

**ORIGINATING DIVISION:** HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION  
CAPITA PROPERTY AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**REPORT TO:** BLACKBURN WITH DARWEN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
PLANNING AND HIGHWAYS COMMITTEE

**DATE:** December 2015

**TITLE:** PETITION – Aberdeen Drive, Blackburn.

**WARDS:** Audley **COUNCILLORS:** Yusuf Jan Virmani  
Zamir Khan  
Salim Sidat

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### **1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of the receipt of a petition requesting that the grass verges are removed from Aberdeen Drive to create parking places.

The petition contains 18 signatures from 16 properties on Aberdeen Drive. It has the support of a local ward councillor.

### **2.0 BACKGROUND**

Aberdeen Drive is a residential cul-de-sac in the Audley Ward. The petitioner reports that there is insufficient parking for residents' vehicles due to some households owning 3 and 4 vehicles. There is also a new mosque in the area whose worshippers park on Aberdeen Drive causing further parking problems.

Whilst the petition is for the removal of the grass verges to create parking places, the lead petitioner's covering letter explains that during discussions with other residents on the street there were other suggestions put forward.

These were that :-

- the kerbs are dropped and residents are allowed to park on the verges
- a Residents Only Parking scheme is introduced on the street, although they admit that there were many residents on the street who did not support this.

The lead petitioner also complained that the grass verges are continuously fouled by dogs.

### **3.0 DETAIL**

These problems can be summarised as being due to the level of car ownership and parking demand being in excess of what could be anticipated at the time the houses and road were built.

Aberdeen Drive is part of a Twin Valley Homes estate within the Audley Ward. Whilst the highways within the estate are adopted, the existing parking bays and grass verges are in the ownership of Twin Valley Homes. As such the provision of extra parking spaces on the estate would be the responsibility of the Housing Association to provide.

Even were the council to consider providing financial assistance to Twin Valley Homes, it should be noted that in the current economic climate the Council's existing budgets are stretched to meet its essential obligations and constructing car parks are not works that could be considered as essential.

With regard to the other suggestions, the council would not wish drop kerbs to allow residents to park on grass verges for safety and aesthetic reasons, even if Twin Valley Homes were willing to pay for the works required. The lead petitioner concedes that there wasn't any overall support for the introduction of a residents parking scheme and as Twin Valley Homes own the parking bays along the street any scheme would need to be a private scheme promoted, managed and enforced by the housing association.

It is recommended that the petition and the issues raised by the lead petitioner be passed to Twin Valley Homes for their attention.

#### **4.0 IMPLICATIONS**

<b>Customer</b>	Amenity
<b>Financial</b>	None
<b>Anti-poverty</b>	None
<b>Crime and Disorder</b>	None

#### **5.0 RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that:

- The Committee note the report
- The Committee support the officer recommendations that the petition and the issues raised by the lead petitioner be passed to Twin Valley Homes for their attention
- The lead petitioner be informed of the decision

**6.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS:** Petition

**7.0 CONTACT OFFICERS:** Gina Lambert

**8.0 DATE PREPARED:** 25th November 2015