

Cabinet – 17 December 2014

Report of the Business, Employment and the Local Economy Scrutiny and Performance Panel

Petition: Ravenscourt Shopping Centre

Summary

The Business, Employment and the Local Economy Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 24 November 2014 considered a petition requesting the council compulsorily purchase Ravenscourt Shopping area with a view to re-development.

The petition was signed by over 500 people which requires referral to a Scrutiny and Performance Panel under the petitions scheme contained in the council's Constitution.

The petition read:

Background:

The petition was submitted to the Council by Councillor Craddock which called for the Council to "use the powers available to compulsory purchase Ravenscourt Shopping area with a view to re-develop in keeping with Brownhills High Street.

At the meeting it was explained that the Planning Committee on 14 April 2014 had resolved to serve a Section 215 Notice to address the poor state of repair of the building. It was explained that under the Section 215 order the owners of the site would be required to undertake a number of improvements. Officers are in ongoing negotiations with the owners of the site regarding improvements. However, the owners have advised officers that they intend to submit plans for a redevelopment scheme during the first quarter of 2015.

Councillor Andrew explained that he was speaking on behalf of the lead petitioner, Vivienne Aston, who was unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Andrew explained significant efforts had been made over a lengthy period of time by officers to reach a satisfactory agreement with the owners and their land agents regarding the site. He stated that he was very pleased, as would the people of Brownhills, with the progress that now seemed to have been made.

Recommendation to Cabinet:

That officers continue to work with the owners of Ravenscourt Shopping Centre in order to help bring forward an appropriate redevelopment scheme for the site. However, if a planning application is not submitted within 6 months of the 24 November 2014 officers should serve the S215 Notice in accordance with the resolution of the Planning Committee in order to improve the appearance of the site.

Signed:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dennis Anson', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

**COUNCILLOR DENNIS ANSON
CHAIR, BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT & THE LOCAL ECONOMY SCRUTINY
& PERFORMANCE PANEL**

2 December 2014

Contact officer

Matt Underhill – Committee Business & Governance Manager

☎ 01922 654766

✉ underhillm@walsall.gov.uk