

INVERCLYDE COUNCIL

PETITIONS CRITERIA

Inverclyde Council welcomes the public's use of its petitions procedure for local issues. The Council can only deal with petitions that relate to the Council's powers and remit for its areas of functional responsibility.

This guidance sets out the basic requirements for you to submit a valid petition. If you have any doubt about the procedure or if you would like to ask any questions please contact Neil Duffy on 01475 712147 or by email on neil.duffy@inverclyde.gov.uk

Petitions

1. Petitions must be submitted by an individual or on behalf of a business.

You must include:

- (1) Your name, your address and confirmation that you are aged 16 or over. This is essential to ensure that you are identified as being the person promoting the petition and so that there is notice of a clear and understandable public process being undertaken at your initiative. Please also include, if possible, your telephone number and email address.
- (2) The issue you are concerned about and what you want the Council to do. Please state this as clearly as you can so that people can understand what you want to be done.
- (3) What you have already done to try to address your concern: have you contacted any other person or organisation in order to address your concerns?
- (4) The names of any other people who may already be involved with you in creating the petition.

You can provide any extra details you wish in order to support your petition. You should think about stating your petition as clearly as you can so that people understand what you want.

When you submit your petition, all members of the public will be able to view it on the Council's website. When the Council is sure that your petition meets the Council's rules on proper procedures, your petition will be made available in public for people to sign. You should take care not to include any details or signatures that you do not wish to be made publicly available and this is wholly your responsibility. Remember, the petitions procedure is entirely public.

A petition needs 100 signatures from members of the public for it to be considered by the Council's Petitions Committee. If you are a community group you need 50 signatures. Your petition needs 10 businesses to support it if it is a business petition. Publication on the Council's website will allow the petition to be viewed by the public and persons, if they wish, may choose to support the petition so that you may achieve the numbers of support from individuals or businesses in order that the petition be considered by the Petitions Committee.

2. The Council will not accept a petition that relates to:
 - a) Any planning, licensing or other such matters where objections and appeals against decisions are dealt with by another, existing process;
 - b) Matters already being considered or scheduled to be considered by the Council or one of its Committees;

- c) Decisions of the Council or one of its Committees during the previous six month period;
- d) Matters that are commercially sensitive, confidential or which could cause personal distress or financial loss in any way;
- e) Matters that are directed at a specific person or groups of persons with names or details that can be used to identify such persons;
- f) The same or similar petitions considered within the past 24 months; and, not within the Council's power and remit or functional areas of responsibility.

3. The Council will not accept a petition that contains:

- (a) Any false or potentially defamatory statement as may be considered by the Council;
- (b) Any details that might damage a person's reputation or which may discriminate against them in any way;
- (c) Offensive or inappropriate language;
- (d) Information protected by a court order or relating to an ongoing court or tribunal or quasi-judicial tribunal process or which would otherwise be considered sub-judice (i.e. being considered as part of another, separate legal process).

Guidance on all of the above can be obtained from the Council by contacting Neil Duffy on 01475 712147 or by email on neil.duffy@inverclyde.gov.uk