

Decision Maker: Development Control Committee
Executive

Date: 13th July 2015
15th July 2015

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Executive Non-Key

Title: PETITION – BULL LANE ALLOTMENTS

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

Ward: Chislehurst

1. Reason for report

At the full Council meeting on 29th June 2015 Members received a petition from the Bull Lane Action Group with 801 validated signatures calling on the Council to designate the Bull Lane Allotments in Chislehurst as Local Green Space. The Petition was referred to Development Control Committee and the Executive to consider.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That Development Control Committee recommends to the Executive that the merits of designating the Bull Lane Allotments as Local Green Space be formally considered through the Local Plan process, and the Petition be included as a submission seeking this change.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
 2. BBB Priority: Quality Environment Vibrant, Thriving Town Centres:
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Financial

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

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not Applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not Applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None:
 2. Call-in: Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The petition has been signed by 801 people who live or work in the borough.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Yes
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Ward Councillors supported the aims of the petitioners at full Council on 29th June 2015.

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Council has received a petition with 801 validated signatures (with more signatures received since validation) from the Bull Lane Action Group. The petition stated –

“LOCAL GREEN SPACE” is the most protective of planning designations in recent legislation and will provide the best possible safeguards for the allotment, the surrounding area and the wider local environment in the long term. This measure has the advantage of linking the best interests of residents with those of the allotment tenants. All Bromley voters and those working or studying in the Borough can sign. If this petition is large enough we intend to request that the following motion be put before the full Council:

We, the undersigned, request that Bromley Borough Council designate the site of Bull Lane Allotments as Local Green Space

- 3.2 The Council’s formal response to the petition, from the Portfolio Holder for Renewal and Recreation, was as follows -

“Thank you for your petition with over 800 valid signatures requesting that the Council designates the site of the Bull Lane Allotments as Local Green Space.

The Bull Lane Allotments are at present subject to the Town Planning designation ‘Urban Open Space’.

The petition seeks designations as ‘Local Green Space’ which is another Town Planning designation. In general, this is a more exacting designation than Urban Open Space.

The designation is established via the Local Plan, which is at present in preparation.

It is therefore proposed to respond to the petition by assessing its merits through the Local Plan process and including the petition as a submission seeking the change of designation to ‘Local Green Space’.

If you are not satisfied with this response then, as you have more than 500 signatures on your petition, you can request to address the next meeting of the full Council for five minutes in support of your case. If you wish to do this please contact Graham Walton, Democratic Services Manager on 020 8461 7743 or graham.walton@bromley.gov.uk .”

- 3.3 The lead petitioners exercised their right to speak at a full Council meeting, and Mr Ben Lyon addressed the Council at the meeting on 29th June in support of the petition. He stated that local residents, allotment holders and other supporters objected to the possibility of the Diocese of Rochester, who owned the land, building a school on the site, which was designated as Urban Open Space and in a conservation area, but which needed and deserved the increased protection of being designated as Local Green Space. He declared that the special attributes of the land could be demonstrated in terms of its recreational value, historical significance and beauty and tranquillity.
- 3.4 The Council decided to refer the issue to Development Control Committee and then to the Executive for consideration.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Policy/Finance/Legal/Personnel
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	Petition submitted June 2015 from the Bull Lane Action Group