

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 two Deputations has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

Deputation concerning Article 4 Planning Requirements & HMOs**(Spokesperson) – Ms J Harding**

“There seems to be a lack of (correct, up-to-date) information about which houses are HMOs, which means that decisions based on this data may be inaccurate.

The *Register of Licensed HMOs* published on the council’s website shows 14 HMO properties in Hollingbury Rd. These include properties for which required planning permission has not yet been applied for, or has been refused. This would make around 10% of the households in the street HMO’s [Source 1]

This deputation urges the council agree to investigate this matter and consider how it can be made clear to all parties concerned that relevant information is made available to ensure that any decisions affecting properties are taken on the basis that such information has been taken into account. Examples might include making more use of internal information (e.g. council tax records), promoting more inter-departmental discussion (e.g. between private housing and planning) or conducting a more detailed audit of the areas.

There is also a need for clarification as to whether when a licence for an HMO is applied for in the City, applicants are automatically told, if it is in one of the Wards covered by the Article 4 Directive, that they will have to apply for ‘change of use’ planning permission as well. If the Private Sector Housing automatically passed on that information to the Planners, they could check whether properties have been converted without necessary permission in place and take appropriate action.

It seems odd to have a data sensitive decision in planning without an up-to-date and accurate set of records.”

Source 1: <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/Register%20of%20Licensed%20HMOs%20-%20web%20page%20Nov%2013.pdf>

Councillor Randall, Chair of the Housing Committee will reply.

Supporting Information:

The *HMO and Student Housing Density: Hollingdean and Stanmer Ward* map shows between 10 and 20.4% of houses in Hollingbury Rd being HMOs. [Source 2]

The residents' own audit suggested that there are at least 29 HMO properties, with a further 35 being unknown. This would make at least 21% of the households in the road HMOs. [Source 3]

Source 2: http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/downloads/ldf/Appendix_2_-_Hollingdean_and_Stanmer_HMO_and_Student_Housing_Density.pdf

Source 3: Full spreadsheet sent to private housing October 2013 – summary as contains names.

HMO	29	0.21
SHO	76	0.54
UNKNOWN	35	0.25

Note:
The people that I spoke to at Planning and Private Housing were both very helpful; this is not a complaint about council services.

Deputation concerning the Brighton Speed Trials**(Spokesperson) – Mr Watts**

“We are contacting you to ask for your support to save the Brighton Speed Trials. The event is the oldest motor sport event in the UK (and possibly the world) and has become a popular highlight on the seafront entertainment calendar. The event has the full support of the MSA; motorsport’s governing body in the UK as well as local retailers

A decision has been made by Brighton and Hove Council to not accept the Brighton and Hove Motor Club application to run the 2014 Brighton Speed Trials on Madeira Drive.

From the comments made this is predominantly due to the current Green Council’s view that this event does not “fit in” with their view of a modern Brighton.

We The Brighton and Hove Motor Club have reason to believe this decision is purely ideological and has little if any foundation in fact.

The loss of this Event will mean the loss of over 100 years of history; this event has been running in Brighton since 1905, and the reason that Madeira Drive was first given a road surface.

It will also mean considerable loss of income to retailers; the Brighton Speed Trials has become a popular attraction to tourists and local residents bringing thousands of people to the seafront for a day trip. We have letters of support from traders highlighting the negative impact the decision will have on their business.

It will also result in the closure of the Brighton and Hove Motor Club and the subsequent loss to the Council of a long standing Tennant in respect of the Club’s Madeira Drive Headquarters. This situation will leave the Council ultimately as being seen as anti motorsport.

We further believe that this ideology will not go away and indications are already in place that it will become a significant factor in the up and coming elections in 2015.

We therefore ask for your support in overturning this decision to end one of Brighton’s oldest events.”

Councillor Bowden, Chair of the Economic Development & Culture Committee will reply.