

Flower Planting – Victoria Park, Newtongrange

Report by John Blair, Director, Resources

1 Purpose of Report

To present a petition from residents of Newtongrange and others, that the Council not implement a decision to cease planting flowers in Victoria park, Newtongrange, from 2015 onwards..

2 Petition

- 2.1 The attached petition (**Appendix 1**) has been received from Mrs J. A. Waller calling for the continued planting of flowers in Victoria Park, Newtongrange. .

3 Petitions – Rules and Procedures

- 3.1 In accordance with the decision of the Council on 25 September 2012 when the Petitions Committee was established, it was agreed that:-

- (a) the Head of Customer Services would have responsibility for validating petitions; and
- (b) that the Petitions Committee would have the final decision on those which were deemed by the Head of Customer Services to be invalid, etc.

- 3.2 The procedures for the Midlothian Council Petitions Committee are modelled on those in use at Renfrewshire Council. The adopted Midlothian procedures identify 11 categories for which petitions cannot be made. The submitted petition is not proscribed by any of these categories and is therefore valid.

- 3.3 The petition is in the following terms,viz:-

“ The Council is to cease planting flowers in Victoria Park, Newtongrange, in 2015 and the purpose of the petition (sent 6/6/14 and also enclosed) is to confirm signatories of the petition do not agree with this decision.”

- 3.4 The petition itself contains a total of 132 signatures. A copy of this petition has been placed in the Members Library.

4 Report Implications

4.1 Resource

There are no resource implications arising from this report. In the event that the Committee agree to support the petition the revenue implications of that decision would require to be quantified to allow the recommendation to be considered.

4.2 Risk

There are no risk implications arising from this report.

4.3 Single Midlothian Plan and Business Transformation

Themes addressed in this report:

- ☐ Community safety
- ☐ Adult health, care and housing
- ☐ Getting it right for every Midlothian child
- ☐ Improving opportunities in Midlothian
- ☐ Sustainable growth
- ☐ Business transformation and Best Value
- ☒ None of the above

4.4 Impact on Performance and Outcomes

Not applicable.

4.5 Adopting a Preventative Approach

Not applicable.

4.6 Involving Communities and Other Stakeholders

The availability of a Petitions Committee allows stakeholders to raise issues for consideration by the Council.

4.7 Ensuring Equalities

Not applicable.

4.8 Supporting Sustainable Development

Not applicable.

4.9 IT Issues

Not applicable.

5 Recommendation

The Committee is invited to consider the petition submitted by Mrs. J.A Waller, in respect of flower planting in Victoria Park, Newtongrange.

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