

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

5.00PM – 23 OCTOBER 2003

BRIGHTON

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Mitchell (Chair); Councillors Battle (Deputy Chair), Mrs Drake (OS), Forester, Kemble, Kielty, Morgan, Peltzer Dunn, Smith and Wrighton.

PART ONE

ACTION

70. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

70A. Declarations of Substitutes

70.1 Substitute Councillor For Councillor

Kielty

Fitch

70B. Declarations of Interest

70.2 There were none.

70C. Exclusion of Press and Public

70.3 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 Section 100A(3) or 1001 of the Local Government Act 1972.

70.4 **RESOLVED** - That the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of item 97.

71. MINUTES

71.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2003 be approved and signed by the Chair.

72. CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

72.1 There were none.

73. CALLOVER

73.1 **RESOLVED** - That, with the exception of the items reserved (and marked with an asterisk), the recommendations and resolutions contained therein be approved and adopted without debate, excepting Notices of Motion and Petitions.

74. NOTICE OF MOTION: ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

74.1 The Committee considered the following Notice of Motion submitted to Council on 25 September 2003 by Councillors Elgood, Watkins and Davidson:-

"This Council reiterates its support for the outcome of the recent Best Value Review of Waste and warmly welcomes progress made through the provision of a new dedicated enforcement team dealing with persistent waste problems in the City. However, it notes with concern the perception by many residents, businesses and visitors that problems relating to unclean streets persist.

This Council notes with interest Darlington's high profile Anti-Litter Campaign which pioneered the use of on-the-spot-fines for littering, where it is estimated that around 600 people (between November 2002 and August 2003) have received the £50 fines issued by community wardens and the Council's Environment Response Team. A further number of prosecutions have been made of persistent offenders through court action and a 'naming and shaming' strategy. The scheme has also been praised for pro-actively enlisting the support of residents, traders, businesses and media organisations in the area.

This Council believes this pro-active approach is worthy of further consideration and requests that a full report, outlining the implications of such an anti-litter strategy is brought to the relevant committee, as soon as possible."

74.2 The Chair confirmed that following discussion with Councillor Elgood who was unable to be present at the meeting it had been agreed that consideration of this petition would be deferred and the matter carried forward for consideration at the next scheduled meeting of the Committee due to take place on 11 December 2003.

74.3 **RESOLVED** - That consideration of the petition be deferred and carried forward for consideration at the next scheduled

meeting of the Committee on 11 December 2003.

75. NOTICE OF MOTION: GEORGE STREET PEDESTRIANISATION

75.1 The Committee considered the following Notice of Motion submitted to Council on 25 September 2003 by Councillors Kemble, Mrs Drake, Young, Older, Oxley and Peltzer Dunn:

"This Council notes with concern that:

1. A survey of all the businesses in George Street has shown that the experimental traffic order which extends the hours of pedestrianisation in George Street from 10am-4pm to 10am-6pm, has, in the vast majority of cases, led to a significant downturn in economic activity for those businesses.
2. The extension of pedestrianisation has caused considerable problems for the disabled, who can, effectively, now only access the shops in George Street for one hour first thing in the morning. This situation has serious implications for the Council under Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – Access to Goods and Services.
3. George Street businesses, therefore, stand to lose considerable amounts of money over the Christmas/January sales period as a result of the extension to pedestrianisation. This, in turn, could have a significant impact on local levels of employment in the retail sector.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Use the powers of the Director of Environment to suspend the experimental pedestrianisation extension from October 1st 2003 to allow George Street businesses to maximise their takings over the Christmas and New Year period.
2. Bring forward the proposed January 2004 six month review of the experimental traffic order with a view to permanently restricting the extended pedestrianisation of George Street to the summer months (May-September), when restaurants and bars will wish to utilise the street for longer periods."

75.2 The following amendment to the Notice of Motion was submitted by Councillors Elgood, Watkins and Davidson:

"This Council notes with concern that:

1. A survey of all the businesses in George Street has shown that the experimental traffic order which extends the hours of

pedestrianisation in George Street from 10am-4pm to 10am-6pm, has, in the vast majority of cases, led to a significant downturn in economic activity for those businesses.

The extension of pedestrianisation has caused considerable problems for the disabled, who can, effectively, now only access the shops in George Street for one hour first thing in the morning. This situation has serious implications for the Council under Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – Access to Goods and Services.

3. George Street businesses, therefore, stand to lose considerable amounts of money over the Christmas/January sales period as a result of the extension to pedestrianisation. This, in turn, could have a significant impact on local levels of employment in the retail sector.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Use the powers of the Director of Environment to suspend the experimental pedestrianisation extension ~~from October 1st 2003~~ *during December 2003* to allow George Street businesses to maximise their takings over the Christmas and New Year period.
2. Bring forward the proposed January 2004 six month review of the experimental traffic order with a view to permanently restricting the extended pedestrianisation of George Street to the summer months (May-September), when restaurants and bars will wish to utilise the street for longer periods."

75.3 The Chair referred to the advice given at Council on 25 September by the Director of Strategy and Governance and Monitoring Officer that under existing legislation it was not possible to amend an experimental traffic order (except in clearly proscribed circumstances) during the first six months of its operation. Whilst the concerns expressed were noted, it was considered important to monitor the current restriction properly in the light of operating experience and to carry out a detailed review

75.4 Councillor Peltzer Dunn, Mrs Drake and Kemble expressed their disappointment that this matter could not be carried forward prior to the Christmas trading period and expressed the view that a precedent already existed in terms of George Street and considered that grounds existed to revisit the experimental order on the grounds that amending the hours during which the restriction was to operate would improve the amenities of the area. Further clarification regarding the legal position was sought

and a response given by the solicitor to the Committee.

Having considered the matters raised a vote was taken and the majority of Members present were of the view that there was insufficient evidence to support an alteration to the existing temporary traffic order at the present time

75.5 **RESOLVED** - That the Notice of Motion be received and noted but that as it is not considered that there are sufficient grounds to amend the existing temporary order prior to the expiry of the six month period specified in relation to such orders; that the results of the current review be brought before the Committee in January 2004 for their further consideration.

76. PETITION: "NO WAITING" RESTRICTION ON THE NORTH SIDE OF VARNDEAN ROAD

76.1 The Committee received the following petition, signed by 32 people, presented at Council on 25 September 2003 by Councillor K Norman:

Petition received from Grosvenor Court (Brighton) Tenants' Association Limited relating to the proposed "No Waiting" restriction on the north side of Varndean Road:-

"We the undersigned residents of Grosvenor Court, call upon the Brighton and Hove City Council to reconsider the recently proposed "No Waiting" restriction on the north side of Varndean Road and to consider alternative suggestions such as to widen the road, and thus preserve the green verge and aid the flow of traffic."

76.2 Councillor Norman referred to the concerns of local residents regarding disbenefits that could arise from the Waiting Restriction as proposed and to their proposed alternatives. Whilst noting the comments made, the Chair explained that as the item had not been reserved for discussion the recommendations had been agreed including those relating to Varndean Road.

76.3 Following further discussion it was requested that this matter be referred forward to the next meeting of Council. This was agreed, but the Chair reiterated that as a decision had already been taken by the Committee the item could only go on a "for information" basis. It was subsequently agreed that this item would not be referred forward to Council.

76.4 **RESOLVED** - That the petition be received and noted.

77. PETITION: CLOSURE OF BOUNDARY ROAD TO THE PUBLIC

77.1 The Committee received the following petition, signed by 164 people, presented at Council on 25 September 2003 by Councillor Mitchell (The Chair):-

"Due to the lack of security and the continuing rise of vandalism to the properties of Arundel Street (East Side) via Boundary Road, we are strongly requesting the urgent closure of Boundary Road to the public, with key access for all residents of Arundel Street (East Side)."

77.2 **RESOLVED** - That the petition be received and its content noted and a report prepared for consideration by the Committee as soon as practicable.

78. PETITION: GRAFFITI ON THE RUGBY HUT IN HOVE PARK

78.1 The Committee received the following petition, signed by 70 people, presented at Council on 25 September 2003 by Councillor Bennett:

"We ask the Council to address the problem of graffiti on the rugby hut in Hove Park and arrange for it to be cleaned as soon as possible as it spoils the amenity and enjoyment of this beautiful green flag park."

78.2 The Chair referred to the item stating that the comments received had been forwarded to City Clean and the enforcement officers who would liaise in order to undertake measures to resolve this problem.

78.3 **RESOLVED** - That the petition be received and noted and that further action be taken by City Clean and the enforcement officers to address the problem and to seek to remove the graffiti.

79(a) PETITION: REQUEST FOR GOLDSTONE ROAD TO BECOME A HOME ZONE

79.1 The Committee received the following petition, signed by 85 people, presented at Council on 25 September 2003 by Councillor Battle (Deputy Chair):-

"We the undersigned, of Goldstone Road, are concerned about the speed of traffic and the amount of rubbish (due to seagulls pecking open the bin bags) and would like our street to be turned into a Home Zone, with traffic calming, trees, areas for bins, room for bikes to be parked and space for children to play."

79.2 The Chair referred to the petition received noting the interest shown and referring to the report relating to the pilot "Home Zones" scheme appearing elsewhere on the agenda

(Item 84). Whilst the positive response to the pilot scheme was welcomed, further approaches could not be considered at the present time prior to the commencement and completion of the current pilot. All streets in both Goldsmid and Hanover had been subject to a technical assessment and had received a ranked score to place them in a priority order. The streets selected for the pilot had been those which had received the highest ranked score in both Goldsmid and Hanover. The streets from which these latest requests had been received were not amongst the highest ranked and as such it would not therefore be possible to consider them at the present time above other streets which had been ranked higher, as to do so would undermine the prioritisation system.

79.3 RESOLVED - That the petition be received and its contents noted.

79(b) PETITION: REQUEST FOR CISSBURY ROAD TO BECOME A HOME ZONE

79.4 The Committee received a petition, signed by 47 people, presented at Council on 25 September 2003 by Cissbury Road Residents' Association in response to the Home Zone Survey of July 2003 requesting that Cissbury Road become a Home Zone. The Chair reiterated her comments made in respect of Item 79(a) above. The streets from which these latest requests had been received were not amongst the highest ranked and as such it would not therefore be possible to consider them at the present time above other streets which had been ranked higher, as to do so would undermine the prioritisation system.

79.5 RESOLVED - That the petition be received and noted. And responses outlining the current position prepared for the local Ward Councillors.

80. LETTER: IMPACT OF BUILDING WORKS THAT INTRUDE ONTO PAVEMENTS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

80.1 The Committee considered a letter from Councillors Williams and Paskins requesting a review of measures to minimise the impact of building works that intrude onto pavements and public rights of way in throughout the city, was considered (for copy see minute book).

80.2 The Chair referred to work to be carried out by the new licensing inspection unit to ameliorate obstructions and other nuisances resulting from building and other works constructing footways / highways across the City stating that it would be useful if this could form the subject of a report back to Committee

outlining the work being undertaken.

80.3 **RESOLVED** - That the petition be received and noted and that a report detailing the work being undertaken by the Licensing Inspection Unit be prepared for consideration by the Committee as soon as practicable.

81. LETTER: GEORGE STREET, HOVE

81.1 The Committee considered a letter from Councillor Kemble in relation to George Street, Hove requesting a review of measures to assist shoppers and trader in the run-up to Christmas (for copy see minute book).

81.2 Councillor Kemble referred to his disappointment that the Committee did not feel able to amend the current temporary restriction in the run up to the Christmas trading period and referred to data which he had collected which indicated the severe trading pressures being experienced by businesses in the street, in their view exacerbated in part by the restriction. He agreed to make that information available to the head of the Traffic Management Section.

81.3 **RESOLVED** - that the letter be received and noted.

*** 82. MONTH 4 BUDGET FORECAST**

82.1 The Committee considered a report of the Chief Finance Officer detailing the forecast for the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account Budgets which had previously been reported to Policy and Resources Committee (for copy see minute book).

82.2 In answer to questions the Director of Environment explained that although the collection of green waste had ceased at the end of the summer period, as this had been projected it would not impact on the overall budget outturn. The increase in multi-collection was also welcomed and the Director explained that it was anticipated that this would increase to 20% by the end of the current financial year.

82.3 The improved figures for the turn around in processing planning applications, 70% within 8 weeks were welcomed and it was noted that this particular performance indicator had been consistently high throughout the year.

82.4 **RESOLVED** - That the Performance indicator results achieved during the first quarter 2003 /04 as detailed in the abridged Quarter 1 Best Value Performance Report 2003 / 04 (appended), be noted.

*** 83. QUARTER 1 BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE REPORT 2003/04**

83.1 The Committee considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services presenting the 2003/04 quarterly performance indicator (PI) results for all indicators for which the Environment Committee is the Service Committee. These indicators are taken from the statutory Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) suite (for copy see minute book).

83.2 The Chair explained that this item had been referred to all executive Committees by the Policy and Resources Committee for their information and to draw attention to the issues of the relevant to the operation of each. Members noted the projected overspends and the measures taken where appropriate to address and reduce them, noting that all Directorates were preparing detailed action plans to reduce the projected forecast with the target of achieving a breakeven position by the year end.

83.3 **RESOLVED** – That the report be noted.

*** 84. DEVELOPMENT OF PILOT HOME ZONES IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE**

84.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment detailing the progress made on the project to develop pilot Home Zones in the Goldsmid and Hanover and Elm Grove Wards (for copy see minute book).

84.2 The report also sought approval to cease work on the Goldsmid Scheme (Chanctonbury Road) due to the lack of support for the concept of a Home Zone from residents.

84.3 Following the consultation undertaken with residents of Chanctonbury Road, where little support had been shown for the concept of a Home Zone, it was considered that it would not be appropriate to progress the scheme. Further approval was therefore sought to cease work on the Goldsmid Scheme (Chanctonbury Road). In Hanover however, residents had been positive in their support for the scheme and as a result it was anticipated that it would be possible to deliver an effective and popular scheme for that area.

84.4 **RESOLVED** - (1) That the Committee notes the report and the progress made to date in progressing and developing Pilot Home Zones in the Goldsmith and Hanover wards;

(2) That it be agreed that no further work be carried out to the

project to develop a Pilot Home Zone in Goldsmid (Chanctonbury Road) in view of the lack of support from residents.

85. A270 – SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT CORRIDOR

85.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment giving notice that a letter of objection to the proposed Traffic Regulation Order had been received (for copy see minute book).

85.2 **RESOLVED** - That the Traffic Regulation Order as advertised, be approved.

86. SOUTH COAST CYCLE ROUTE – NCN 2 – SECTION 5, ROTTINGDEAN TO SALTDEAN

86.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment seeking approval for consultation on the revocation of Undercliff Byelaw (1969) to enable cycling on the undercliff access (for copy see minute book).

86.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That approval be given in principle to the revocation of the Undercliff Byelaw (1969) to enable cycling to take place on the undercliff access ; and

(2) That the Traffic Regulation Order to permit cycling on the undercliff access be advertised.

87. RESIDENTS PARKING – AREAS A AND F EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC ORDER

87.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment detailing objections received in the first six months to the experimental Traffic Regulation Order and seeking approval for the Order to be made permanent at the end of the eighteen month period (for copy see minute book).

87.2 Notwithstanding the objections received regarding the impact of the experimental order on operational and visitor parking for the services at the Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital in Dyke Road, it was recommended that these objections be set aside.

87.3 For streets close by the hospital - within 2 minutes average walk time – conversion to residents bays had taken place in Buckingham Road (as far north as Albert Road – 8 bays), Alexandra Villas (15 bays), Alfred Road (2 bays) and Albert Road (14 bays). Within the similar walk area there were 125 free parking spaces and a further 15 voucher parking spaces in Clifton Terrace. It was therefore considered that there remained sufficient

flexibility in the on - street parking arrangements to support the operation of the hospital and accommodate visitors where they need to arrive by car.

87.4 **RESOLVED** - That approval be given for the Experimental Traffic Regulation Order as advertised to made permanent on its expiry.

88. RESIDENTS PARKING – AREA C, UPPER ST JAMES'S STREET/BRISTOL ROAD AREA AND QUEEN'S PARK AREA

88.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment concerning the effectiveness of the existing Area "C" Scheme and the existing parking problems in the neighbouring uncontrolled areas. It identified potential changes that will assist in addressing local parking difficulties (for copy see minute book).

88.2 The report gave consideration to the effectiveness of the existing Area C Scheme and the existing parking problems in the neighbouring uncontrolled areas and identified potential changes that would assist in addressing local parking difficulties. It was recommended that the extent of changes identified for the introduction of an enlarged Area C Scheme incorporating the Upper St. James' Street, Bristol Road and Queens Park area be agreed in principle and that the proposals were put out for local consultation.

88.3 **RESOLVED** – That the extent of changes identified for the introduction of an enlarged Area C Scheme incorporating the Upper St. James' Street, Bristol Road and Queens Park areas to be agreed in principle and put out for local consultation.

*** 89. NORTH LAINE TRAFFIC CALMING (PHASE 3) – GARDNER STREET**

89.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment seeking approval to undertake a full public consultation on the preliminary design for the North Laine Traffic Calming Scheme (Phase 3) in Gardner Street (for copy see minute book).

89.2 Members noted that the scheme had been prepared based on the previous and successful phases of the North Laine Traffic Calming Scheme in Sydney Street and Bond Street. The proposal primarily comprised resurfaced and widened footways allowing pedestrians greater ease of movement, together with raised tables in the carriageway enabling pedestrians to cross at the level. These measures together with the "throttles" created by the footway widening would also reduce vehicle speeds. Although the scheme would remove general parking from the

street but provision for loading and disabled parking would be retained which was designed to help reduce the number of vehicles entering the street.

89.3 During the consultation period requests had been received for the street to be pedestrianised for at least part of the day. The Scheme Steering Group had considered these requests, but as the nature of the businesses in the street relied heavily both on deliveries being made and customers collecting goods throughout the day had decided not to recommend further pedestrianisation at the current time.

89.4 **RESOLVED** – That approval be given to undertake full public consultation on the preliminary design for the North Laine Traffic Calming Scheme (Phase 3) in Gardner Street.

90. RAPHAEL ROAD AND ST ANDREW'S ROAD – PROPOSED LEGAL DISABLED BAYS

90.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment detailing objections received to proposed parking restrictions in Raphael Road, Hove and St Andrew's Road, Portslade and seeking approval for the proposals to be implemented (for copy see minute book).

90.2 **RESOLVED** - That approval be given to the making of the Brighton & Hove (Waiting and Loading / Unloading Restrictions and Parking Places) consolidation Order 2001 Amendment no 2 Order 2003 as advertised.

91. VARIOUS WAITING RESTRICTIONS IN BRIGHTON AND HOVE

91.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment detailing objections received to proposed parking amendments in Cumberland Road, Matlock Road, Maldon Road, Dyke Road, Varndean Road, Wilbury Avenue and Hove Park Villas and seeking approval for the proposals to be implemented (for copy see minute book).

91.2 **RESOLVED** – (1) That approval be given to the making of the Order as advertised including as follows :-

- (i) Hove Park Villas and Wilbury Avenue - to reduce the double yellow lines on the junctions whilst keeping a minimum to keep the junction clear ;
- (ii) Matlock Road, Maldon Road and Dyke Road - to implement a minimum double yellow line restriction around the junctions to ensure the junctions are clear and to introduce

a length of limited waiting by the shops ;

- (iii) Cumberland Road – to reduce the single yellow line restriction to 12pm to 1pm double yellow line on the junctions ; and
- (iv) Varndean Road - to introduce lengths of new double yellow line restrictions on the north side of the road.

NB: Notwithstanding that Councillor K Norman had attended to present a petition received from the Grosvenor Court Residents Association (item 76 above) detailing suggested amendments to the proposals relating to Varndean Road (iv above) as the item was not “called” it was deemed as having been agreed without discussion. It was agreed that this would be referred to Council, but having noted that this could only be on a “for information” basis it was subsequently agreed that this would not go forward.

*** 92. SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE FOR LAND AT HOLLINGDEAN DEPOT/ABATTOIR**

92.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment detailing the stages of preparing the Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) through to final publication and seeking approval for the draft SPG for land at Hollingdean Depot/Abattoir and for the proposed public consultation of the SPG (for copy see minute book).

92.2 The Director of Environment Explained that the council was required to address urgent waste management needs within the City and that the implementation of this initiative would assist the Council in achieving higher recycling rates in line with national and regional policies and Waste Local Plan targets. The SPG / Planning brief sought to reinforce the Council's aims and objectives for the site and would be used to guide and inform developers, other stakeholders and community groups who were interested in the development of the site.

92.3 Councillor Wrighton referred to the potential impact on local residents and the need to consult as widely as possible. Councillor Smith referred to the need to deal with the Planning issues sensitively.

92.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the stages and associated timetable for preparing and publishing the SPG be approved ;

(2) The text of the “draft” SPG for land at Hollingdean Depot / Abattoir be approved as set out in Appendix 2 of the report ; and

(3) Agreement be given to public the "draft" SPG for a six week period of public consultation commencing on 12 November 2003 and to close on 24 December 2003.

*** 93. DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE – ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY IN DEVELOPMENTS**

93.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment seeking approval to publish the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance note for public consultation prior to seeking approval as Supplementary Planning Guidance (for copy see minute book).

93.2 The Director of Environment explained that an SPG formed a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and would also go some way towards meeting the requirements of the Government White paper "Our Energy Future - Creating a Low Carbon Economy" which set a national target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050. The proposed SPG would also provide relevant guidance to developers and applicants to stimulate their thinking and give examples of how applicants could incorporate renewable energy efficiency measures into the design of buildings.

93.3 Members welcomed the SPG and several commented on the need to encourage developers to consider such issues as orientation of a site and planting schemes as well as the utilisation of recyclable elements where practicable.

93.4 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (Appendix2) on renewable energy and energy efficiency be approved for public consultation ;

(2) The Director of Environment be instructed to consult widely on the Draft Supplementary Planning guidance Note and report responses back to the Committee for their further consideration and approval; and

(3) Requests that the draft guidance note be reported to the Planning Applications Sub-Committee and the Sustainability Commission for their information.

*** 94. THE TALL BUILDINGS STUDY**

94.1 The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment detailing the broad conclusions of the Tall Buildings Study, the recommended content of the Supplementary Planning Guidance note and the consultation process that will be

undertaken (for copy see minute book).

94.2 The Director of Environment explained that a study had been undertaken by the Council's Urban Design Consultants, and that the study was strategic taking a broad look at the city and its ability to absorb taller developments and opportunities to benefit from increasing urban density by building tall and that this work was driven by a national agenda to secure sustainable development and 'an urban renaissance'.

94.3 A checklist of criteria had been developed against which all tall building proposals would be assessed. It also recommended areas (in the form of nodes and corridors), where opportunities for taller developments exist. These areas were non-site specific and would require more detailed local area analysis, whether by the Council through its local plan/urban capacity studies or by applicants when justifying their specific proposals as one of the first in the country, and followed the approach recommended by English Heritage and the Commission for Architecture and the built environment.

94.4 It was proposed that public consultation took place over the next four weeks to include general publicity through the local media, as well as further consultation with key stakeholders including business groups, amenity groups, English Heritage and CABE.

94.5 It was noted that the total fees for the Tall Buildings Study were £33,690.00. The total costs are £37,222 including printing. This will be funded from a grant which has reimbursed the Council's costs incurred in an INTERREG project.

94.6 Members welcomed and supported the Study notwithstanding references by Councillor Peltzer Dunn to various inaccuracies, in his view; the need to give Hove due prominence within the study and the need to adequately protect the western sea front corridor. It was noted that the information contained in the study would be conveyed to Members of the Planning Applications Sub-Committee who would also received training as appropriate.

94.7 **RESOLVED** – (1) That the conclusions of the Tall Buildings Study be noted and supported ;

(2) That the broad content of the public consultation draft of the Tall Buildings Supplementary Planning Guidance Note (SPG) be agreed ; and

(3) Agrees the proposed consultation strategy for the SPG.

*** 95. AUDIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINS**

95.1 The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive concerning the impact noise from train horns fitted to the new South Central rolling stock were having on local residents and measures that had been encouraged to address this. (for copy see minute book).

95.2 The report also responded to a letter submitted by Councillor Williams questioning the time taken by the Council's Environmental Health Team to respond to complaints from residents and the time taken to seek Counsel's Opinion.

95.3 The Director of Environment explained that contact was made with the Department for Transport, South Central, Network Rail, and the Strategic Rail Authority, The Rail Passengers Committee and The Rail Safety and Standards Board, and other local authorities and that complainants had been also asked to complete noise diary sheets detailing when and how they were affected by the noise. In May 2003 all the information and data requested from various rail bodies and organisations had been received.

95.4 During recent weeks a temporary derogation had been issued by the Rail Safety and Standards Board allowing drivers not to use their horns in the smaller tunnels at Ditchling Road and Hove. The Rail Safety and Standards Board are routinely issuing advice and this includes positive information on the research and trials being done to change the design and use of train horns Appendix A to the report. Since the derogation the Council had been receiving positive feedback from residents about the change. The Council was however continuing to work with the various interested bodies and organisations and would continue to keep residents informed.

95.5 Members welcomed the work that had been carried out to date and were pleased to note that the matter would continue to be kept under review.

95.6 **RESOLVED** - That the report and action taken to date be noted. The Committee also noted that this issue would be kept under review and that work would continue with the various bodies and organisations with an interest in this matter.

96. ITEMS TO GO FORWARD TO COUNCIL

RESOLVED - That Item 91 relating to Various waiting Restrictions in Brighton & Hove be referred to Council for information. It was subsequently agreed that this item would not go forward.

97. SUMMARY OF EXEMPT ITEMS

**97.1 AUDABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINS – EXEMPT CATEGORY
12**

97.2 The details of advice received from Counsel in respect of this matter was noted.