

**Decision Maker:** COUNCIL

**Date:** Monday 23 February 2015

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

**Title:** PETITIONS

**Contact Officer:** Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager  
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**Chief Officer:** Mark Bowen, Director of Corporate Services

**Ward:** Orpington;

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1. Reason for report

1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme, if petitioners are dissatisfied with the Council's response to a petition they have submitted they can request that the issue be brought to a meeting of the full Council for consideration, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold required (500 signatures, or 1,000 signatures for an e-petition.) The lead petitioner or their nominee can address the Council for up to five minutes.

1.2 A petition has been received asking the Council keep the Bromley Museum at The Priory; after receiving a formal response the lead petitioner has requested to address the Council. Further details are set out in section 3 of this report.

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2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

**The Council is requested to consider the case made by the petitioners and make recommendations to the Executive as necessary.**

### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Petitions are dealt with in accordance with the Council's agreed Petition Scheme.
  2. BBB Priority: Excellent Council:
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: No Cost:
  2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable:
  3. Budget head/performance centre: N/A
  4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
  5. Source of funding: N/A
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### Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): N/A
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: N/A
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
  2. Call-in: Not Applicable: This report does not involve an executive decision.
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): N/A
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? N/A
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: N/A

### 3. COMMENTARY

3.1 The Council's Petition Scheme allows for petitioners to present their case to full Council if they are dissatisfied with the Council's response to their petition, provided that the number of verified signatures exceeds the threshold of 500 signatures (1,000 for an e-petition.) The lead petitioner or their nominee) can address the Council for up to five minutes. Once Council has considered the matter, it can choose whether to recommend any further action.

3.2 A petition was received in December 2014 from Gillian Hughes at Perry Hall Primary School asking the Council to keep Bromley Museum at The Priory with its collection intact. The petition contained in excess of 500 validated signatures. A formal response was sent by the Director of Environment and Community Services on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2015 (attached as appendix 1), but the lead petitioner indicated that she was not satisfied with the response and wanted to address full Council.

3.3 The full prayer of the petition is as follows –

*"Bromley Museum*

*We, the undersigned, are concerned that as a result of Bromley Council's decision not to guarantee that Bromley museum will stay at the Priory in Orpington, Bromley Museum may now be under threat of closure or relocation to another site.*

*Visitors to the museum (especially school children from all over Bromley) benefit from visiting the museum, not only to see its collection, but to enjoy the historic building, one of the most important medieval buildings in the borough.*

*We therefore ask Bromley Council to reconsider its decision and to keep Bromley Museum at the Priory with its collection intact."*

3.4 Members will be aware that a report "A New Approach for Bromley Museum" was submitted for consideration at Renewal and Recreation PDS Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Executive and Resources PDS Committee on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 and the Executive on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2015. A large number of public questions were also received and dealt with at these meetings.

3.5 At the time of writing, a further petition has been received with in excess of 1,000 signatures asking the Council not to sell The Priory. A formal response is being prepared.

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Policy/Financial/legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Report to R&R PDS Committee (29 <sup>th</sup> January 2015) and Executive (11 <sup>th</sup> February 2015).