

<b>Item No.</b> 2.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 8 July 2015	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Petition – Woods of Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider a petition from the Save Southwark Woods Campaign regarding the proposed felling of over 30 mature trees and other woodland to make way for more than 2,000 new burial plots.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2. A petition containing 1,500 signatures or more maybe presented to the Mayor at council assembly. A petition can be submitted by a person of any age who lives, works or studies in Southwark. Petitions must relate to matters which the council has powers or duties or which affects Southwark.
3. At the meeting, the spokesperson for the petition will be invited to speak for up to five minutes on the subject matter. Council assembly will debate the petition for a period of up to 15 minutes and may decide how to respond to the petition at the meeting.
4. Council assembly should decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. A decision could be made to:
  - Take the action the petition requests
  - Not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or
  - To commission further investigation into the matter.
5. Any relevant resource or community impact issues will be contained in the comments of the strategic director.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

6. A petition containing over 4,500 signatures has been received from the Save Southwark Woods campaign, the petition states:

‘Save the beautiful wild woods of Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries for people, for nature and for the future!

Southwark Council is planning to destroy the woods of Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries, including felling over 30 mature trees, to make way for more than 2,000 new burial plots. Woodlands are the lungs of London. We want the cemeteries turned into local Nature Reserves, as with Nunhead Cemetery. Both cemeteries are part of the London Green Chain Walk and Camberwell Old Cemetery is a Grade 1 Site of Borough Importance for Nature Conservation. These wonderful woodlands are home to protected species, a wild tangle of

trees and undergrowth, a haven of habitats and they are valuable to nature, to people and to the future.

These woodlands provide many valuable benefits locally, cleaning the air, absorbing and filtering storm water, keeping the neighbourhood cool in summer, and providing beautiful, natural places for our mental and physical well-being.

Sign the petition and help Save Southwark Woods!

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Petition Request File	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Lesley John 020 7525 7228
Council Assembly Procedure Rule 2.4, Southwark Constitution	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Manager	
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	7 July 2015	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Strategic Director of Environment and Leisure	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
Director of Legal Services	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>		7 July 2015