

Geoff Raw – Chief Executive  
Brighton & Hove City Council

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2019

Dear Geoff

We are submitting this letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee meeting of 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Patcham Peace Gardens is loving looked after by members of the U3A supported by our rangers. This is a formal garden more designed for quiet contemplation. Families and surviving partners commission memorials such as benches and trees and last year it was one of just four public spaces designated as a Centenary Field to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War one. There is a larger open space adjacent that is also used for memorials to loved ones now passed away.

For years, as a community, we have had to deal with acts of vandalism and theft. For some the space is no longer hospitable because of anti-social behaviour and drug use/misuse.

In recent years we have had to deal with the temple literally being kicked down, the paving being dug up and stolen and trees being snapped in half for nothing other than what appears to be fun. In recent weeks we have seen a memorial tree where ashes are laid broken in half.

Patcham Peace Gardens is a memorial and for some the constant and sustained attacks are nothing less than desecration of a grave. The community puts on a brave face and tries to convert the anger into positive energy so that we can rebuild.

However, we now need help. To that end we would respectfully request that Cityparks be asked to replace the broken trees including those originally paid for by residents. We would also ask that the installation of CCTV be investigated such that this memorial garden can be properly protected to deter future unpleasant acts and aid in the prosecution of those that wish to be disrespectful to those that have passed away, need to be remembered and those who work so hard to preserve the space and memories.

We would be grateful if this Committee would request officers investigate and report back with options for further consideration.

Yours sincerely

Cllrs. Lee Wares, Carol Theobald and Alistair McNair

