



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**COUNCIL
ADDENDUM**

4.30PM, THURSDAY, 21 JULY 2011

COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

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The Friends of Withdean Park - PETITION

Hereby petition Brighton and Hove City Council (City Parks) to provide Withdean Park with a regular gardener to help protect our former National Lilac Collection which has been sadly neglected by the council for many, many years.

The beds need regular weeding to keep the shrubs at their best. The Friends of Withdean Park volunteers can only do so much. In some of the older lilac beds, sycamore saplings, brambles and ivy have been allowed to grow and hence spoil the beautiful lilacs.

Withdean Park is more beautiful than any other Brighton park, with 35 acres, with a large green space, woodland and a pond garden which brings pleasure to many different people and children and should be protected.

“We want a gardener”



A brief bit on the history

- 1960: the park was redesigned and lilacs were collected from all over Europe
- 1982: designated as a **National Lilac Collection**
– by the National Council for the Conservation of Plants and Gardens
- 1985: Chelsea Flower Show display was awarded a Banksian Silver Gilt Medal
- 1986: acknowledged by the International Lilac Society and Brighton Council was presented with the President's Award
- 1993: warnings of National status being at risk
- 2009: **National status finally lost**



The state in 2011
Weeds
weeds
and more weeds
No edging either!
No pride in our park or
our earlier
National Lilac Collection





What should it look like?

No weeds

tidy edges

and

cared for lilacs

AND

redesignation as our

National Lilac Collection

for us all to be proud of



What do we do?

- Care for the Park including its woods
- Fund seats
- Construct benches
- Fund new trees
- Maintain the ponds
- New Wildflower Meadow
- “Lilac Lark” community event in May





What do we want?

We will continue to do our bit and
all we are asking for is a

GARDENER!

Not an unfulfilled promise of one
Not a full time gardener

Just a share of one for perhaps two or three days a month



**Let's have pride in our park and work together
to restore our**

National Lilac Collection

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

(a) Mr Nigel Furness

"As the price of scrap metals such as aluminium and steel continues to rocket, could Cllr West please tell us how much money the council generates from the sale of these plus all other recyclable materials collected from our homes?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(b) Mr Adrian Morris

"The proposed location of the skatepark in the northern section restricts parents' and carers' ability to supervise the combination of young children and older children. The disparate locations of the skatepark, café and play area make it impossible for a parent with children of varying ages to keep an eye on children using the public lavatories, the skatepark or play areas. Local residents raised these problems throughout the consultation period, but were constantly ignored. Would the council accept that there are still many massive flaws in the proposed overall design to be submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(c) Ms Ashley Shelling

"In the Environmental Cabinet Meeting' on July 5th, the council were asked what measures would be taken to prevent dog's from entering the 'dogs free skating area' despite it being located in a 'dogs-off lead zone'. The council replied along the lines that planting schemes were under consideration (this thinking was reflected in the master Plan D presented for cabinet).

Given that 'planting as a preventative barrier' to dogs entering the skate area is under consideration, would the council please clarify how 'plants' would/could meet safety standards for the skate park required by Health & Safety?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(d) Ms Davis

"Residents in Hanover/Elmgrove and northern section of St Peters/North Laines, the two wards closest to the Level expressed concern that their votes would be diluted when voting was expanded from 13,500 to 28,000 homes. PPT accepted the recommendation should not depend on a simple headcount but on consideration of all relevant factors and their views would count. Can the PPT demonstrate a mature consideration of all facts as its report appears to focus on top level results and overlooks the granularity of voting data in the two affected wards which shows a divide in type of voter (parent/pro-green) and no obvious Option 2 majority."

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(e) Ms Monson

"The Decision to build a concrete skatepark on a green lung in the centre of the City is at odds with green philosophy.

Also, it is a contradiction of Green Party policy. I quote "the need for urban green spaces, both formal and informal, should be recognised and these spaces should be protected." The Level, in use for nearly 200 years, is an urban space that satisfies both these formal and informal criteria.

How can the people of this City, with the UK's first Green Party MP and council, have confidence that this Party will protect green open spaces?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(f) Mr W. Hardy

"Can you tell me how much it cost council tax payers since May to clean up the mess left by gypsies and travellers, following the unauthorised encampments in Withdean Park, including the cost of re-installing the fences they drove over and the paving slabs they dug up and smashed, which for has not been replaced?"

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(g) Mr B. Jewell

“Have The Scrutiny Panel on Renewable Energy Potential scrutinised the relevant energy and noise study supporting documents and biomass literature in the PortZED planning application and identified that all technical aspects of the renewables are totally without foundation such that the wind turbines will not work in the proposed experimental configuration and all study results are confused and incorrect resulting in the developers making a late substitution of a very large wood pellet fuelled combined heat and power plant with associated health risk issues from the emissions?”

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will reply.

(h) Mr A. Fallon-Khan

"Bearing in mind the award winning Revenues and Benefits and NNDR teams at the Council under the last Conservative Administration undertook some excellent initiatives which were nonsensically rejected by the previous Labour Government [for example a review of the way residents were being penalised when they started to draw unemployment benefit] would the Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services please inform us what additional services these teams are likely to endure under the present Green Administration?"

Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance & Central Services, will reply.

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(a) Deputation concerning The Level
Mr Adrian Morris (Spokesperson)**

The Level is in the Valley Gardens Conservation Area. The northern section is an iconic community resource that must be preserved from development, as a place for congregating, recreation, holding community events, festivals and fairs.

This northern part is the only remaining open green space as laid out from 1791 as a formal ground and later gifted to the townspeople of Brighton in 1822. In the southern section, there are a few remaining features from Bertie Maclaren's 1927 design of the children's playground. At that time the railings were removed as part of Maclaren's "valley vistas" scheme and the northern section remains free to this day of any obstruction.

Whereas the southern section is an area for designated activities, the north, separated by the hedging and planting of the Rose Walk, is a free space for a wide variety of users. It's an open space that is unimpeded by buildings, which will be lost if this awkward chunk is taken out of it for the skate park. It's a green space for many who see it as their back garden and where there's opportunity for peace and relaxation in a busy and highly polluted area.

The engagement of relevant community groups is listed as one of the five Heritage Lottery Fund requirements when submitting a bid. The two groups named by the council in their bid are Friends of The Level and The Triangle Community Group and we both fully support the other aspects of the bid. Full consultation with these groups is essential to the success of the HLF bid, together with an ongoing contribution to ensure that The Level is a popular and well-maintained open space in the very heart of the City.

But we have been devalued and dismissed constantly. Getting hold of information from the council officers has been more difficult than juggling with jelly. In August last year we were incorrectly told that the final bid had to be submitted by end of February 2011, otherwise the money would be lost. Constantly we were fobbed off with "that matter will be dealt with at a later stage". Questions such as the needs of dog walkers, lighting of the skate park, health and safety, fencing were never answered or addressed. And they are still being fudged. In a draft report, which we saw only fifteen days ago, the plan of

the skate park shows no lighting, five pages on it's briefly mentioned in the text and four pages later there's a photograph of the type of lighting to be used. The Health and Safety report just released, after months of us asking endless questions, has more fudging, with misleading out-of-scale illustrations.

We are all merely custodians of our heritage to pass on to future generations. But you, as councillors, carry the even further burden of being the protectors of our heritage too. We don't want to see any more of the disastrous past planning decisions that have scarred our City. And this needs to be looked at as a planning issue – remember The Level is in a conservation area.

No amount of planting and trees will plaster over this gaping wound on an old friend. The skate park will not be able to hide, as if in shame, behind the proposed raised banks that are to be added to its perimeter. Yes raised banks in the middle of an open green space that is called The Level.

We totally oppose any building on the northern end of The Level and believe that this will set a dangerous precedent. It could be said that it's a brave Green councillor who will authorise this concreting over of part of an open green space. But it would be more courageous for all parties to join together and reject this lamentable proposal before it's too late.

Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability, will respond.

THE LEVEL

The Level is in the Valley Gardens Conservation area and from 2005 there were discussions how it could be restored and regenerated. A consultation was produced and showed the skate park in two different locations, both in the northern section, north of the Rose Walk. This was considered flawed and following the successful first-round application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund (BLF) in July 2010, it was decided by B&HCC to go ahead with a new consultation with the option of a skate park in the north or in its existing location in the south. The consultation commenced in March 2011. Two community groups, Friends of The Level and The Triangle Community Group were named in the first-round application in order to fulfil one of the five main requirements of the HLF.

History & Heritage Report by The Triangle Community Group Requested by B&HCC

- The history section of the group outlined the heritage features of The Level in the section north of the Rose Walk, which basically have remained unchanged for nearly 200 years. They also listed the changes made in 1927 by Bertie Maclaren when a children's playground was added.
- It was this second element that B&HCC chose to feature as the most important part of the heritage of The Level. The group maintain that this was a fundamental error.

The Two Locations of the Skate Park

- The skate park is not included in the bid to HLF and BLF and is to be funded from S106 monies. However, its location became a focus of the design.
- Because the consultation concentrated on a choice between a location in the north and one in the south it ceased to be a consultation about the whole of The Level. It became a referendum on the two locations.

The 2010/2011 Consultation: A Flawed Process

- At the Focus Group meeting held at the Salvation Army Hall on 28th August 2010 it was stated that the second-round bid to HLF and BLF had to be submitted by February 2011, otherwise "the money would be lost." This was incorrect. According to HLF guidelines the deadline is August 2012. B&HCC eventually changed the deadline to August 2011.
- At the same meeting, the council officers distributed four statements from skate park designers recommending the northern location. The skate park representative present objected as he had not sight of these statements and also stated that the skaters had no preference of location.
- The council officers constantly encouraged the skaters to set their ambitions outside of the views of the rest of the local community.
- The skate park was being promoted as a destination skate park that would be suitable for international competitions. Consequently, on a number of occasions, plans of the skate park in the north were shown larger than in the south.
- It was perceived that the council officers were getting too closely involved in decision making and seen to be managing the outcome indicated by the following statements: "we are going to... we will be building... our plans are..."
- It was proposed to build the skate park on a schedule six months ahead of the date when it would be known if the HLF bid had been successful. Following over four months of objections and a letter to *The Argus* in February 2011, this schedule was changed to the same schedule for the rest of the work on The Level

The 2011 Consultation: A Flawed Document

- The two communities recognise that, in the draft document produced by B&HCC, wording and structure favouring the skate park in the north were changed after suggestions and objections, but this was done under an unreasonably tight schedule.
- For several months a request was made for artist impressions of the skate park in both locations. It was assumed that these artist impressions would be taken from ground level.
- The artist impressions were only shown to the two groups 24 hours before going to press. The views taken are both from the south, at a viewpoint approximately 45 degrees above

the ground. Although the skate park in the south can be clearly seen, the skate park in the north is concealed behind the hedge of the Rose Walk and trees. The lead officer maintained there was no time for corrections. This was totally unacceptable and did not show a true representation of the skate park in the north. Therefore those who participated in the consultation were unable to visualise accurately what the skate park facility might look like. [Councillors have been supplied with the flawed illustrations as reproduced in the consultation.]

Health and Safety Questions

- Questions were asked continuously concerning health and safety, but were always dealt with the reply, “these will be considered at a later date.” A response from the lead officer to one particular H&S question by email was: “Full independent design risk assessments for particular elements such as the playground and skate park will also be carried out once actual designs have been developed.” More detailed designs have now been produced, but did not appear in the consultation.
- The risks associated with relocating the skate park to the open northern section have never been addressed. Examples of those risks being 1) dogs entering the skate park area with possible consequent dog attacks 2) danger of young children wandering / falling into the proposed sunken skate park and subsequent injury 3) considering the amount of games played on the northern section, injury to skaters caused by footballs, Frisbees etc 4) conflict between pedestrians, cyclists and skaters using the centre paths.
- It is only after the consultation had closed that H&S has been taken into consideration. According to a single page letter from an external advisor to B&HCC, it would appear that a fence is not under consideration despite the skate park being fenced in at Hove Lagoon. It would seem, from the tone of the letter, that the external advisor has not visited the site. However, the creation of banks and plantings surrounding the skate park is now proposed. [Draft B&HCC Report / 20th June 2011] This was not presented to the public in the consultation.
- Access points to the skate park on the northern section were not indicated on the consultation. These could have serious implications with H&S issues.

Consultation on The Level

- There was no direct consultation with regular users on the northern area of The Level.
- Consultation directly with dog walkers on the northern area was carried out but only after the official consultation had closed.
- At various times when B&HCC’s Playbus was on The Level, there was active encouragement for people to choose the option for building the skate park in the north.

The Consultation Workshops

- Many of the suggestions and objections, for both the south and north, at the number of workshops held were ignored and not incorporated into the final consultation.
- The northern area was largely ignored in these workshops, with little or no indication of improved seating locations, paths or lighting. A centrally located mosaic has been incorporated, but subject to extra funding.
- Incorporating a scented garden within the Rose Walk was a very popular suggestion. This was not put forward in the consultation.
- In the southern area there was fierce opposition to the removal of the paddling pool. If part of the heritage of The Level is in Bertie Maclaren’s design, the paddling pool is fundamental to it and a new pool could be built similar in style to the one on the seafront.

Conclusion

- Because the consultation, which was sent out to 28,000 households, focussed on the option of a skate park in the south versus a skate park in the north it became a referendum focussed on one key issue, rather than an actual consultation.
- Very little, or almost no reference was made to the heritage elements in the northern area in the consultation.
- The decision to solely focus on recreating the Bertie Maclaren design as the most important heritage element was a fundamental error.
- The lack of design detail of how the new skate park would be incorporated into the design of The Level within its heritage and the misleading artist impressions meant that the public could not have been able to make an informed decision.

Council	Agenda Item 7(a)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

PETITION REPORT

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

BIG LEMON BUS

Add a further recommendation at 2.2 as shown in bold italics:

Recommendation

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Transport and Public Realm Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration; and
- 2.2 That the council requests the Cabinet Member to consider how to offer help and advice to The Big Lemon bus operators in the same way that it does for other small businesses and social enterprises in the city.***

Proposed by: Cllr Anne Pissaridou

Seconded by: Cllr Leigh Farrow

Council	Agenda Item 7(b)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

PETITION REPORT

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

GYPSIES AND TRAVELLERS

Add a further recommendation at 2.2 as shown in bold italics:

Recommendation

2.1 That the petition is referred to the Cabinet Meeting for consideration; and

2.2 *That the Cabinet is requested to submit a response to the Government consultation - Planning for Travellers Sites - reflecting the views laid out in the petition.*

Proposed by: Cllr Dee Simson

Seconded by: Cllr Geoff Wells

Council	Agenda Item 7(c)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

PETITION REPORT

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

KEEP THE LEVEL A GREEN OPEN SPACE

Add a further four recommendations at 2.2 to 2.5 as shown in bold italics:

Recommendation

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Environment & Sustainability Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration;
- 2.2 *That it be noted Brighton and Hove City Council was successful in the second round of the Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for people funding programme and that the council's bid for funding has to demonstrate engagement with community groups;*
- 2.3 *That it be noted the friends of The Level and The Triangle Community Group, both named in the bid, are opposed to the moving of the skate park into the northern area;*
- 2.4 *That the Cabinet Member for Environment & Sustainability be recommended:*
- (a) *That given the degree of public opposition as evidenced by this petition to the decision by the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability to move the skate park into the northern area and the fact that the Cabinet Member stated when he took the decision that he is personally opposed to this move, that the proposals are now reviewed;*
- (b) *That as a part of this process the council should draw up and publish more detailed plans and illustrations that clearly demonstrate the impact that the skate park would have on the open, northern area including any safety features such as fencing, planting and landscaping; and*
- (c) *That meanwhile all monies held by the council in relation to The Level are ring-fenced and safeguarded for that purpose.*

Proposed by: Cllr Gill Mitchell

Seconded by: Cllr Brian Fitch

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions listed on pages 73-76 of the agenda have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answers listed below:

(a) Councillor Hamilton

“In the dying days of their administration, the Conservative Cabinet voted to sell off half of the council owned site in Victoria Road, Portslade, home of the former Portslade Urban District Council. The disposal was to include the Council offices, a bowling green, the car park and the public toilets. There is widespread concern about this proposal in Portslade. Extension of the bowls pavilion, relocation of staff from other buildings, a police presence in the building and a home for any future community forum are all options that have been proposed by local people. Will you agree to put the proposed disposal on hold and carry out a full appraisal and consultation on the future use of the site?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and central Services.

“The entire Portslade Town Hall site (including the Town Hall, housing offices, car parking, public toilets, bowling green, practice area and pavilion) has been identified through the asset management process as an under-used site with the buildings being in a poor condition. The Town Hall itself is well used by local groups but is expensive to maintain and requires substantial investment to improve and prolong its life.

The council has a duty to ensure that it is making best use of its land and property assets.

We propose to show our commitment to Portslade Town Hall and use the capital receipt from the disposal of the under-used part of the site to reinvest in the Town Hall. We plan to refurbish and extend it to create new offices to support a new neighbourhood customer service contact and access point. All the features of Portslade Town Hall are to be retained and enhanced, especially historical artefacts and the Compton organ. Our aim is to ensure the Town Hall’s long-term viability as a publicly-owned resource for the community.

This proposal is currently being consulted on with a variety of local clubs and organisations who use the Town Hall regularly and a broad range of local community groups (approx 12+) who may wish to use it in the future. The feedback is positive so far.

Other voluntary and public sector organisations are also showing interest in using it for similar customer access functions, including the police. Consultations are on-going, and again are enthusiastic.

Car parking concerns are being met through approx 10 dedicated public car spaces around the Town Hall. This is a reduction but the area is well served by nearby car parks that could be used when required through appropriate negotiations.

The proposal also includes an extension to the bowling green to square it off so that it can be played on from both sides. There is an area for a new bowls pavilion next to the Green with access to the car parking. The bowlers should gain from all these changes.

Consultations are carrying on with the various interested stakeholders and will inform the development of the informal planning and marketing brief. A better use of the site for much-needed new housing; a viable, refurbished Portslade Town Hall and the other benefits previously mentioned is what we are working towards for the benefit of the local community.”

(b) Councillor Pidgeon

“Could the Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services confirm how many full time equivalent trade union representatives and local constituency representatives were employed by the Council during 2010-11 and how this compares to other similar unitary authorities?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and central Services.

“Corporate representatives

In 2010-11 we had one employee who was employed full-time as a trade union convener for GMB.

In addition, we had a number of employees who were granted release from their substantive posts to represent their members within the council's workforce. The total Full Time Equivalent (FTE) of these representatives broken down by union was 9.65 (Unison 6; GMB 3; NUT / ATL / NASUWT 0.65).

The table below sets out how this figure compares with some other similar Unitary Authorities:

Council	Level of Trade Union Release
BHCC	10.65 FTE
Council A	2.0 *
Council B	19.0 *
Council C	1.0*
Council D	3.3 FTE
Council E	4.0 *
Council F	3.0 *

Note: * from the information available it is unclear whether this figure relates to headcount or FTEs

It would appear from our research that other local authorities do not hold detailed information on trade union release. This makes it difficult to compare the level of trade union release within BHCC with other authorities in a meaningful way.

Local constituency representatives

A number of other council employees (164) were allowed release on an ad hoc basis to represent their members within their local service area. The time these individuals spent on trade union duties is not recorded centrally.

It is worth pointing out that the vast majority of these representatives generally do not get involved in representing colleagues in formal procedural matters. This role tends to be carried out by those employees on corporate release. Instead they play a key role in disseminating information within their respective constituencies.”

(c) Councillor C Theobald

“Can the Cabinet Member for Planning, Employment, Economy & Regeneration tell me whether any work is currently being carried out, or will be carried out in the near future, on assessing the economic impact of introducing a ‘workplace parking levy’ in Brighton & Hove as set out in the Green Party’s local election manifesto?”

Reply from Councillor Davey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Public Realm.

“Thank you for your question Councillor Theobald.

The priority we accorded to work place parking charges in our manifesto is an indication of one of the ways that we intend to give the city a fresh start. Transport measures to reduce the impact of cars on the city are part of how we will achieve this and the proposal is consistent with the 3 main priorities that Cllr Randall set out last month. But this measure is about more than just the economy.

This measure will help tackle and reduce some of the inequality that exists in journeys to work, because not everyone has access to a car. Car traffic and busy roads can affect local communities and reduce people’s quality of life.

It will contribute to making Brighton & Hove the greenest city in the UK by addressing the impacts of commuter car journeys, by reducing vehicle emissions.

And it will only be introduced, following consideration of the responses we receive through involving the community more in decision making, especially local businesses.

At present, no work is being carried out on this initiative but we will be asking officers to prepare briefings on the options and opportunities available to begin this process. This will include consideration of the economic benefits and impacts. Learning from the experiences of other cities that have considered the idea – especially Nottingham – we will be able to assess the likely effects of introducing the measure.”

(d) Councillor Peltzer Dunn

“Would the Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Public Protection confirm that it is the Councils duty to enforce bye laws which are legally in place within the City?”

Reply from Councillor Duncan, Cabinet Member for Communities, Equalities and Public Protection.

“There is no mandatory duty or automatic requirement to prosecute for breaches of bye laws. We are required to look at each case on its merit and, as I understand it, a blanket policy of prosecution for each and every breach, apart from being costly and impracticable, would, in itself, be unlawful and could be challenged by way of judicial review.

The Council has in place an enforcement protocol, where enforcement is the last resort and not the first.

Normally, unless serious, a warning should be given and this generally deals with the problem.

We also have to be aware whether it is in the public interest or the interest of justice to take action. The Council as well as the Crown Prosecution service are subject to good practice guidance which requires prosecution to be undertaken only when in the public interest. Minor technical breaches will, generally, not be prosecuted. It is normally where there are serious or persistent breaches that we will consider action.”

(e) Councillor Carden

“Will the Leader confirm exactly how much money this council has spent on dealing with unauthorised Gypsy and Travellers encampments since the new administration came into power in May 2011?”

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

“Since 05 May 2011, The Council has spent £30,368 in relation to the management of unauthorised Gypsy and Travellers encampments. This figure consists of:

- Clear up costs, and waste management - £21,803

- Removal and storage of Traveller vehicles following eviction - £2,850.00
- Legal costs - £5,715.00

These costs include those incurred by two unauthorised encampments that were established prior to the new administration forming, where services were provided after 5 May 2011. These two encampments were evicted on 9 May 2011.

With the exception of the storage of Traveller vehicles, this reflects normal costs associated with managing unauthorised encampments at this time of the year.”

(f) Councillor Mitchell

“Would the Leader of the Council please give details of the current number of council employees that have accepted or been offered voluntary redundancy packages, the number of deleted posts and the number of any permanent redundancies occurring since 1st April 2011?”

Reply from Councillor Randall, Leader of the Council.

“The council has a good reputation for working in partnership with trade unions to reduce the need for compulsory redundancies.

Since April 2011 four employees (excluding schools based employees) have left the council with a voluntary redundancy package. These posts have since been made redundant. We are maintaining a robust approach towards vacancy management with establishments being managed locally.

The approved council budget for 2011/12 included savings proposals that were expected to result in a reduction of approximately 250 full time equivalent posts including value for money proposals to reduce management and administration costs. In order to achieve these reductions, the council is currently running a voluntary severance scheme so as to try and reduce the need for compulsory redundancies arising from budget cuts.

Alongside the deletion of existing vacancies and expected normal turnover during 2011/12, the voluntary redundancy scheme is seeking to attract approximately eighty employees who are prepared to leave the authority on pre agreed financial terms. Decisions arising from this scheme will be made later this month, and we hope to find eighty approved applicants.

It is likely that, following the completion of the voluntary severance exercise, a number of local consultation exercises will take place which would then result in movement of some colleagues into new or different roles and posts being deleted. Only when all of this activity has been completed will we know the final reduction in the number of full time equivalent posts.”

(g) Councillor Mitchell

“Does this administration:

- a) share my concerns regarding the consistent overspending of the council’s communications service, who in 2009/10 overspent by 46.3% (£272,000), in 2010/11 overspent by an increased 109% (£459,000) and are this year predicted to overspend by £311,000, and;
- b) what does this administration plan to do about this consistent overspending by the communications team, at a time when services such as children and young people and adult social care are facing unprecedented cuts?”

Reply from Councillor J Kitcat, Cabinet Member for Finance and Central Services.

“As the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the council finances I am of course concerned about any overspend by council services. As soon as I took my position I looked into the communications budget in some detail.

The historical position has been that each directorate (and now service unit) has held its own communications budget. The central corporate communications unit has also had a small budget (the communications operational budget), which is the one being reported as overspent.

Previously directorates and service units could, and did, spend their communications budgets with a wide variety of suppliers. This resulted in inefficient use of funds and failed to take advantage of the council’s size to negotiate the best prices.

The central communications unit are leading a process of drawing all the Council’s communications budgets into a single budget line which will enable smarter spending, consolidation of suppliers, standardised branding and economies of scale. In the previous year this process already has saved £650,000; however this saving was shown in individual directorates’ budgets, not the central communications unit’s operational budget.

The communications operational budget has been overspending for the last 2 financial years due to a shortfall on the advertising budget, specifically City News, and staffing pressures. Unfortunately the budget consolidation has also been slower than planned, adding to these budgetary pressures.

An accelerated timescale to consolidate communications budgets from across the Council has now been agreed with a target to introduce key changes by the end of this financial year. As a result of these changes the overspend will be resolved.

In meantime the Communications Team have been holding vacancies to reduce costs (headcount has reduced by 19%). However, this is starting to cause significant pressures.

I continue to keep a very close eye on communications spending. I am also reviewing future plans for City News and other communications to make sure they are cost effective and deliver best value for our citizens.”

(h) Councillor Marsh

“What is the administration’s view on the Education Bill and its proposals to remove:

- a) local parents’ ability to challenge decisions about admissions and exclusions
- b) make a local complaint
- c) the local admissions forum
- d) this city’s successful school places lottery

Can you explain how this administration:

- a) intends to encourage faith Encourage faith schools to subscribe to the local authority admissions system, rather than set their own admissions policies, as stated in your manifesto?
- b) will encourage local schools to collaborate and share best practice, as stated in your manifesto?
- c) will protect youth services, especially for young people at risk of becoming NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) or falling into the criminal justice system, as stated in your manifesto?
- d) plans to campaign for a reinstatement of Building Schools for the Future money, as stated in your manifesto?
- e) is going to help groups of schools develop in-house environmental officers posts to save money and reduce the city's carbon footprint, as stated in your manifesto?”

Reply from Councillor Shanks, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People.

“The Council is preparing a full response to the consultation on the proposed new School Admissions Code. This will make plain the Council’s opposition to any removal of parental rights of complaint, the proposed removal of a statutorily constituted Admissions Forum, and any limitation on the use of random allocation as a tie break for Community Schools. The proposed changes on school admissions and the Admissions Code are mixed, with some positive changes, but some, such as the proposal to remove coordination of admissions in year, would in our view have an extremely negative impact on children and families. Our position will be made clear through this Council’s response to the consultation.

Can you explain how this administration:

a) Intends to encourage faith schools to subscribe to the local authority admissions system, rather than set their own admissions policies, as stated in your manifesto?

Councillor Marsh will be aware of the fact that they have a legal right to prioritise admissions on the basis of religious affiliation. That does not mean that faith schools are excluded from ongoing discussions and consultation on the provision of school places. At a time when there is growth in the demand for school places in the City. However, we believe that a collaborative approach is the right way forward, and we do recognise that faith schools operate within a different legal framework to Community Schools. Nonetheless we do want to have a conversation with faith schools around the possibility of their offering a proportion of local community places that do not rely on religious affiliation.

b) Will encourage local schools to collaborate and share best practice, as stated in your manifesto?

Collaboration and sharing of best practice amongst schools is already a reality, and the Council is strongly supportive of school led initiatives in this area including cluster working, the Behaviour and Attendance Partnership and the Learning Partnership. My administration will encourage the development of these and other initiatives which will drive towards a cohesive and fully inclusive education system.

c) Will protect youth services, especially for young people at risk of becoming NEETs (Not in Education Employment or Training) or falling into the criminal justice system, as stated in your manifesto?

Officers of the Council are working with schools and colleges to ensure the right provision so all young people will have a suitable placement age 16. The Youth Employability Service will work with young people aged 16 – 18 who are NEET and 4 Advisers will work with young people with SEN to support them from school into FE or work with training. Consultation on a commissioning strategy follows the Youth Service review. The Administration has considered the Youth Review findings and will consult on a three year commissioning strategy to improve outcomes for all young people, and to reduce inequality and child poverty including those at risk of becoming NEET or falling into the criminal justice system.

d) Plans to campaign for a reinstatement of Building Schools for the Future money, as stated in your manifesto?

It is our view that a replacement programme is essential to ensure that capital is available to improve and enlarge the secondary estate outside of the Academy option. This view will be made known to Ministers. The James review contained 16 recommendations regarding the future of capital expenditure in schools, the fundamental premise of these recommendations is that funding should follow need, either in terms of additional school places or the condition of

the school estate. The review suggests that better value for money can be obtained by increased central procurement and frameworks for procurement.

e) Is going to help groups of schools develop in-house environmental officers posts to save money and reduce the city's carbon footprint, as stated in your manifesto?

I stand by our commitment to develop in-house environmental officer posts. There are many individual examples of work already undertaken in this area and broader initiatives including Eco-schools status. I believe that we are pushing against an open door as schools are already well down the road of carbon reduction and environmental awareness. A network of designated school staff will help share best practice on carbon reduction, and lower energy consumption will lead to savings for schools.”

(i) Councillor Farrow

"What is the council doing to attract new media enterprise to the city, as well as supporting current media business in the city?"

Reply from Councillor Bowden, Cabinet Member for Culture, Recreation and Tourism.

“The city has rightly been identified as a new media enterprise hub for the whole country – most recently in studies published by IBM and HSBC. The Council works closely with partner organisations such as Wired Sussex, the Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership and both Universities to support the development of the existing business base in Brighton & Hove and to attract more companies.

The city council has an approved Business Retention and Inward Investment Strategy that identifies the creative industries /digital media sector as a key sector for growth in the city. Support for the sector includes tailored property searches for media businesses, the delivery of six targeted workshops over the last 18 months (attended by over 450 business representatives), part funding a successful digital internship programme with Wired Sussex and the University of Sussex and disseminating information on key international opportunities for partnerships and funding.

Our Administration is also looking at the future of New England House as a potential Media Hub and we would support actions to develop the media sector through the Local Enterprise Partnership.

In supporting the wider cultural sector in the city, we are also creating and maintaining the environment that these kind of businesses need to grow and flourish.

I am particularly looking forward to the Digital Festival this September led by Lighthouse - an excellent example of the strength and vibrancy of the sector.”

(j) Councillor Wealls

“Would the Cabinet Member for Housing give a pledge to continue with the commitment of the previous Conservative Administration to ring-fence Supporting People funding, which provides housing-related support for some of the most vulnerable residents in Brighton & Hove?”

Reply from Councillor Wakefield, Cabinet Member for Housing.

“The current administration is fully committed to protecting the successful Supporting People Programme that funds housing-related support services that make a real difference to local vulnerable people in our city. The programme has consistently delivered positive benefits to a range of service users, from people that are homeless, rough sleeping, people with mental health and substance misuse problems and older people with support needs.

Our local providers have effectively delivered services of high quality, performance, excellent value for money and good outcomes. We recognise the strong commitment from previous Conservative Administration to protect Supporting People services.

We as the new Green administration fully support the current Supporting People Strategy signed off by the previous administration.”

(k) Councillor Barnett

“Would the Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability confirm who authorised a provision of the bund at the 19 acre site, the date of the provision of the bund and the cost of same? Will he further confirm the authorisation of the removal of the bund, the date of same and the cost for carrying out such works?”

Reply from Councillor West, Cabinet Member for Environment and Sustainability.

“A Bund has been in place at this site for at least 10 years. A new long section of bund was provided to cover the 19 acres site in May 2011 at a cost of £1000. This section of bund was further reinforced in early July 2011 at no cost to the Council, as a highway contractor was working on site and had surplus chalk.

The authorisation for the levelling of a small 3 metre section of bund was made by Senior officers of the council on the 8th July 2011 and was carried out by the in-house city parks team no cost to the Travellers Liaison Service. For information a typical cost for re-instating this section of bund would be £80, with a further £37 if more chalk material is required.”

Subject:	Extract from the Proceedings of the Cabinet Meeting held on the 14th July 2011 - Withdrawal of Core Strategy to Update and Amend		
Date of Meeting:	21 July 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name: Liz Hobden	Tel: 29-2504	
	E-mail: liz.hobden@brighton-hove.gov.uk		
Wards Affected:	All		

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**CABINET****4.00PM 14 JULY 2011****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Randall (Chair), Bowden, Davey, Duncan, Jarrett, J Kitcat, Shanks, Wakefield and West

Also in attendance: Councillors Peltzer Dunn (Opposition Spokesperson) and Mitchell (Opposition Spokesperson)

Other Members present: Councillors Fitch, Gilbey, Hawtree, MacCafferty, Mears, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Simson and Wealls

PART ONE**42. WITHDRAWAL OF CORE STRATEGY TO UPDATE AND AMEND**

- 42.1 The Cabinet considered a report of the Strategic Director, Place concerning proposals to withdraw the Core Strategy from the examination process to allow essential updating and amendments in response to new circumstances relating, in particular, to emerging legislation and housing delivery.
- 42.2 The Chair explained that redrafting the Core Strategy would enable a more robust citywide plan to be written, which would guide the future development of the city and be a positive tool for attracting and directing investment, as well as delivering much needed jobs, high quality housing, including affordable housing, and encouraging

sustainable forms of development. He advised that withdrawal would also provide an opportunity for full and effective consultation with residents.

- 42.3 The Chair welcomed Councillor MacCafferty, Chair of the Planning Committee, to the meeting.
- 42.4 Councillor MacCafferty thanked officers for their work on the Core Strategy to date and reported that circumstances had changed significantly since submission of the Strategy in April; these included the need to address the Inspector's concern with the proposed housing delivery strategy, the publication of the Localism Bill and the comprehensive spending review. He advised that redrafting the Strategy would allow the council to submit a more robust local housing target supported by up to date evidence and update the sustainable buildings policy to raise the standards of sustainable building. Proposed options and amendments would be considered by the Cabinet in October with consultation with residents and stakeholders to follow.
- 42.5 Councillor Mitchell stated that it made sense to withdraw the Strategy to take account of recent and forthcoming developments and welcomed the re-introduction of a cross-party working group to consider the Strategy.
- 42.6 Councillor Peltzer Dunn welcomed the proposal and noted the short timescale laid out in the report.
- 42.7 The Chair welcomed the cross-party support for withdrawal of the Strategy.
- 42.8 **RESOLVED** – That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:
- (1) That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Secretary of State's direction to withdraw the submitted Brighton and Hove Core Strategy from the examination process be sought for the reasons set out in Part 3 of the report.
 - (2) That Cabinet agrees that a Cross Party Working Group be set up in accordance with the terms of reference in appendix 2.

Council	Agenda Item 14
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

CONSERVATIVE AND LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUPS' AMENDMENT

WITHDRAWAL OF THE CORE STRATEGY TO UPDATE AND AMEND

Add a new recommendation 48.1 (1A) after recommendation 48.1 (1) to read:

48.1 **RESOLVED** – That, having considered the information and the reasons set out in the report, the Cabinet accepted the following recommendations:

(1) That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Secretary of State's direction to withdraw the submitted Brighton and Hove Core Strategy from the examination process be sought for the reasons set out in Part 3 of the report.

(1A) *"That the cabinet be recommended to delete paragraph 4 of the Terms of reference of the Cross Party Working Group set out in Appendix 2 to the report."*

(2) That Cabinet agrees that a Cross Party Working Group be set up in accordance with the terms of reference in appendix 2.

Proposed by Cllr Geoffrey Theobald

Seconded Cllr: Gill Mitchell

Council	Agenda Item 15(d)
21 May 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP

LEGAL AID CUTS

“This Government proposes to cut £350 million to legal aid, as part of the Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Bill.

As a result, over half a million fewer people a year will receive support from the legal aid system.

This Council believes that these cuts to legal aid are short-sighted and counter-productive because many of the issues covered by legal aid will simply escalate, resulting in greater cost to the taxpayer further down the line. For example, according to cost-benefit analysis from the Citizens Advice Bureaux, for every one pound of legal aid expenditure on:

- Housing advice, the state potentially saves £2.34
- Debt advice, the state potentially saves £2.98
- Benefits advice, the state potentially saves £8.80
- Employment advice, the state potentially save £7.13

Furthermore, Law Centres help 120,000 people annually. Independent research has revealed that for every £1 spent by a Law Centre in the provision of legal service, at least £10 was generated in savings and social benefits.

Of these 120,000 people, with problems such as eviction, unfair dismissal, exclusion from school and domestic violence, it is estimated that 60,000 will no longer be helped, if these proposals are brought into force. There is no alternative source of advice available or that is suitable.

This council believes that this Government’s proposals remove vital support when people need it the most and that it is an irresponsible time to be leaving the most vulnerable in society without advice or legal support, when demands on advice services as a result of Government cuts are higher than ever.

This Council acknowledges that advice centre funding has been hit by cuts from all angles, from local authorities and central government grants from BIS, DCLG and now the Ministry of Justice. This has put at risk, on average, nearly 45% of the funding that advice centres receive.

This Council acknowledges the role of the local advice centres and is grateful of the hard work which helps so many vulnerable people in Brighton & Hove. These include Age Concern, Brighton Housing Trust, Citizens Advice Bureau, Community & Voluntary Sector Forum, Fitzhugh Gates Solicitors, MACS (Money Advice and

Community Support), Mind, Rise Women's Refuge, The Bridge Community Education Centre and the Whitehawk Inn.

Approximately 20,000 residents receive one-to-one advice from voluntary sector agencies in this city, with the Brighton Housing Trust providing specialist casework support and representation to 3,000 people per year. Legal Aid accounts for around 90% of BHT funding for advice and around 25% of the Citizen's Advice Bureau.

This Council therefore deeply regrets that due to proposed cuts, the admirable work of our local advice centres may be unable to continue and therefore resolves to:

- (a) Express its support to Brighton & Hove's Justice for All campaign in asking Government to rethink their cuts to legal aid, and;
- (b) Requests the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Justice, Ken Clarke to express concern over these proposals."

Proposed by: Cllr Warren Morgan Seconded by: Cllr Penny Gilbey

Supported by: Cllrs Meadows, Farrow, Mitchell, Pissaridou, Carden, Hamilton, Marsh, Turton, Lepper, Fitch, Robins.

NOTICE OF MOTION**GREEN GROUP****RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS TRAVELLING COMMUNITIES**

“This council shares the concerns expressed by residents about the behaviour of some members of the Gypsy and Traveller groups visiting the city, and it condemns anti-social or criminal behaviour by any members of the travelling or settled communities. Where such behaviour is evidenced and substantiated, the administration will take appropriate and proportionate action within the bounds of the law.

The council will continue to adopt a fair but firm approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments. Working in partnership with the Police, it uses:

- Government guidance introduced by the previous Government
- Brighton and Hove City Council’s Traveller Strategy, which the previous administration introduced in June 2008.

This council recognises Gypsy and Traveller communities’ heritage and the right to continue their nomadic lifestyle, as enshrined in law. It will continue to work with Friends and Families of Travellers and other organisations to address the problems faced by travelling communities.

It also acknowledges the excellent work of the council’s Traveller Liaison Team and urges all Council Members to behave in a mature, respectful and tolerant way when debating the presence of Gypsy and Traveller groups in the city, in accordance with relevant codes of conduct.

Further, this council recognises that problems posed by inadequate site provision in the city pre-date May 5th 2011 by many years, and has resulted in a yearly merry-go-round of evictions across the city incurring both financial cost and emotional distress to those involved. In particular it regrets that all previous Brighton and Hove administrations have failed to provide a permanent Travellers’ site, which has exacerbated the problems raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments.

Therefore

1. This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet:
 - (a) To continue the search for another permanent Traveller site in the city;
 - (b) To work with other local authorities to seek a regional solution to the provision of Traveller sites;

- (c) To continue with its firm but fair approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments, working in partnership with the Police on special initiatives like Operation Monza, where necessary;
 - (d) To continue its cross-party review of the Traveller Strategy to relieve the pressures created by unauthorized Traveller encampments; and
- (2) The Council welcomes government proposals to ‘raise awareness amongst councillors of their leadership role in relation to traveller site provision; [1].”

Proposed by: Cllr Pete West

Seconded by: Cllr Bill Randall

Supported by: Cllrs Kennedy, Davey, Buckley, Bowden, Deane, Duncan, Follett, Hawtree, Jarrett, Jones, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Phillips, Powell, Rufus, Shanks, Summers, Sykes, Wakefield.

[1] ‘Planning for Traveller sites’ Consultation, Department for Communities and Local Government, April 2011.

<p>Council</p> <p>21 July 2011</p>	<p>Agenda Item 15(a)</p> <p>Brighton & Hove City Council</p>
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NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

AN ARMED FORCES COMMUNITY COVENANT FOR BRIGHTON & HOVE

To insert a new paragraph 4 and the following wording after the word ‘veterans’ in what would be paragraph 6 ***‘servicemen and women being made redundant,’*** as shown in bold italics below:

“This Council recognises the huge contribution made by the UK’s armed forces in protecting the basic and fundamental freedoms which we all take for granted. As a result of their duties they sacrifice civilian freedoms, face constant danger and sometimes suffer serious injury or even death. At the very least, they deserve our respect and support and should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of services.

This Council warmly welcomes recent initiatives in Brighton & Hove which have sought to recognise the unique contribution of the armed forces such as the ‘Heroes Welcome’ campaign, Armed Forces Day celebrations, the Freedom Parade and the awarding of Freedom of the City to Henry Allingham and Flight Lieutenant Marc Heal.

However, this Council recognises that both nationally and locally, the Armed Forces community (including veterans, reservists and their families) face many unique social and economic problems and distinct challenges in accessing services provided by public authorities.

This Council also notes with regret the announcement on Monday of significant cuts by the Government to the Armed Forces, including 19,000 posts in the Army, and the effect this is likely to have on many servicemen and women from Brighton and Hove.

Therefore, this Council welcomes the recent commitment by the Government to enshrine the national Armed Forces Covenant into law. This will bring about tangible benefits to the Armed Forces Community including increasing council tax relief to 50%, a pupil premium for service children, a new veterans’ information service, a Veterans’ Card and a Troops to Teachers scheme.

This Council wishes to further show its moral and practical support to the local armed forces, veterans, ***servicemen and women being made redundant,*** reservists and their families by committing to sign a Community Covenant.

The aims of the Community Covenant include:

- Encouraging local communities to support the Armed Forces in their areas and vice versa;
- Promoting understanding and awareness amongst the public of issues affecting the Armed Forces community;
- Recognising and remembering the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community; and
- Encouraging activities which help to integrate the Armed Forces Community into local life.

Therefore, this Council requests that the Cabinet considers signing a Brighton & Hove Community Covenant and asks for a report to be brought to a future meeting on how such a Covenant could be implemented, with a view to launching the Covenant on Remembrance Day 2011; and such report should be drawn up in close consultation with the Armed Forces Community and their representative organisations in Brighton and Hove.”

Proposed by: Cllr. Warren Morgan

Seconded by: Cllr. Leigh Farrow

Council	Agenda Item 15(b)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

GREEN GROUP AMENDMENT

RETURNING TO A COMMITTEE SYSTEM IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

To add a new third paragraph as shown in bold italics, delete part (a) of the second bullet point as struck through and add a new third bullet point as shown in bold italics below:

“This Council notes that Schedule 2 of the Localism Bill currently going through Parliament gives provision for local authorities to return to operating a committee system of governance should they wish to do so.

Prior to its implementation in 2008, all political groups on Brighton & Hove City Council were opposed to the Executive Leader and Cabinet system, and reaffirmed unanimously their desire to return to a committee system at Full Council on 15th July 2010.

This Council notes that both the Conservative and Labour Groups voted in 2008 to introduce the Leader and Cabinet system a year earlier than required by legislation.

This Council further notes that although, as it currently stands, new governance arrangements could only come into force immediately after the next election of the local authority – May 2015 in the case of Brighton & Hove – there is flexibility written into the Localism Bill. Clause 13 permits the Secretary of State to make an order setting out transitional arrangements and, in addition, s105 of the Local Government Act 2000 allows for secondary legislation specific to individual or groups of local authorities.

Therefore, this Council:

- Reaffirms its desire to return to a committee system of governance at the earliest possible opportunity;
- Asks the Chief Executive to write to:
 - (a) ~~The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government requesting the necessary amendments to the Bill and/or other measures, so as to enable Brighton & Hove City Council to return to a committee system without delay and;~~
 - (b) The City’s 3 MPs advising them of the Council’s wishes and requesting that they add their support through appropriate lobbying of the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.”

- ***Asks the Governance Committee to keep a watching brief on the Localism Bill. Once the bill has received Royal Assent, the date it will come in force is known and the guidance notes are published; the Governance Committee is asked to prepare a process for:***
 - (i) Identifying international best practice so that a shortlist of preferred models for local government democratic decision-making can be identified; and***
 - (ii) Involving all Members, political parties and citizens in coming to a final decision on the preferred model for this Council and method for its adoption.***

Proposed by: Cllr Jason Kitcat

Seconded by: Cllr Matt Follett

Council	Agenda Item 15(f)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

CONSERVATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS TRAVELLING COMMUNITIES

To delete the wording in paragraph 1 as struck through and to delete paragraph 5 as struck through and insert additional wording in paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 and to delete the wording as struck through in resolution 1(c-d), and to insert the wording in resolution 1(a-d) as shown in bold italics.

“This council shares the concerns expressed by residents about the behaviour of some members of the Gypsy and Traveller groups visiting the city, and it condemns anti-social or criminal behaviour by ~~anyone members of the travelling or settled communities~~. Where such behaviour is evidenced and substantiated, the **Police should** ~~administration will~~ take appropriate and proportionate action ~~within the bounds of the law~~.

The council ~~will~~ **should** continue to adopt a fair but firm approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments. Working in partnership with the Police, it **should** uses:

- Government guidance introduced by the previous Government **and new guidance in “Planning for Traveller Sites”, once adopted**
- Brighton and Hove City Council’s Traveller Strategy, which the previous administration introduced in June 2008.

This council recognises Gypsy and Traveller communities’ heritage and the right to continue their nomadic lifestyle, as enshrined in law. It will continue to work with Friends and Families of Travellers and other organisations to address the problems faced by travelling communities **and with residents’ groups, local action teams etc. to address the problems faced by the local residents.**

It also acknowledges the excellent work of the council’s Traveller Liaison Team and urges all Council Members to behave in a mature, respectful and tolerant way when debating the presence of Gypsy and Traveller groups in the city, in accordance with relevant codes of conduct.

~~Further, this council recognises that problems posed by inadequate site provision in the city pre-date May 5th 2011 by many years, and has resulted in a yearly merry-go-round of evictions across the city incurring both financial cost and emotional distress to those involved. In particular it regrets that all previous Brighton and Hove administrations have failed to provide a permanent Travellers’ site, which has exacerbated the problems raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments.~~

Therefore

1. This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet:
 - (a) To continue the search for ~~another~~ **a permanent Traveller site in the city taking into account the thorough work of previous Conservative and Labour Administrations;**
 - (b) To **continue to** work with other local authorities to seek a regional solution to the provision of Traveller sites;
 - (c) To ~~continue with its~~ **follow the** firm but fair approach **adopted by the previous Administration** to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments, working in partnership with the Police on special initiatives like Operation Monza, where necessary;
 - (d) To ~~continue its~~ **establish a** cross-party review of the Traveller Strategy **as soon as possible** to relieve the pressures created by unauthorized Traveller encampments; and
- (2) The Council welcomes government proposals to ‘raise awareness amongst councillors of their leadership role in relation to traveller site provision; [1].”

Proposed by: Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald Seconded by: Ken Norman

[1] ‘Planning for Traveller sites’ Consultation, Department for Communities and Local Government, April 2011.

Council	Agenda Item 15(f)
21 July 2011	Brighton & Hove City Council

NOTICE OF MOTION

LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP AMENDMENT

RESPONSIBILITIES TOWARDS TRAVELLING COMMUNITIES

To delete the second sentence in paragraph 5 as struck through and insert 3 further paragraphs 6, 7 and 8 as shown in bold italics below:

“This council shares the concerns expressed by residents about the behaviour of some members of the Gypsy and Traveller groups visiting the city, and it condemns anti-social or criminal behaviour by any members of the travelling or settled communities. Where such behaviour is evidenced and substantiated, the administration will take appropriate and proportionate action within the bounds of the law.

The council will continue to adopt a fair but firm approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments. Working in partnership with the Police, it uses:

- Government guidance introduced by the previous Government
- Brighton and Hove City Council’s Traveller Strategy, which the previous administration introduced in June 2008.

This council recognises Gypsy and Traveller communities’ heritage and the right to continue their nomadic lifestyle, as enshrined in law. It will continue to work with Friends and Families of Travellers and other organisations to address the problems faced by travelling communities.

It also acknowledges the excellent work of the council’s Traveller Liaison Team and urges all Council Members to behave in a mature, respectful and tolerant way when debating the presence of Gypsy and Traveller groups in the city, in accordance with relevant codes of conduct.

Further, this council recognises that problems posed by inadequate site provision in the city pre-date May 5th 2011 by many years, and has resulted in a yearly merry-go round of evictions across the city incurring both financial cost and emotional distress to those involved. ~~In particular it regrets that all previous Brighton and Hove administrations have failed to provide a permanent Travellers’ site, which has exacerbated the problems raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments.~~

In particular, this council notes the actions taken by previous Labour Administrations that included;

- ***The provision of the 23 pitch transit site for Travellers at Horsdean.***
- ***The production of the first local Gypsy and Traveller Strategy.***

- ***The setting up of the local Gypsy and Traveller Forum that regularly met with interested residents and other partners to foster better understanding and awareness of Traveller issues.***
- ***The undertaking of a comprehensive needs assessment of Gypsy and Traveller accommodation need in Brighton and Hove in conjunction with partners and Gypsy and Traveller representatives.***
- ***Regional working with neighbouring authorities on the strategic planning for the provision of pitches.***

Notes that the previous Government;

- ***Demonstrated its commitment to tackling the supply of permanent Gypsy and Traveller pitches by embedding their provision within its Spatial Planning policies with an allocation requirement placed on all local authorities to provide their fair share of pitches.***
- ***Provided realistic capital funding for local authorities for the building of such sites and that this council has been a beneficiary.***

Furthermore this council regrets;

- ***The ill-advised statement from the MP for Brighton Pavilion to the effect that no unauthorised traveller encampment should be moved until sufficient permanent pitches had been provided for them in the city.***
- ***That proposals by the Tory-led Government for the replacement of the strategic and fair approach to the provision of permanent pitches with a watered down, 'light-touch' policy will mean fewer pitches being provided and more pressure on those local authority areas that do provide sites.***

Therefore

1. This Council resolves to ask the Cabinet:
 - (a) To continue the search for another permanent Traveller site in the city;
 - (b) To work with other local authorities to seek a regional solution to the provision of Traveller sites;
 - (c) To continue with its firm but fair approach to the issues raised by unauthorised Traveller encampments, working in partnership with the Police on special initiatives like Operation Monza, where necessary;
 - (d) To continue its cross-party review of the Traveller Strategy to relieve the pressures created by unauthorized Traveller encampments; and
- (2) The Council welcomes government proposals to 'raise awareness amongst councillors of their leadership role in relation to traveller site provision. [1]"

Proposed by: Cllr Gill Mitchell

Seconded by: Cllr Les Hamilton

[1] 'Planning for Traveller sites' Consultation, Department for Communities and Local Government, April 2011.