

CITY ENVIRONMENT, SOUTH DOWNS & THE SEA COMMITTEE ADDENDUM

4.00PM, TUESDAY, 23 JANUARY 2024

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

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ADDENDUM

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Brighton & Hove City Council

City Environment, South Downs & The Sea Committee

Agenda Item 37(b)

Subject: Written Questions

Date of meeting: 23 January 2024

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:

(1) DBS Checks- Andrew Caldwell

Traffic wardens require a standard level DBS check because they can issue fines of £60 at their discretion, which leaves them vulnerable to bribery. Why don't any of our Environmental Enforcement Officers, who have greater powers, such as issuing fines of £300 for littering, taking personal details, and right of entry to private commercial premises presumably including places with vulnerable children and adults, have even basic level DBS checks?

(2) Steve Geliot- Glyphosate

The report on possible return to use of glyphosate contains insufficient science about the safety of this known carcinogen including links to non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Any use of pesticides is well known to have a harmful impact on our biological diversity that also exists on our pavements and roads – not just our green spaces and parks. Can the Chair please offer more detail on how wildlife more broadly will be affected by these plans and reconsider the return to use of this harmful chemical?

(3) Vanessa Barden- Verges

Will the council reconsider the current practice of allowing narrow grass verges adjacent to pavements in residential areas to go to seed? This is because this practice is considerably worsening weed growth in pavements. Mowing these verges before they go to seed would reduce the use of glyphosate therefore.

Brighton & Hove City Council

City Environment, South Downs & The Sea Committee

Agenda Item 38(c)

Subject: Deputations

Date of meeting: 23 January 2024

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.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

1) Deputation: Patcham Water

Patcham has become known for its recurrent flooding, and regrettably, we have grown accustomed to considering this as normal. However, it is neither normal nor acceptable for hundreds of children to navigate through raw sewage on their way to and from school, a grim reality regularly faced by students from Patcham High, Infants, and Juniors throughout 2023. Without prompt action from the Council, there is a growing apprehension that the situation continues to worsen, ushering in an era where getting to school in Patcham routinely poses a sewage-related health risk.

Concerned residents have reported dislodged manhole covers, used tampons floating down the roads, and pools of sewage. An independent assessment revealed alarming levels of E-coli in water allowed to stream from a drain by the schools for 10 days. E-coli has also been found on the Junior School playing field, when campaigners tested flood water this month. Moreover, the government's Drinking Water Inspectorate is currently monitoring Patcham's drinking water for e-coli risks, amid the Inspectorate's existing concerns about the overall unwholesomeness of Brighton and Hove's drinking water. Residents, local councillors, and the Patcham and Hollingbury Conservation Society have been reporting water issues in Patcham to Southern Water and Brighton and Hove Council for years, if not decades. However, the situation has deteriorated significantly, particularly in flooding hotspots such as Winfield Avenue, Carden Avenue, Warmdene Road, as well as Old London Road, and Mill Road which adjoin the strategic highway network of the A27 and A23. A prevailing concern is that the quality of our drinking water and the severity of both flooding and sewage leaks in Patcham is not being taken seriously enough. This is evidenced by the lack of intervention to halt Royal Mail's proposal to concrete over a natural flood defence at Patcham Court Farm. The chalky and absorbent land at Patcham Court Farm is categorised as a Zone 1 Source Protection Zone, the highest-rated groundwater protection zone, and forms part of the Drinking Water Protected Area and the Inner Source Protection Area. The plan from Royal Mail's executives to concrete over Patcham Court Farm poses a threat to Brighton's water security for the 116,000 city residents who receive their water from the Patcham Pumping Station just 750 metres away. Additionally, the proposed plans may exacerbate the already prevalent local flooding issues by diverting more rain to

overloaded sewers. Our concerns extend beyond Patcham and reflect a national trend of companies that used to be owned by the taxpayer, now prioritising shareholder profits over services and public welfare. There is growing concern that executives at Royal Mail and Southern Water are relinquishing their responsibility, letting standards slip, and when problems arise seek to shift the financial burden on to taxpayers and the council. We propose the following actions: 1. Urgently conduct a comprehensive flood mitigation and drinking water review for the area, sharing the results with local councillors, the Patcham and Hollingbury Conservation Society, local schools, and concerned residents. 2. Implement the findings of this review/s, marking a departure from previous inquiries where recommendations have gone unheeded. 3. Reject Royal Mail's application and investigate their alternative plans for Shoreham, as reported by a Royal Mail representative addressing members of the Hove Station Neighbourhood Forum.

Supported by:

Rebecca Kimber (Lead Spokesperson)

Rebecca Bunker-Fellingham

Paul Mannix

Mike Howard

Rebecca Mintrim

Jack Riches

Mandy Pachol

Jill Carr



More images and videos of flooding:

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/4ztrbpi1dtoo96hyv3pq/h?rlkey=om73sl7wgusxq2cy76chlu94j&dl=0>

Collection from 2023: <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/r1rw235v4hhgguouv7occ/h?rlkey=gvr5ja48kj7a71afkdxrztw&dl=0>

Brighton & Hove City Council

Council

Agenda Item 38

Subject: Petitions

Date of meeting: 14 December 2023

Report of: Executive Director, Governance, People & Resources

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka
Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

For general release

Action Required of City Environment, South Downs & The Sea Committee:

- 1) To consider the Petition referred from the Council meeting held on 14 December 2023

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 14 DECEMBER 2023****COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors O'Quinn (Chair), Atkinson, Davis, Evans, Fishleigh, Fowler, Grimshaw, Meadows, McNair, Robins, Sankey, Shanks, C Theobald, West, Wilkinson, Alexander, Allen, Asaduzzaman, Baghoth, Burden, Cattell, Daniel, Earthey, Goddard, Goldsmith, Helliwell, Hewitt, Hill, Hogan, Loughran, Lyons, McGregor, McLeay, Miller, Muten, Nann, Oliveira, Pickett, Pumm, Robinson, Rowkins, Sheard, Simon, Stevens, Taylor, Thomson and Winder

PART ONE**60 NEGLECT OF PUBLIC FACILITIES AT WISH PARK IS IMPACTING THE COMMUNITY'S HEALTH**

- 60.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of three such petitions and invited Mr O'Dell to join the meeting and to present the petition concerning Neglect of Public Facilities at Wish Park is Impacting the Community's Health.
- 60.2 Mr O'Dell thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition which had been signed by 1770 people.
- 60.3 Councillor Rowkins thanked Mr O'Dell for presenting the petition and stated that "First, I'd like to apologise for the deterioration we have seen at Wish Park and the impact it has had on the community. We have been monitoring the situation for some time and working to resolve it. Firstly, the current state of one of the football pitches is primarily due to damage caused by an event earlier in the year rather than a lack of maintenance. Clearly that is not ideal, and we are taking steps to avoid any similar incidents in the future. Unfortunately, when the circus was on the site, it was particularly wet and that left the pitch in a poor state. This has now been soiled and seeded, but unfortunately it was not done to the standard we would hope. We are very sorry for the disruption caused to football clubs wanting to use the site, and certainly it is my view that crucial, regular community activities such as sports should be a priority and not disrupted. We have put in place a new framework for events, to ensure that groundworks can be enabled more quickly where possible, and there are no events are planned for the Park in Summer 2024. We are also working on a series of updated, park-specific event packs that will provide better guidance for events to ensure minimal negative impact. We will be communicating with the football clubs to keep them informed. A final plan for the use of the available 3 pitches is now being finalised between the FA and the parks team. We

hope to share this proposal with the teams before Christmas and will then share this more widely with the community. We are currently developing an action plan to ensure that the cricket pitch will be usable from April. The Council agree with the Association of Sussex Cricket Grounds that spring reseedling is now the best possible approach to ensure the best possible results in a timely manner, and agree that any deeper work would require heavy machinery that would cause significant further damage. Weather allowing this should see the surface more than useable from April. We hear the concerns from Friends about needing a new solution for protecting the cricket green. We are currently exploring other viable options on this, but currently the mesh and pins solution is the best to ensure the cricket square is preserved without creating a significant safety hazard to park users. Things are moving forward regarding the replacement of the outdoor gym, which was removed in 2021 because it was rotten and unsafe. The Friends of Wish Park are preparing a bid to secure the funds and the location of the gym has been agreed between City Parks and the Friends of Wish Park. Nearly all the city's shrub beds have been in decline over the last 20 years, from an aesthetic point of view. This is due to the combined effect of a reduction in staff and replanting budgets due to local authority cuts. I'd like to thank the Friends Group for the work they are doing to weed beds in Wish. The management of parks and green spaces across the city is currently under review, and we aim to test new working practices to maximise the use and spread of our teams in the new year. We will communicate this with Friends of the parks, clubs and local residents once this is approved. However, I am pleased to say that plans for Wish Park are now moving with more pace, and a dedicated officer is liaising with stakeholders to address the issues raised by the petition. This included a meeting with the ward councillors last week, which has produced an action plan to address concerns raised. I'd like to thank the petitioners for bringing these issues to our attention and to the Friends of Wish Park for their commitment to providing a park where residents can enjoy recreational activities in the heart of their community."

60.4 Councillor Pickett moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group which was formally seconded by Councillor West.

60.5 Councillor Hogan spoke on the petition.

60.6 Councillor Rowkins confirmed that he would not accept the Green amendment.

60.7 The Mayor then put the Green Group amendment to the vote which was lost.

60.8 The Mayor thanked Mr O'Dell for presenting the petition and put the recommendations to the vote.

RESOLVED:

60.9 That the petition is noted and referred to the City Environment, South Downs & The Sea Committee for consideration.

