

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.

Deputations received:

(i) Deputation: Valley Gardens scheme outdoor event space

Urgent action is needed to ensure that many City centre events can continue to operate after 2019 and that works proposed for VG Phases 1& 2 and designs for Phase 3 are future-proofed to fully accommodate our established flagship outdoor events. As things stand, organisers have no reliable knowledge of their future which is of grave concern to them and could be devastating for not just them, their contractors, suppliers, staff and performers but for the City's entire cultural offering and status as a World Class destination.

In previous Committees concern has been expressed regarding the preservation of and provision for, space and infrastructure to accommodate outdoor events on Valley Gardens such as the Brighton Fringe sites, Pride Pleasure Gardens and others. The events sector was a significant part of the Business Case to the LEP and assurances have been given by the Administration that the Valley Gardens scheme will be designed to accommodate outdoor events.

However, there is concern that event organisers are not being suitably consulted for input and feedback on proposed or amended designs as the project is developed. The Council are aware from previous years' events as to what organisers need and as such it should be straightforward to design and plan for these events in terms of space, infrastructure, access/egress and works scheduling. But as recently as 12th March organisers of Brighton Fringe are concerned that arrangements with Valley Gardens 1 & 2 for May 2019 are still not complete.

Detailed designs in the Valley Gardens Phase 1&2 area for 2020 and beyond have yet to be produced despite construction work continuing. We welcome some verbal assurances being given but a level of formal confirmation is needed as soon as possible.

We are also concerned that the proposed design on the Old Steine, as part of Valley Gardens Phase 3, will not suitably facilitate established and distinctive outdoor events such as Brighton Spiegeltent, Pride Pleasure Gardens Japan Festival, Rugby World Cup event etc.

The Tourism, Development & Culture Committee recently passed the new Outdoor Events Strategy to 2024. We welcome and applaud the strategy for enhancement and capacity-building of the sector and support for infrastructure investment - but the current status of Valley Gardens Phases 1, 2 & 3 would appear to make that strategy largely unworkable.

For all these events to properly operate the following need to be properly considered:

- Safe HGV access/egress points on and off site (including the need for vehicle access to the perimeter around Old Steine Gardens in particular)
- Hard standing areas and effective drainage
- Provision of 3 phase power
- Mains water supply and access to waste water drainage
- Park/street furniture within the sites (benches, bins etc) and lighting to be removable
- Landscaping or planting of trees, shrubs, beds etc should fully allow for the flexible and multiple-use nature of these spaces

The establishment of event-ready infrastructure will critically assist reducing environmental impacts managing power and water more efficiently and reducing waste and carbon emissions.

Events of this scale take many months in the planning and organisers have an unreasonable level of uncertainty over events that start in little over seven weeks' time - and virtually no idea where they will stand in 2020 and beyond. International sponsors, partner investors and participants are currently reluctant to engage with this part of the Brighton cultural sector given the high level of concern for the future viability of medium & large-scale sustainable events. Without their support our local, established and distinctive independent events such as these cannot operate. Please can the Chair of ETS Committee provide assurance that a framework for ongoing consultation with our Brighton events industry will be established as a matter of urgency, including regular meetings between event organisers and key Council officers, and these reported back to Committee to ensure that concerns are properly dealt with and confirmations made.

Signed by:

Ian Baird (Lead Spokesperson)

Mat Cook

Gareth Hance

Adrian Bristow

Simon Byford

Julian Caddy

(ii) Deputation: Climate Emergency

We are really pleased that Brighton & Hove City Council has taken a decisive step by declaring the existence of a Climate Emergency. We recognise that this is a huge challenge, and that no single individual, group or organisation has all the answers to get us on a zero-carbon pathway track towards 2030. We understand that the council has limited resources, and a huge number of important and competing priorities. We also recognise that talking to people about sustainability and the need for urgent and sustained action is complex, and arouses many competing emotions in us all, from anger and frustration to fear and denial.

We would like to offer support to the process of developing plans, and would propose these guiding principles:

1. **Emergency means emergency.** Declaring an emergency implies a fundamental response that permeates all aspects and areas over which the council has influence; not business-as-usual with a few carbon-friendly things tacked on.
2. **No half-measures.** We want to be at zero by 2030 – so we need to look ahead and “back-cast”: in other words, asking where you need to be, and then asking what you need to do between now and then to get there.
3. **Tell the truth.** People need to understand the importance and urgency of the requirement. This can only happen if we share full information about the scale of the issue and of our concern. People across Brighton & Hove will need to feel involved in the efforts to achieve zero carbon, on a similar scale to the efforts involved in the Second World War. This will require sensitive publicity and PR work to achieve understanding and acceptance.
4. **Consistency.** We cannot declare a climate emergency on one hand and make contradictory decisions in other spheres. We are all familiar with the cognitive dissonance we experience in relation to climate change and our own sometimes contradictory behaviours – we need to work to address this together, in a spirit of mutual tolerance but with a clear aim to ensure decisions across council, without exception, are in line with achieving zero-carbon by 2030.
5. **Time horizons are key.** The political cycle is short and often combative. We need to recognise that decisions we are making now are crucial for the futures of generations ahead, and act together accordingly.
6. **One Planet Living principles.** We all need to move to consuming resources compatible with living on one planet, not three.

Projects such as the Deep Decarbonisation Pathways Project, and Zero Carbon Britain have demonstrated clearly that there already exists the potential to enable us to achieve a similar level of economy and daily life as we have now under a deeply decarbonised system, at a reasonable additional cost, by addressing the three ‘pillars’ of (1) Energy efficiency; (2) Decarbonising the electricity system; and (3) Looking at end-use fuel switching (from fossil fuels to electricity) for activities such as driving and cooking. Additionally, increasing carbon sinks through extensive tree-planting programmes. We have the following specific requests:

- 1) For groups in the city – such as Hanover Action, BPEC, Friends of the Earth, and Extinction Rebellion - to be invited to work with the sustainability team towards mobilising different communities to support what needs to be achieved. Communities to be consulted as part of this, to build ownership for what is needed.

- 2) For all committee decisions to have quantifiable carbon reductions and other sustainability implications made explicit, setting out how far they advance us towards carbon-neutrality 2030.
- 3) To consider carefully what other cities have done / are doing. We welcome the idea of linking Brighton & Hove with the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance.
- 4) To develop an Action plan + community mobilisation plan with timelines and clear outcomes by late summer 2019 at the latest.

Signed by:

Les Gunbie (Lead Spokesperson)

Dr Paul Norman

Sue Booth

Katy Young

Tracy Hind

Ian Macintyre