Convener will ask the Petitioner whether or not he/she is content with the synopsis of the Petition contained in the Report. If the Petitioner disagrees with the summary he/she will be invited to clarify. This allows the Petitioner to ensure that the members of the Committee have a good understanding of the Petition.
- e) The Council Officer(s) will be invited to present the view of the affected Council Services on the merit or otherwise of and implications of the Petition, with their recommendation as to whether or not it should be supported, to set the scene for the discussion, with a time limit of 5 minutes.

- f) The Petitioner will be invited to speak to his/her Petition and comment on the representations made by the Council Officer(s), with a time limit of 5 minutes.
- g) Where the Petition relates to a specific part of the Inverclyde Council area, any Member of the Inverclyde Council whose ward includes all or some of that part ("**Ward Member**") may make representation in support of or against the Petition. Any such Ward Member present will be invited to do so, with a time limit of 5 minutes.
- h) Where a Ward Member makes representation in terms of g) above and is also a Member of the Committee, he or she will not be entitled to participate in the decision of the Committee on the Petition. Similarly, any Member of the Committee who has prior to the consideration of the Petition at the meeting made it clear that he or she is either for or against the Petition will also not be entitled to participate in the decision of the Committee on the Petition. This is essential to ensure that the Petition is given a fair and proper hearing and will avoid any impression of bias in relation to the Committee's decision-making processes.
- i) The Council Officer(s) will be invited to reply to the representations of the Petitioner or any Ward Member (introducing no new material), restricted to a time limit of 5 minutes.
- j) The Convener will allow the Petitioner the final word (introducing no new material), if he/she wishes it, by way of summary and in relation to any comments by a Ward Member, or the Council Officer(s), restricted again to a time limit of 5 minutes. The Convener will discourage repetitive or superfluous comments. At no time will cross examination be permitted. The Convener will indicate when he or she considers that sufficient clarification of the Petition has been achieved, and the discussion will then move on in terms of these rules, the oral representations element being at an end.
- k) The Committee will then proceed with consideration of the Petition as an item of business in terms of the Standing Orders.

Provision of Residents' Parking Permits in Port Glasgow.

Residents' Parking Permits were introduced in Greenock Town Centre in April 2016. This was due to the introduction of limited waiting and parking charges in Greenock Town Centre car parks resulting in residents not being able to park free of charge close to their homes. They had to park outwith the Town Centre during periods of enforcement.

The restrictions which are currently in place in Port Glasgow have been in place since 1968 and did not change following the introduction of Decriminalised Parking Enforcement.

Restrictions currently apply on Princes Street, John Wood Street, Bay Street, Scarlow Street and part of Church Street, Port Glasgow. The restrictions in place are "Limited Waiting Monday to Friday 8am-6pm 30 minutes, no return within 30 minutes.

There are no on-street limited waiting restrictions on King Street, Court Road, Crawford Street, Falconer Street, Huntly Terrace, Willison's Lane and part of Church Street adjacent to the bus station. These locations are predominantly adjacent to residential properties.

Off-Street car parking is also available free of charge and with no limited waiting restrictions at the Council maintained car parks in Fore Street and Shore Street. There is a further privately owned car park adjacent to the Star Hotel which also has no restrictions in place.

The only time limited off-street car park within Port Glasgow Town Centre is Princes Street car park which has a two hour time limit. No parking charge is applicable.

Due to the significant availability of free parking with no time limit, as outlined above, officers do not recommend the introduction of Residents' Parking Permits in Port Glasgow Town Centre.

Port Glasgow Parking Zones

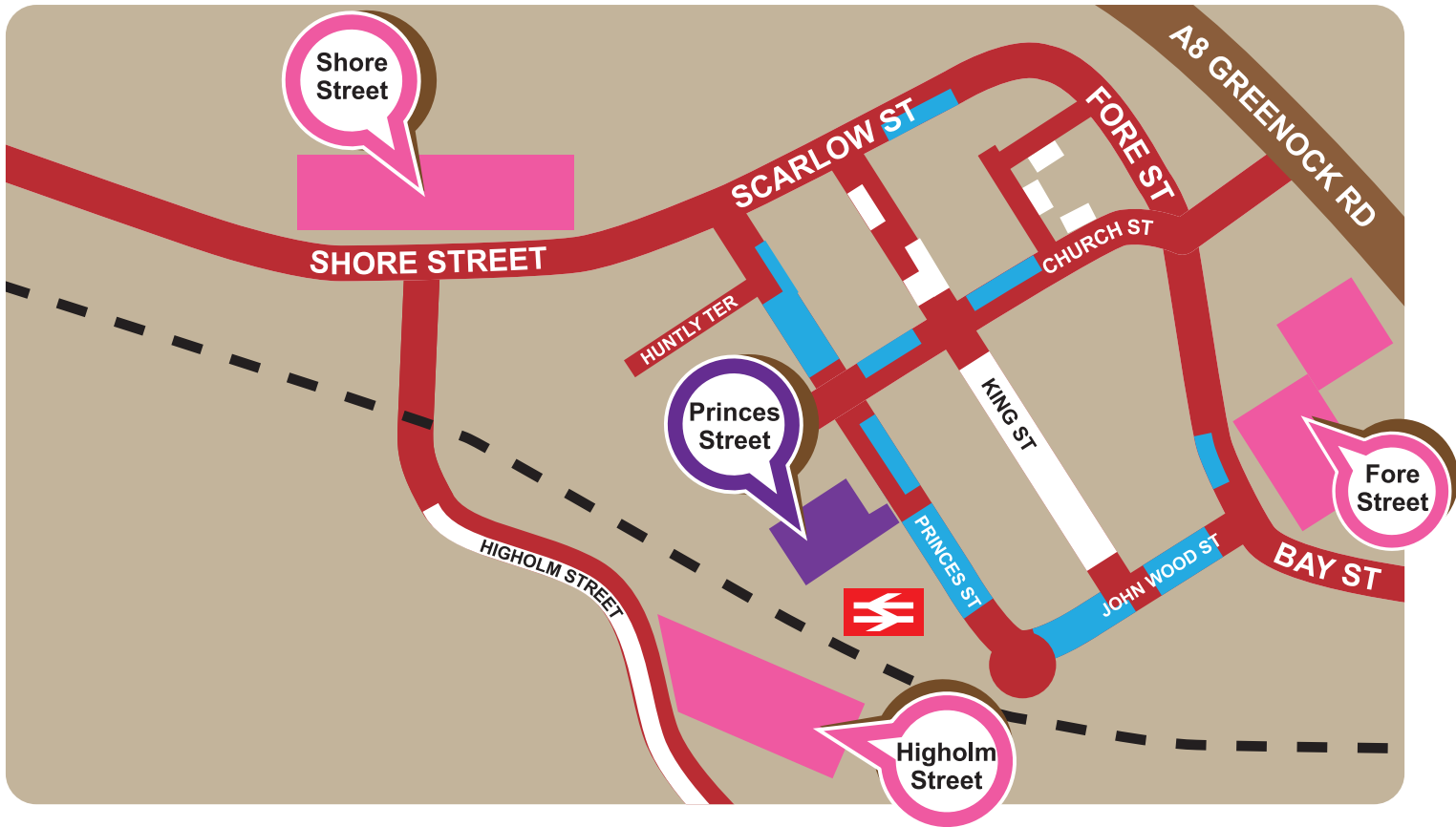
From June 2016

For more information visit
www.inverclyde.gov.uk/parking

Inverclyde
 council

Restrictions apply Monday - Saturday, 8am to 6pm

- On-street
 No waiting or parking
- On-street
 30 minutes stay free
 Monday - Friday, 8am to 6pm
- On-street
 Unlimited parking
- Car park
 Unlimited parking
- Car park
 Up to 2 hours max stay free



Residents Parking PermitsKing Street Port Glasgow and Surrounding AreasEileen Catterson 15/01/2018

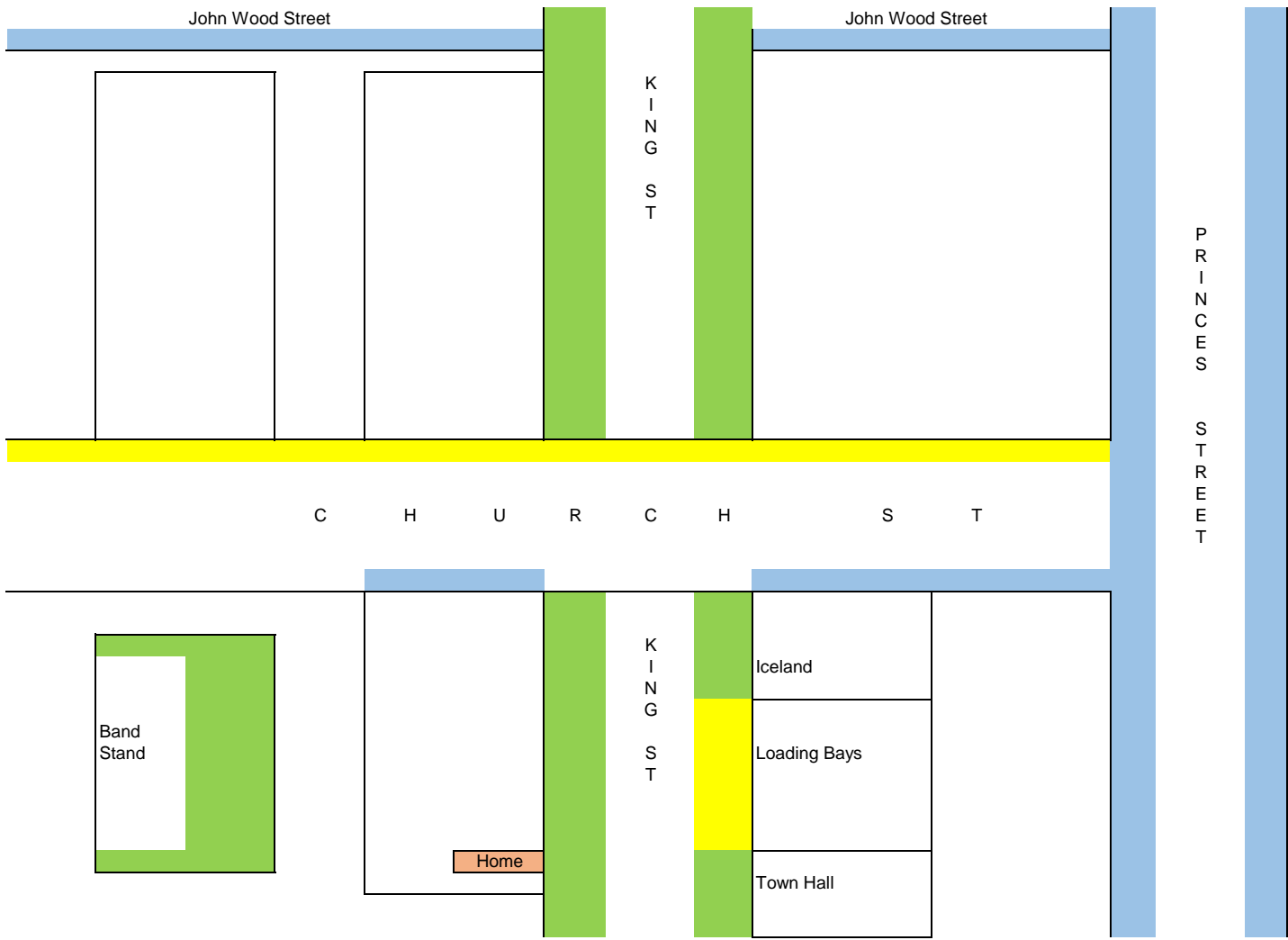
Further to my initial petition, I would like to add some backing to my request for parking permits for myself and my neighbours.

As you can see from my diagram, there is very little parking round about, especially during the day for those who are off midweek.

Where there is parking, it is very difficult to actually get one of these spaces, due to the amount of residents, and also shoppers coming in to the town. Take, for example, where I live in “The Wee Alley” on King Street. There are 7 closes on my courtyard, with six flats in each, so potentially a need for 42 spaces. The “Big Alley” also on King Street, will have a need for much more, but as per my diagram **[see Appendix 5]**, spaces are woefully lacking. If after work, I get a space on Church Street after 6pm, and am off the next day, I need to get up and drive round town until I manage to get a space in one of the free parking areas – easier said than done when the shops are open.

Whilst I am sensitive to the commercial needs of the town, I feel that Port Glasgow residents should be given the same access to residents parking permits as the residents in Greenock town centre. I believe that Cathcart Street, Ann Street and Sir Michael Street, to name but a few, currently have access to these passes?

Thank you for your time and consideration, and hope we can have a positive response.



KEY
 Parking available all day
 Double Yellow Lines
 Mon-Fri 8am-6pm 30 mins

Report To:	The Petitions Committee	Date:	1 February 2018
Report By:	The Head of Legal and Property Services	Report No:	LP/014/18
Contact Officer:	Peter MacDonald	Contact No:	01475 712618
Subject:	Long Term Lease to Inverclyde Leisure of Inverclyde Indoor Bowling Club.		

1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is bring before the Committee for consideration a petition by Mr Angus Munro (the Petitioner) seeking the support of Inverclyde Council for the granting of a longer term lease of the Inverclyde Indoor Bowling facility to Inverclyde Leisure.

2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 A petition has been created on the Council's website seeking the support of Inverclyde Council for the granting of a longer term lease of the Inverclyde Indoor Bowling facility to Inverclyde Leisure.
- 2.2 This petition was initiated on 10 October 2017, and as it has gathered in excess of 100 signatures within the publication period, it is now being brought before the Committee for consideration.
- 2.3 The comments on the Petition by the Council Services affected by it are set out in Appendix 2, and additional comments by the Petitioner are set out in Appendix 3.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Committee

- 3.1 considers the terms of the petition, and as part of that consideration consider oral representations (if any) made by the relevant Council officers and by the Petitioner, all in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations adopted previously by the Committee (Appendix 1); and
- 3.2 following such consideration **either**:
- (a). supports this petition, remitting to the Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities to bring a report to the appropriate substantive Committee of the Council with recommendations on this matter; **or**
 - (b). reject the petition, bringing matters to an end.

4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Petitioner, an individual residing in the Inverclyde Council area created an online petition on the Council's website on 10 October 2017 seeking the support of Inverclyde Council for the granting of a longer term lease of the Inverclyde Indoor Bowling facility to Inverclyde Leisure.
- 4.2 The full description of this petition entered by the Petitioner and shown on the website is as follows:

“Inverclyde Leisure Indoor Bowling Club requires new lights/lighting and carpet. This can only be achieved by Inverclyde Leisure being afforded a long term lease to allow capitalisation of the assets etc over a longer period of time.

The bowling club has produced a Scottish Bowling Singles Champion (youngest ever) with approx 30 caps for Scotland and other younger members who have been capped for Scotland. As well as the normal competitive bowling, the club is very much a Community facility which provides facilities for disabled and blind bowlers. It is also a 'meeting place' for many senior citizens who play in the mornings and remain to meet with friends, but without this facility they would probably remain at home.

The Club has welcomed an increasing membership since we offered various pricing breaks to encourage more people to take up the sport at any level. A new carpet and new lighting, within an upgraded facility, allows the Club to attract more National, possibly International bowling tournaments.

The Club has tried previously with a submission to host a British Bowling Tournament, but lost out due to the deterioration in both the carpet and lighting. The Inverclyde community cannot afford to lose this club.

- 4.3 As at the date of this report, this petition has received 285 signatures. As it has within the publication period received more than 100 signatures, the petition is being brought forward for consideration by the Committee, all as provided for in the Council's Petitions Criteria.
- 4.4 The Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations at the Petitions Committee were approved by the Committee at its meeting of 15 June 2017, and are designed to ensure a fair hearing for all concerned, in relation to petitions coming before the Committee. These will apply in relation to the consideration of this petition by the Committee and are reproduced at Appendix 1 for ease of reference.
- 4.5 The appropriate Council service, in this case Safer and Inclusive Communities, has set out its view in relation to the Petition in terms of Appendix 2. The Petitioner has also provided a written statement in respect of the Petition, in terms of Appendix 3.

5.0 IMPLICATIONS

Finance

- 5.1 None from this report.

Legal

- 5.2 The Committee approved “The Rules of Procedure for Oral Representations at the Petitions Committee” on 15 June 2017, which designed to ensure a fair hearing for all concerned, in relation to petitions coming before the Committee. These rules will apply at this meeting of the Committee in relation to the consideration of this petition
- 5.3 In terms of the Council's approved petitions procedures, in their consideration of a petition, the Committee can decide that:
1. that the issues raised merit further action and will refer the matter to the relevant

decision making body (which may be within the Council) and which may require further work, resolution or influence from the Council;

2. that the issues raised do not merit any further action; or
3. to take any other action, provided there is no financial impact for the Council's service committees, as may be decided as appropriate.

It is the view of Officers that, by its nature, any support of this petition will have financial implications and that the appropriate route, should the Committee decide to support the petition, is that the matter be remitted to the appropriate Service Committee.

- 5.4 Any lease renewal will also require the agreement of the tenants, Inverclyde Leisure, before it could proceed.

Human Resources

- 5.5 None from this report.

Equalities

- 5.6 None from this report.

Repopulation

- 5.7 There are no repopulation implications.

6.0 CONSULTATIONS

- 6.1 The Head of Safer and Inclusive Communities has been consulted on the terms of this report.

7.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 7.1 None.

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL**PETITIONS COMMITTEE****RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE ORAL REPRESENTATIONS AT THE PETITIONS COMMITTEE.**

During the consideration of a petition as an item of business ("**the Petition**") at the Petitions Committee, the person responsible for the submission of the Petition ("**the Petitioner**") will be given an opportunity to make oral representations in relation to the subject matter of the Petition. Council Officers ("**the Council Officer(s)**") from affected Council Services will also be given the opportunity to make such representations, as will any Ward Members (see g) below). Below are the rules of procedure under which such representations will be heard at meetings of the Petitions Committee ("**the Rules of Procedure**"), and they have been designed to:

- create the right atmosphere for discussion;
- eliminate or reduce formalities; and
- give everybody a fair hearing.

The Rules of Procedure are as follows:

- a) The Convener will conduct the consideration of the Petition.
- b) At commencement of consideration of the Petition, the Convener will identify those intending to make oral representation on the merit of the Petition, namely : the Council Officer(s) present; the Petitioner (if present, or any person who, with the approval of the Convener, the Petitioner wishes to speak on his or her behalf); and any Ward Member in terms of g) below.
- c) The Convener will outline the procedure, explaining that it will take the form of a discussion which he will lead based on the Report to the Petitions Committee issued in relation to the Petition ("**the Report**"). The Report will have been circulated to the Members of the Committee, the Council Officer(s) and the Petitioner prior to the meeting. Copies will also be made available at the meeting.
- d) The Convener will ask the Petitioner whether or not he/she is content with the synopsis of the Petition contained in the Report. If the Petitioner disagrees with the summary he/she will be invited to clarify. This allows the Petitioner to ensure that the members of the Committee have a good understanding of the Petition.
- e) The Council Officer(s) will be invited to present the view of the affected Council Services on the merit or otherwise of and implications of the Petition, with their recommendation as to whether or not it should be supported, to set the scene for the discussion, with a time limit of 5 minutes.

- f) The Petitioner will be invited to speak to his/her Petition and comment on the representations made by the Council Officer(s), with a time limit of 5 minutes.
- g) Where the Petition relates to a specific part of the Inverclyde Council area, any Member of the Inverclyde Council whose ward includes all or some of that part ("**Ward Member**") may make representation in support of or against the Petition. Any such Ward Member present will be invited to do so, with a time limit of 5 minutes.
- h) Where a Ward Member makes representation in terms of g) above and is also a Member of the Committee, he or she will not be entitled to participate in the decision of the Committee on the Petition. Similarly, any Member of the Committee who has prior to the consideration of the Petition at the meeting made it clear that he or she is either for or against the Petition will also not be entitled to participate in the decision of the Committee on the Petition. This is essential to ensure that the Petition is given a fair and proper hearing and will avoid any impression of bias in relation to the Committee's decision-making processes.
- i) The Council Officer(s) will be invited to reply to the representations of the Petitioner or any Ward Member (introducing no new material), restricted to a time limit of 5 minutes.
- j) The Convener will allow the Petitioner the final word (introducing no new material), if he/she wishes it, by way of summary and in relation to any comments by a Ward Member, or the Council Officer(s), restricted again to a time limit of 5 minutes. The Convener will discourage repetitive or superfluous comments. At no time will cross examination be permitted. The Convener will indicate when he or she considers that sufficient clarification of the Petition has been achieved, and the discussion will then move on in terms of these rules, the oral representations element being at an end.
- k) The Committee will then proceed with consideration of the Petition as an item of business in terms of the Standing Orders.

Inverclyde Indoor Bowling Club

Background

Inverclyde Indoor Bowling Club has been leased to Inverclyde Leisure on an initial 3 year basis since 2011. This arrangement was put in place following the closure of the club and the keys to the premises being handed back to Inverclyde Council. Matters were brought to a head at that time by a decline in membership and the total failure of the heating system.

The then Regeneration Committee agreed to the premises being leased to Inverclyde Leisure on a peppercorn rent and to the investment of £150K to replace the heating system and carry out other minor repairs. The estimated cost of a total upgrade of the facility at that time was over £750K. The Committee approval was subject to there being a sufficient level of members being in place. At the time this was set at 260 members. This number was reached and the repairs and lease were taken forward.

The Situation Since 2011

Inverclyde Leisure has managed the facility on a rolling lease since then. Any discussions about further investment either by Inverclyde Council or by Inverclyde Leisure have been limited by the decline in membership since 2011. This has been gradual but marked year on year and has largely been as a result of ageing membership not being replaced. It should be noted that this is an issue also affecting the outdoor bowling clubs from which the Indoor Bowling largely recruits its membership. Inverclyde Leisure however reports that there has been an increase in membership in 2017-18 from 205 to 242, an 18% increase. If this could be built upon the long term future of the facility would be more sustainable. Inverclyde Leisure has taken advice from Bowls Scotland on the future of the facility. They advise that indoor bowling facilities should be designed on the basis of 40-50 members per lane. At current membership levels therefore a 5-6 lane facility is justified. Any carpet renewal might therefore proceed on that basis with the additional lanes being kept for overspill or training with the original carpet to reduce costs.

The Current Position

Members will be aware that the current budget consultations include a significant reduction in the Inverclyde Leisure management fee. It is recommended that any decision by the Petitions Committee takes into account the fact that council officers are currently in discussion with Inverclyde Leisure on how this would be progressed. Discussions will be held with Inverclyde Leisure on the future lease and operation of the indoor bowling and any upgrades to the facility however this cannot be dealt with in isolation from these wider considerations.

Inverclyde Leisure Indoor Bowling Club Petition.

Seven years ago Inverclyde Leisure, in conjunction with Inverclyde Council decided to respond to appeals to save the club from disappearing by providing funding to save it. This involved new boilers, refurbished flooring and upgrading the cafeteria. This, at that time, with a rolling three year lease.

For this we will always be grateful.

However, the only areas not refurbished or upgraded were the bowling carpet and stadium lighting and the peaked roof which has caused a concern with heat loss and varying temperatures in the stadium.

We have a bowling carpet that is over 30 years old and light fittings of the same era.

There are many lights that cannot take new tube fittings due to changes in electric fittings over the years. This results in different areas of the playing surface having different levels of brightness. The bowling carpet has had seams repaired many times by carpet specialists over its 30 plus years.

The success and the attraction of any sporting facility are:

Is it a modern, fit for purpose facility?

Will visitors to the facility be impressed and possibly join?

Will it attract National and International competition from the National organisation, SIBA.?

Sadly, we have lost out on hosting National and International Competition because of our carpet which has a very slow playing surface compared to the requirements in the modern game for excellent playing surface and excellent lighting. The various lighting and speed of the carpet has been commented on many times by visiting bowlers, of all playing abilities, as probably the heaviest and slowest carpet with the worst lighting of the large number of bowling clubs within the Scottish Indoor Bowling Association.

I like to think that Community Facilities are not always about budget constraints but more about encouragement to survive in the modern era.

As a club, we have tried for various grants from many places but they always end up the same way, ie, We are not a private Club but part of a much larger organisation, Inverclyde Leisure.

We require financial Investment that will allow Inverclyde Leisure to capitalise and depreciate the improved assets over a longer lease period and part of their other leases which are much longer and not just a small rolling lease.

Since taking on the Indoor Bowling facility, Inverclyde Leisure have been very supportive and tried, where possible, to improve the club. The members have raised the money which allowed us to upgrade the bowls ditches, around the carpet, to International requirements.

The bowling club itself gets no direct financial gain from the need for investment. However, the improved facility will attract more people to join and increase our growing membership which could result in joining and playing fees being reduced, which in itself will attract new members.

Finally, the club's Management Committee, which includes the Club Manager from Inverclyde Leisure, decided to offer special fees for new members. This was approved by IL and resulted in over 20 new members for the club.

Thank you!

A Munro

**INVERCLYDE COUNCIL
PETITIONS COMMITTEE**

AGENDA AND ALL PAPERS TO:

Councillor Jackson	1
Councillor Murphy	1
Councillor McVey	1
Councillor Brooks	1
Councillor MacLeod	1
Councillor Curley	1

All Other Members (For Information Only) 16

Officers:

Chief Executive	1
Corporate Communications & Public Affairs	1
Corporate Director (Chief Officer), Health & Social Care Partnership	1
Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources	1
Corporate Director Education, Communities & Organisational Development	1
Chief Financial Officer	1
Head of Legal & Property Services	1
P MacDonald, Legal & Property Services	1
N Duffy, Legal & Property Services	1
Heads of Service as Required	2
File Copy	1

Total 34

AGENDA AND ALL NON-CONFIDENTIAL PAPERS TO:

Community Councils 7

TOTAL 41