

# PROMOTING LOCAL DEMOCRACY

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Bill, due to become law in 2010, grants new rights for citizens to be better informed and exert more influence over local decisions; creates new powers to hold politicians to account and, where they choose, allows the public to be more directly involved in managing and shaping the delivery of local services.

One of the enablers to achieving this, and a key requirement under the bill, is the duty for local authorities to provide a facility to the general public for submitting petitions in electronic form.

As market leaders in the provision of consultation portals to local councils, we have developed a comprehensive ePetitions solution that will enable local councils to comply with these requirements, and greatly improve local participation and engagement.

## BENEFITS OF ePETITIONS

- **Develop stronger communities and more active citizens**
- **Engage with new groups of people**
- **Improve participation rates**
- **Remove barriers between government and citizens**
- **Improve involvement and awareness by the local community in issues that affect them**
- **Achieve efficiency savings and cost reductions in the democratic process**
- **Increase transparency and accountability**
- **Comply with the new Local Democracy Bill**

# LIMEHOUSE ePETITIONS



**The solution enables local councils to comply with the new legislation and provide an ePetitions capability on their website, which allows:**

- Local citizens to
  - View active petitions that concern them
  - Sign petitions
  - Request and create new petitions
- Local councils to combine off and on-line processes to
  - Review and approve petition requests
  - Process signatures and comments
  - Analyse, report and respond to petitions

As we shift towards empowering citizens and ensuring that they have the opportunity to influence local policy and community issues, local authorities need to provide interested members of the public the opportunity to debate, collaborate on and influence local decisions that affect them.

The Limehouse ePetitions solution does just this; it provides an online democratic capability through which members of the public can engage more effectively with their local council.

# HOW IT WORKS

## A SIMPLE PROCESS UNDERPINS THE SOLUTION



Comprehensive reporting capabilities are available for the council to analyse all aspects of the petition data. These reports are available to view online or downloaded as a pdf document.

Your Organisation **ePetition Portal** Home | Contact Us

Search

Your Organisation Consultation Portal > **ePetitioning**

### Petitions

The promotion of local democracy is important to the Council. This area of the portal is dedicated to petitions created by local organisations or the public concerning local issues. Please select a petition from the list below if you would like to add your signature. Alternatively, you may wish to suggest a local issue that should be the subject of a new petition. [Click here](#) to suggest such an issue.



Subject:  Status:  Location:  Keywords:

List View Date View Map View

Petitions	Start	End	Status
Stop Closure of Local Pool	3/8/2008 3:30PM	3/12/2008 3:30PM	open
Protect Local Wildlife	26/7/2008 2:40PM	5/9/2008 2:40PM	open
Improve Pavements	20/7/2008 1:00PM	3/12/2008 2:00PM	open
Open New Day Centre for Elderly	12/7/2008 5:00PM	1/1/2009 1:00PM	open

Displaying 1 to 1 of 1 items

### HOW IT LOOKS

The public can access the fully branded ePetitions solution via the council's website. It is easy to use, clear and accessible.

Information about the petition, with supporting documents and photos is clearly presented to the public and they can decide to sign, by submitting a minimum of information about themselves.

### VALIDATION AND SECURITY

The Limehouse ePetitions solution only allows a person to sign each petition once. This is enforced by the signing process requiring a valid email address. Additional security can be provided by 'captcha' facilities to prevent fraudulent attempts to fake signatures

All personal information of petition organizers and signatories remains confidential, and communications are managed through the system.

### COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT

This facility is provided as a hosted solution, requiring no technical resources from the council. An eLearning video is provided to all customers, to familiarise users with the facilities and how to use it, and the system is fully supported by the Limehouse helpdesk whenever required.