

What are the guidelines for submitting a petition?

Petitions submitted to the County Council must include:

- a clear and concise statement covering the subject of the petition. It should state what action the petitioners wish the County Council to take.
- the name and address of the petition organiser (this is the person we will contact to explain how we will respond to the petition), and
- the name and address and signature of any person supporting the petition. (Petitions can be signed by people who live, work, study in or visit the County Council's area).

Petitions which are considered to be vexatious*, abusive or otherwise inappropriate will not be accepted and you will be contacted to explain the reasons for this

In the period immediately before an election or referendum we may need to deal with your petition differently – if this is the case we will explain the reasons and discuss the revised timescale which will apply.

If a petition does not follow the guidelines set out above, the County Council may decide not to do anything further with it. In that case, we will write to you to explain the reasons.

* In deciding if a petition is vexatious the guidance used for the Freedom of Information act the starting point will be:-

“Deciding whether a [Freedom of Information] request is vexatious is a flexible balancing exercise, taking into account all the circumstances of the case. There is no rigid test or definition, and it will often be easy to recognise. The key question is whether the request is likely to cause distress, disruption or irritation, without any proper or justified cause”