



NANTWICH TOWN COUNCIL PETITIONS POLICY

Introduction

1.1 The Council welcomes and encourages its community to provide feedback to the council and offers many opportunities and ways to do so as a matter of course.

1.2 The Council recognises that petitions are one way in which people can let the council know their concerns.

Requirements for a Petition

2.1 The Council will treat something as a petition if it is identified as such, or if it seems to them that it is intended to be a petition. A petition will be treated as such if it has at least 50 signatories or petitioners of people who live in Nantwich, including anyone under the age of 18.

2.2 A petition should include:

- A clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition and the action the petitioners wish the council to take.
- The name, address and signature of any person supporting the petition.
- An indication of the person designated as the lead petitioner or petition organiser, including either a postal or e-mail address. This is the person the council will contact to explain how it will respond to the petition. If the petition does not identify an organiser, the council will contact signatories to the petition to agree who should act as the organiser

2.3 A valid petition must:

- Relate to a function of the Town Council
- Not be a statutory petition
- Not relate to a lease, contract or permit.
- Not relate to a matter where a right of recourse or right of appeal is already provided for in law.
- Not be frivolous, vexatious or abusive or otherwise inappropriate.
- Not be the same or substantially similar to one that has already been submitted to Full Council within the previous six months.

2.4 Petitions should be addressed to the council and submitted to:

The Town Clerk, Nantwich Town Council, Civic Hall, Market Street, Nantwich, CW5 5DG

Email: nantwichtowncouncil@nantwichtc.gov.uk

2.5 Petitions can also be presented at any of the scheduled council meetings during Public Participation.

Procedure

Petitions with 100+ signatures

2.1 A petition with 100 or more identifiable signatures will be put forward for debate, as a separate agenda item, at the next suitable meeting of the Council or the relevant committee.

2.2 Where a petition is debated by committee, the Chairman of the committee shall report on this to the next Council meeting.

2.3 The petition organiser (or an appointed deputy) will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by members for a maximum of 15 minutes.

2.4 The council will determine how to respond to the petition at this meeting; which could include to:

- action the petition requests
- not action the petition requests for reasons put forward in the debate
- commission further investigation into the matter
- referring the petition to a sub-committee/working group
- holding a public meeting

2.5 The petition organiser will receive a written confirmation of the decision.

Petitions with 50-99 signatures

2.6 A petition with between 50 and 99 signatures shall be reviewed by the Town Clerk, Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor and relevant members (e.g. the appropriate committee Chair or ward member/s) to determine the appropriate course of action.

2.7 At the discretion of the Town Clerk in agreement with the Mayor, a petition may be referred to Council or the appropriate committee for debate as per petitions in excess of 100 signatures.

2.8 The petition organiser will receive a written confirmation of the decision.

General Provisions

3.1 An acknowledgement will be sent to the petition organiser within ten working days of receiving the petition which will explain what the council plans to do.

3.2 Details of the petition will be published on the Council's website, although the contact details of the petition organiser will not be included.

3.3 When more than one petition is received seeking the same outcome, they will be treated separately, but only the petition organiser of the first petition to be received will be invited to address the relevant meeting.

3.4 If the petition is about something over which the Council has no direct control it may consider making representations on behalf of the community to the relevant body.

3.5 Petitions will not be presented to the Annual Meeting of the Council nor to extra-ordinary meetings which are not called for the purpose of receiving the petition.