



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

**ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT &
SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
ADDENDUM**

4.00PM, THURSDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2019

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

(i) Aquarium Roundabout- Beatrice Segura Harvey

“BHCC reports the number of accidents in this area but numbers in relation to volume of traffic are actually low. It is widely believed that the only most serious injury encountered by a pedestrian in proximity to the Aquarium Roundabout in the last five years was caused by a collision between a cyclist and a pedestrian. Is it possible for Brighton & Hove City Council to verify or clarify this?”

(ii) Aquarium Roundabout- David Rochford

“It is universally accepted that roundabouts are safer than traditional signal-controlled stops. Roundabouts reduced injury crashes by 75 percent at and around intersections where traffic lights were previously used. As well as being safer calmer and improving traffic flow, they are also cheaper to install and maintain than T junctions. Wider circulatory roundabouts are judged to be more future-proof and appropriate in a coming age of autonomous electric vehicles. On what basis did consultants ‘prefer’ a signalised junction over an improved remodelled roundabout?”

(iii) Valley Gardens consultation- Martin Christie

“Valley Gardens Forum’s dialogue with Coast 2 Capital informed us that there is no requirement for the agreed funding to be drawn down this financial year. Also that, as Valley Gardens 3 is a vitally important, once in a generation project, a suitable and appropriate timespan should be taken to ensure that it is done planned properly. Is the botched and rushed consultation and planning due to the electoral timetable of Councillor elections in May?”

(iv) Air pollution- Gary Farmer

“Harmful road traffic pollutants are at their most dangerous within the first 100m of the traffic with a drop off to near background levels within 200m downwind and 300m upwind. Current levels around the Old Steine already breach WHO targets and European law. This proposal doubles traffic on one side of the road within 10m of residences & businesses with increased stop-start traffic, buses in conflict with private vehicles, lorries & coaches – noise

levels doubled, acknowledged increased levels of air pollution. How can BHCC, Green Party councillors consider this acceptable for Brighton and the people who live here?”

(v) Valley Gardens Phase 3- Tam Duy Dao

“The reviewed plan has now added additional parking for 6 bays in front of listed buildings opposite the historic Victoria Fountain in which I live. In addition to 6 lanes of traffic outside my house how does the scheme which is designed to "ease traffic" imagine that 6 parking bays, a bus stop and 6 lanes of traffic waiting outside my house will in anyway make our lives, my home, my health, the facilities and events that use this avenue and the environment any better?”

(vi) Valley Gardens Phase 3 Business Case- Nic Roe

“Outside of the desk based research conducted by appointed consultant Mott Macdonald, what , if any, qualitative research, detailed third party advice or consultation was carried out in preparation of the approved Business Case for the project?”

(vii) Valley Gardens Phase 3 Design- Andy Roberts

“Apart from Council Officers, the Project Board and external consultants Mott Macdonald, were any other councillors, other BHCC departments, organisations, businesses or lobby special interest groups involved in selecting and drawing up the ‘preferred’ Option 1 from a working list of 44 plans and the eventual shortlist of 4 plans?”

(viii) Valley Gardens Phase 3 Design- Mirek Golabek

“Under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 relating to the land at 6-7 Old Steine a sustainable transport contribution sum paid to the council was £20,000 for a footway island. Initial option 1 plans did not meet this criteria and were reviewed. The revised plans do not meet this requirement, there is no footway island and concerns regarding the space and how it is vital for the viability of businesses in the area have been paved over. Why has the council ignored this matter and will we receive the island as agreed 5 years ago?”

(ix) Valley Gardens Event Space – Julian Caddy

“The Business Case for the Valley Gardens redevelopment cites several references to enhancing quality and capacity of event spaces. However, the quality for mid to large-scale events will be severely compromised through the lack of adequate allowance for power, water, waste and access, and capacity will be greatly reduced across VG Phases 1-3. New, often smaller, events sites are created without adequate consultation, while existing ones (Victoria Gardens, St Peter’s Church North and Old Steine) are either left unimproved or rendered unsuitable for future use. What assurance can the Committee give that fit-for-purpose space will indeed increase within current plans?”

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 Phase 3- To express the concerns of the Valley Gardens Forum

The Valley Gardens Forum is a group of central Brighton residents, public sector organisations and businesses, small & large, sharing concerns about the Council's plan to remodel the centre of the city.

Supporters include: local residents, North Laine Traders, Brighton Lanes Traders, Seafront Traders Association, Kemptown Traders Group, Brighton Fringe, Brighton Events Group, Brighton and Hove Taxi Forum, Tourism Alliance, Pavilion Surgery, Brighton Language College, Brighton & Hove Restaurant Association, Brighton Grassroots Music Venues, Sainsbury's Local, Marlborough Pub & Theatre, Palace Pier, Royal Albion Hotel, Brighton Old Town Local Action Team, The Kingscliffe Society and other residents' groups, 'KIBS' sector employers including solicitors, surveyors, digital start-ups and more..

Our diverse and lively group is exactly the kind of sounding board the relevant local councillors should want to encourage and engage with at the earliest stages of reimagining our critical infrastructure in the city. There is no hidden agenda - or singular viewpoint. An accessible conglomerate of people who live, work and love in Brighton.

Yet somehow, something has gone seriously wrong with Valley Gardens 3. Everyone I've listed around the community feels marginalised and ignored. Even if the current plans were outstandingly good; the seismic shift in direction which the project has taken in the last 3 months, the perceived arrogance displayed by the administration, officer and consultants alike and a feeling we are being 'steamrollered' is baffling.

Having 36 hours to prepare formal questions to the latest plan with new and significant changes does not feel like appropriate process. We received the updated plans on Wednesday late afternoon and have read a report a report that beyond the officially sanctioned consultation, makes no reference to numerous community representations and submissions since the last ETS committee meeting.

We're desperately worried about the implications for air quality on the East side of Old Steine. Kemptown residents and businesses feel marginalised in this current scheme by the physical roadway barrier from Edward Street to Madeira Place, and there are wide concerns for our much-loved city events landscape. And at a time when local services are starved of resources, too many people are sleeping on the city's streets and Brighton's existing public infrastructure is not being adequately maintained, Brighton & Hove City Council are not winning the argument that an additional £8m of public money should be devoted to this.

No one would disagree with the strategic imperative of “making it difficult to drive into the city” so that people would do it less. And we’d all agree there should be less cars in the overcrowded centre. But the way to achieve this is a holistic solution that leads from the outside in with an attractive Park and Ride scheme supported with affordable, modern and reliable public transport; to ensure that old and young, able-bodied or not, remain welcome in our wonderful city. It feels like Valley Gardens is trying to solve this huge and complex issue by working in reverse from the very centre. Opinions of lobbyists who talk of winners and losers, omelettes and broken eggs in relation to their own narrow agendas should not be the only voice in the room.

Valley Gardens will have an impact that lasts a generation. The Valley Gardens Forum is an opportunity to help rather than obstruct your mission. The open discussion initiated within the Forum so far, strongly suggests that a consensus is perfectly achievable - with diverse, highly-engaged and non-partisan stakeholders who hope to engage with councillors and all specialist Council officers. Prominent councillors from all three political groups have engaged with our views to jointly urge a constructive short pause - without preconditions - in order to reset, rebuild trust and develop a scheme that we can all be proud of. We urge the administration and the ETS Committee to accept this collegiate way forward.

Signed by:

Daniel Nathan (Lead Spokesperson)

Michelle Spicer

Karl Jones

Roger Rolfe

Anne Ackord

Simon Thetford

John Healy

Diana Palmer