

John Peel
Democratic Services
Brighton & Hove City Council

23rd September 2013

Dear John,

Future use of Rottingdean Pitch & Putt Course

Please could this letter be placed on the agenda of the Environment & Sustainability Committee for its meeting on 8th October 2013.

I am requesting that the Chair of the Committee informs committee members of the extent of the negotiations with a leisure company to lease the above site for the purposes of providing a Segway leisure activity and other uses. Segway vehicles are motorised and travel over rough grass at speeds of up to 10mph.

I understand that the other option of incorporating the site within the adjacent Beacon Hill Nature Reserve has been rejected and wish to know the reasons for that decision. The proposed use would seem to be a clear departure from the stated aims of the Biosphere among which were the protection of the chalk grassland and maximum open access for all.

Among the concerns being voiced by local people and conservation groups are:

- The necessity for increased parking provision to be provided on this sensitive Downland site.
- Noise and disturbance to local residents and those wanting to enjoy the peace and quiet of the nature reserve with the activity possibly being marketed to Stag and Hen Party Organisers.
- The disturbance to wildlife habitats, including those of migrating birds crossing the channel.
- The need for barriers across the open countryside to be erected to prevent the vehicles straying onto the nature reserve.
- The degradation of the area as the ground is worn down to the bare chalk.

Could the Chair of the committee also confirm whether this proposal will need planning consent either from the City Council or from the South Downs National Park Authority.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Gill Mitchell
Labour Environment Spokesperson

