

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

CULTURE, RECREATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

5.00 PM – 14 NOVEMBER 2007

COUNCIL CHAMBER HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Smith (Chairman); Councillors Bennett, Mrs Brown, Davis (OS), Mrs Drake, Kennedy, Marsh, Mears, Older (DC), West.

PART ONE

ACTION

22. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

22A Declarations of Substitutes

22.1 Councillor Mary Mears declared that she was attending the meeting as a Substitute Member for Councillor Ted Kemble.

22B Declarations of Interest

22.2 Councillors Kennedy and Older declared an interest on items 34 and 37 and they both read out the following declaration:

"I am a member of this Committee and also the Planning Applications Sub-Committee. I will not comment on these reports today, but I will keep an open mind on the merits of these developments and will not make my final decision on the planning application until I have heard all the evidence on these subjects at the Planning Applications Sub Committee."

Councillor Davis declared a non-prejudicial interest on item 27.

22C Exclusion of Press and Public

22.3 The Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of any items contained in the agenda, having regard to the nature of the business to be transacted and the nature of the proceedings and the likelihood as to whether, if members of the press and public were present, there would be disclosure to them of confidential or exempt information as defined in

Schedule 12A, Part 5A, Section 100A(4) or 100 1 of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

22.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be not excluded from the meeting.

23. MINUTES

23.1 **RESOLVED** – That the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

24. CALLOVER

24.1 It was agreed to discuss all items on the agenda.

25. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

25.1 The Chairman informed the Committee that the sculpture at the bottom of West Street in Brighton, called Passacaglia, had been restored and he was pleased to see it restored. The Chairman also informed the Committee that the Hove Museum Tea Rooms would close from 20 November 2007 and that a new catering contract would be in place in due course. The Chairman also indicated that the administration had decided to open the Jubilee Library on Sundays, from April 2008, and that the details about the full range of services would be available shortly. The Committee welcomed the decision.

26. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

26.1 There were no public questions.

27. BRIGHTON & HOVE ARTS COMMISSION

27.1 Jackie Lythell addressed the Committee and explained that the purpose of the presentation was to update the Committee on the key activities of the Arts Commission. She clarified that the Arts Commission was formally launched in January 2005 and that it was currently constituted by 52 individual organisations, which included the public and the private sector as well as freelance organisations.

27.2 She highlighted some of the Commission's functions: that it is an advocate for the arts and culture in the city, nationally and internationally; that it had an advisory function in that it developed policies and makes recommendations to the Council; that it also had a delivery function in terms of delivering a cultural programme.

27.3 She clarified that the Commission was in the process of

developing a business plan, which should be finished by the end of the financial year and that they would be consulting members on its direction. In terms of projects, she highlighted the involvement with the Local Strategic Partnership and the Children's Festival 2007; the continuing support to working groups, especially in the area of dance and the visual arts; the Arts Commission plans to contribute to the Sports Commission for the London 2012 event; and also the proposal of bringing international events to Brighton & Hove. One of such events being considered is the 'White Nights' concept.

27.4 Jackie Lythell took the opportunity to thank the Executive Team of the Arts Commission for all the work they do and have done to take the Commission's projects forward. The Committee also thanked Jackie Lythell for her presentation and participation in today's meeting.

27.5 **RESOLVED –**

1) That the presentation and its content be noted.

28. REVIEW OF FEES AND CHARGES 2008/09: VENUES

28.1 The Committee considered the Report of the Assistant Director of Major Projects and Venues regarding Review of Fees and Charges 2008/09: Venues (for copy see minute book).

28.2 Members were concerned about the proposed 3.8% increase in charges and thought this would be unaffordable for some events. Officers clarified that if there was a loss of customers due to this increment, they would come back to the Committee to seek an amendment to the fees proposed. It was also clarified that the Committee Council meetings get free usage of space and that anything that is not statutory would need to pay.

28.3 **RESOLVED –**

1) That the fees and charges as shown in Appendix B and C be approved in order that they can be incorporated into the 2008/09 Revenue Budget and Venues Business Plan.

29. HOVE CENTRE CATERING

29.1 The Committee considered the Report of the Assistant Director of Major Projects and Venues, which updated Members on the current catering arrangements at the Hove Centre and looked at the future provision of those services (for copy see minute book).

29.2 The Committee welcomed the report and thanked the officers involved in producing it. The Committee especially welcomed the guidelines on the food strategy, which encouraged caterers to use recyclable packaging, and they would like this particular aspect emphasised in the tendering process. The Director of Environment indicated that best practice in terms of recyclable packaging has already been demonstrated at local events in the city. She stated, however, that the Committee would have to decide on the financial implications of this matter if they wished to establish it as a policy.

29.3 Addressing the Committee's concerns about the proposed minimum of 5 years length of contract, which the Committee thought could be high risk if the appointed contractor was not performing to the expected requirements, the Assistant Director of Major Projects and Venues clarified that the contract length was linked to the desire for investment in the bars, serveries and function areas. Five years would enable the Contract Caterer to write this off over the term of the contract. In respect of poor performance, there would be clauses in place which could result in termination of the contract in the event of persistent under performance. He also clarified that the results of the evaluation exercise following the tendering process would be brought back to Committee for decision on who to award the contract.

**David
Fleming**

29.4 **RESOLVED –**

- 1) That the Committee recommends that Policy & Resources Committee authorises officers to draw up and place the necessary notice in trade publications advertising a catering contract for the Hove Centre and inviting companies with relevant experience to register their interest.

30. PRESTON PARK STATUE THEFT

30.1 The Head of Arts and Creative Industries Unit updated Members on this item and explained that the case was now closed as far as police records were concerned, but that one person had been cautioned for handling some of the statue's pieces. She clarified that a like for like replacement would not be possible due to budget constraints. However, Councillors had identified some support towards the replacement of the statue, which had not yet been translated into any financial support.

30.2 The Head of Arts and Creative Industries Unit also indicated that the City Council had proposals for next year to reinstate the one mile running event in Preston Park and officers were proposing locating four statues in different points of the run

event. She indicated that her office would be writing to the artist's family to propose that the replica of the statue be a part of this event.

30.3 Members indicated that they would welcome more local support for statutory imagery and would like to see more memorial figures displayed in the form of statues and monuments throughout the city. The Head of Arts & Creative Industries Unit indicated that such plans would be brought to this Committee in due course.

**Paula
Murray**

30.4 The Committee welcomed the update and thanked the Head of Arts and Creative Industries Unit for presenting it.

30.5 RESOLVED –

1) That the update be noted.

31. PRESENTATION ON LEISURE AND SPORTS PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

31.1 The Acting Head of Leisure Services and the Development Manager of Sport & Leisure Projects led the presentation and highlighted some of the work that is being done on Leisure and Sports for the city, ranging from strategic development (consultation, information and implementation) to partnership work with private, public and voluntary bodies; the delivery of various programmes and events with the objective of promoting fun and enjoyment out of doing sports; encouraging physical activity and increasing the community participation in such activities.

31.2 Some of the programmes highlighted by the officers were the 'Active for Life' project, which has workers developing sports activities in targeted areas in the city and includes an extensive paper database, also available on-line, with details of what goes on in the city in terms of sports and leisure; the 'active seafront', which offers a lot in terms of activities along the seafront, such as beach volleyball, basketball, jogging, cycling and walking; the water sports centre in the Hove Lagoon, offering wind and kite surfing. Further examples in this category were the 'healthwalks' project, the holidays sports and after school activity programme for children. In terms of events, the officers reported on the Yellow Wave Under 21 Volleyball World Championship and the Brighton & Hove Sports festival. Officers were also looking at ways of working with the 2012 Olympics and will use this event to encourage more community participation in sports.

31.3 Members enquired about the strategy that was in place to support the informal use of green spaces. The Director of Environment clarified that the City Council had launched the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. However, this strategy fell under the Environment Committee and was overseen by the urban rangers.

31.4 The Director of Environment also clarified that different initiative programmes would be closing at the end of 2008. However, officers were considering ways to attract more external funding in order to keep the most important ones taking place. Officers would bring an update to the next meeting of the Committee.

**Jenny
Rowlands**

31.5 **RESOLVED -**

1) That the presentation and its information be noted.

32. SPECIAL EVENTS: MADEIRA DRIVE CLOSURE 2008

32.1 The Committee considered the report of the Director of Environment relating to Special Events: Madeira Drive Closure 2008, seeking approval for the associated road closures (for copy see minute book). The Director of Environment clarified that the report set out the events lined up to date.

32.2 Some members were concerned that many of the events proposed were vehicles run events and thought that the Committee should start looking at how many of those should be granted given the pollution factor and the impact on the environment. Other Members also pointed out that these events had been running for many years, that they were tourist attractions and make up the historic Brighton and Hove and, therefore, were important to the city's economy. The Committee generally recognised that this was a relevant factor. However, they would still like to see the city reach a balance between the historic and tourist tradition and the care for the environment.

32.3 The Director of Environment clarified that this was an issue that officers had been looking into. She indicated that her Team was currently working with an external events organiser company with the aim of looking at options to make events more environmentally- friendly. She proposed to bring this to the Committee for information in due course. The committee agreed to it.

**Jenny
Rowlands**

32.4 **RESOLVED –**

1) That the 2008 programme for Special Events on Madeira

Drive and the associated road closures as listed in Appendix A be approved.

- 2) That the Director of Environment, after consulting the Chair and Opposition Spokesperson, be authorised to make any alterations to the events programme as necessary.
- 3) That officers be authorised to enter into formal agreements with event organisers and to determine conditions and fees as appropriate.
- 4) That a report looking at ways to make events more environmentally-friendly be brought to a future Committee meeting.

33. EVENTS PROGRAMME IN PARKS AND OPEN SPACES 2008

33.1 The Committee considered the report of the Director of Environment setting out the proposed programme of special events for the Parks and Open Spaces in 2008 and seeking Landlord's consent (for copy see minute book).

33.2 Councillor West indicated that he had had residents raising concerns about the length of time of some of the proposed events, especially after the problems that occurred last year. He thought that 12.00 am finish for some of the events would be a more acceptable time than 2.00 am finish.

33.3 The Head of Arts and Creative Industries Unit confirmed that, last year, there was a breach of contract at the one of the festival events. She indicated, however, that the enforcement team had been very effective in dealing with the incident and that negotiations had taken place to prevent the same from happening again next year. She also clarified that lateness of hours is part of the festival offers and it is to be expected.

33.4 RESOLVED -

- 1) That consent for the events listed in Appendix A be granted.
- 2) That the Director of Environment, after consulting the Chair and Opposition Spokesperson, be authorised to make any alterations to the events programme as necessary.
- 3) That officers be authorised to continue negotiations with the Brighton Festival and agree the final details for their outdoor events programme for 2008.

- 4) That officers be authorised to enter into formal agreements with event organisers and to determine conditions and fees as appropriate.

34. CIRCUS STREET REDEVELOPMENT - SHORT-TERM USE

34.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services, updating Members on the Circus Street Redevelopment and its proposed short-term use (for copy see minute book).

34.2 Members welcomed the report and praised the Cathedral's project. They were, however, concerned about public safety and proposed that the building had a structural survey taken, as they wanted reassurance that the building is safe before opening to the public.

34.3 The Project Manager of Capital Projects confirmed that this would be addressed and clarified that any repairs and survey taken would be Cathedral's responsibility even though the Council would be inspecting those works.

34.4 **RESOLVED** – That the Committee:

- 1) That the Cathedral's proposed short-term use, and submission of a planning application, for the Circus Street site for consultation, community and cultural uses be noted.
- 2) That the benefits that will arise from those plans (see section 6) and the issues that will be raised (see section 8), together with the plans for taking it forward, be noted.
- 3) That a thorough structural survey of the building be put in place to ensure that the building is safe before it is opened to the public.

35. MAJOR PROJECTS UPDATE

35.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services, updating Members on to the latest position of certain major capital projects that the Major Projects Sub-Committee oversees (for copy see minute book).

35.4 **RESOLVED** –

- 1) That the updates given in the table at section 4 be noted.

36. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

36.1 RESOLVED –

- 1) That no items be referred to Council.

37. INDOOR BOWLS FACILITY

37.1 The Committee considered the report of the Acting Director of Cultural Services relating to the Indoor Bowls Facility.

37.2 The Chairman clarified to Members that the approved King Alfred redevelopment project had not been able to incorporate the existing indoors bowls facility. As a result of this, its developers agreed to finance this facility elsewhere in a suitable site. A proposed site was identified, which had been considered and refused at the Planning Sub-Committee under the previous administration.

37.3 RESOLVED: -

- 1) That officers be authorised to make the necessary amendments to, and to resubmit the Planning Application for the provision of an indoors bowls facility on Hove Park.

38. To consider whether any of the above items

38.1

The meeting concluded at 6.50 pm

Signed

Chairman

Dated this day of

2008