

## COUNCIL – 22 JANUARY 2015

### PUBLIC PETITIONS

In accordance with the Council's Petition Scheme set out in Chapter 12 of the Council Constitution, 4 public petitions have been submitted for consideration at the Council meeting.

The lead petitioner for each petition deputation will be given five minutes to present the petition at the Council meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The Council will decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting and the lead petitioner will receive written confirmation of the decision.

Details of the 4 petitions received are set out below:

- (1) The first petition containing 2,850 signatures has been submitted by the **Aintree Village Residents Group** which states:

“We the undersigned urge the Council to amend the 'Preferred Option' to Option 1, address the issues surrounding our lack of amenities and infrastructure and work with the community to reflect what they want and not what the developers want, whose only aim is to make big profits from local communities.”

Justification:

Sefton MBC's Local Plan has proposals which will damage the green belt and make Aintree a worse place to live. In the coming months, the Council will undertake a Public Consultation Process. They currently have used inaccurate household population growth information which is 10 years out of date. They do not address the real need for affordable/type of housing but allow developers to build 3/4/5 bedroom executive homes on greenbelt, which none of us would be able to afford. Our amenities are non-existent and they severely underestimate the effect any further development will have on our schools, roads, dentists and GP service. We don't even have a library and the current plan would lead to a decline in the local quality of life.

- (2) The second petition containing 3,060 signatures has been submitted by the **Maghull and Lydiate Action Group** which states:

“We ask the Council to listen to the community, to re-examine and vote for option 1, which is building on brownfield sites only and not on green belt and high grade agricultural land, this is now possible due to a sharp fall in housing need.”

Justification:

Sefton's Local Plan continues to encroach on our beautiful high grade agricultural/green belt land. More accurate up-to-date figures show a significant reduction in housing need. Maghull and Lydiate does not have the infrastructure in place to cater for any additional capacity, roads are already badly congested, schools are oversubscribed, traffic and parking is a major problem and we are already experiencing significant flooding problems.

- (3) The third petition containing 3,330 signatures has been submitted by the **Formby Residents Action Group – Opposition From Formby (FRAGOFF)** which states:

“We the undersigned urge the Council to amend the 'Preferred Option', reconsider Option 1, rectify current failings in the Local Plan and fully address infrastructural matters, furthermore work with the community to better reflect their needs and place their concerns above those of the developers, as they are the major stakeholders in Sefton.”

Justification:

The latest Government figures for Sefton show that the population increase in the Borough has been over estimated by more than 50%. Central Government estimate we only need to build about 420 houses per year. Despite this the Council are now proposing to build over 700 homes every year in their Draft Local Plan. As it stands Sefton's Draft Local Plan does not meet the needs for Formby's Roads and infrastructure, schools and health services and fails to address flooding and drainage concerns.

(4) The fourth petition containing 4,886 signatures has been submitted by the **'Save the Botanic' Campaign** which states:

“It is understood that Sefton Council may be planning to make staff at Botanic Gardens redundant. Such plans could see the outsourcing of the aviary and the fernery as well as causing significant detriment to the planting within the park. The latest plans throw into real doubt whether Sefton Council know what Southport residents value and hold dear. We the undersigned oppose Labour-run Sefton Councils plans to cut staff and services in the Botanic Gardens.”