

Guide to E-petitions

The Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009 requires all principal local authorities in England to establish an online scheme for handling petitions on the authority's website. This will be in force from 15 December 2010

The Council only accepts e-petitions which are created and submitted through our website, and they must follow the same guidelines as paper petitions:

[Clickable link to Council Petitions Scheme](#)

How do I 'sign' an e-petition?

You can see all the e-petitions currently available for signature here: [Current E-petitions](#)

When you sign an e-petition you will be asked to provide your name, address, postcode and a valid email address. Once this step is complete your 'signature' will be added to the petition.

People visiting the e-petition will be able to see your name in the list of those who have signed it but your contact details will not be visible.

How do I create an e-petition?

Once registered, you can create an e-petition by following this link:

[Clickable link to Create New E-Petitions](#)

Please ensure there are no existing petitions addressing the same issue.

As the petition organiser, you will need to provide us with your name, postal address and email address. You will also need to decide how long you would like your petition to be open for signatures (up to a maximum of 6 months).

When you create an e-petition, it may take up to 10 working days before it is published online. This is because we have to check that the content of your petition is suitable before it is made available for signature.

When an e-petition has closed for signature, it will automatically be submitted to Democratic Services. In the same way as a paper petition, you will receive an acknowledgement within 10 working days.

If we feel we cannot publish your petition for some reason, we will contact you within this time to explain. You will be able to change and resubmit your petition if you wish. If you do not do this within 10 working days, a summary of the petition and the reason why it has not been accepted will be published under the 'rejected petitions' section of the website.

Further Information

To find out more about the Council's petition scheme, please see:

[Clickable link to Council Petitions Scheme](#)

Any questions not answered on the website, please email:

democraticservices@eppingforestdc.gov.uk