

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

4.00pm 26 NOVEMBER 2013

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors West (Chair) Sykes (Deputy Chair), Cox (Opposition Spokesperson), Janio (Opposition Spokesperson), Mitchell (Group Spokesperson), Robins (Group Spokesperson), Daniel, Davey, Hawtree and G Theobald

Also in attendance: Councillor Wealls

PART ONE

40. PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

40(a) Declarations of substitutes

40.1 There were none.

40(b) Declarations of interest

40.2 There were none.

40(c) Exclusion of press and public

40.3 In accordance with section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 (“the Act”), the Committee considered whether the press and public should be excluded from the meeting during an item of business on the grounds that it was likely, in view of the business to be transacted or the nature of proceedings, that if members of the press and public were present during that item, there would be disclosure to them of confidential information (as defined in section 100A(3) of the Act) or exempt information (as defined in section 100(I) of the Act).

40.4 **RESOLVED-** That the press and public not be excluded.

41. MINUTES

41.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 October 2013 be approved and signed as the correct record.

42. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE CITY SUSTAINABILITY PARTNERSHIP (FOR INFORMATION)

- 42.1 **RESOLVED-** That the minutes of the previous meeting of the City Sustainability Partnership be noted.

43. CHAIRS COMMUNICATIONS

- 43.1 The Chair provided the following communications:

“Along with members of the council’s Sustainability Team I recently joined a study visit to Eindhoven in the Netherlands. The EU funded visit was organised through the CASCADE program and brought together representatives of medium sized “Euro-cities” to consider renewable energy opportunities. Eindhoven is the research and development capital of the Netherlands and we were impressed by a range of initiatives we saw which are contributing not only to economic prosperity but also building a zero carbon future for the city. We visited a biomass combined heat and power plant fuelled by locally produced wood chips that is providing energy to industrial areas and 2000 homes. We also saw an innovative application storing energy as heat within an aquifer. I was also particularly impressed by a software application the city has developed which uses satellite images to calculate the solar power potential of every single roof in the city. This powerful tool offers residents and businesses the opportunity to check for themselves how much they could be earning from a solar installation on their roof.

Eindhoven hopes this will unlock the massive solar potential of the city and I am keen we look closely at this possibility for Brighton & Hove too.

I’m very pleased to say that two of our schools, Carden Primary and Downs Infants have been awarded Eco-school Green Flags for their work on sustainability. We now have 14 Eco-schools with the hope more will joining the fold soon.

I’m also very pleased to welcome the new community composting scheme that has just been launched at Stoneham Park. This is the 26th community composting scheme in the city, which together are now supporting low carbon local food waste composting for hundreds of households in the city.

I also wish to celebrate another outstanding achievement by the Brighton Energy Co-op which has raised more than £200,000 in just 3 weeks for their new project to install solar on 7 buildings in Brighton & Hove and realising more than 500 KWhr of new solar PV capacity. This will substantially add to the BECs existing installations in the city, trebling the size of their operation. They aim to raise £616,000 to fund these systems by selling shares in the project.

And finally, as Christmas approaches and we all start thinking about what gifts we might be giving; I would like to give a plug to Fair Trade Christmas Shopping Day which will be happening this Saturday 30 November. Shoppers are being offered the opportunity to hunt for their perfect Christmas gifts at six Fair Trade venues across the city. There will be refreshments, raffle prizes and the launch of Fair Trade Brighton & Hove’s film ‘A Fair Trade Journey: India to Brighton’. I hope we will all wish to support this”.

44. CALL OVER

44.1 The Chair informed the meeting that Item 49 on the agenda 'Brighton & Hove 20mph limit phase 2- results of public consultation' had been deferred to a special meeting of the Committee to be held on 11 December 2013.

44.2 All items on the agenda were reserved for discussion.

45. PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

(a) Petitions

(i) Park Crescent/Park Terrace CPZ- Sarah Smith

45.1 The Committee considered a petition signed by 156 people requesting that Park Crescent and Park Crescent Terrace be included in CPZ Zone Y as a matter of urgency.

45.2 The Chair provided the following response:

"Thank you for your Petition and for bringing this to our attention. I understand that you have met with officers and Councillor Davey, Lead Councillor for Transport, to discuss this matter and I confirm that your views will be taken into consideration.

There will be a consultation in Spring next year with residents in your area on the detailed design of new parking scheme proposals. You and other residents along with your Ward Councillors will then have the opportunity to outline support or concerns with the proposals".

45.3 **RESOLVED-** That the petition be noted.

(ii) Vehicle access to Oxford Street from London Road- Ann Townsend

45.4 The petitioner was not present at the meeting therefore a formal response was provided in writing as follows:

"Thank you for your petition. For clarity, the existing, albeit trial arrangement does already restrict the left turn for motorists and delivery vehicles from London Road into Oxford Street.

This trial arrangement is long established and dates back to decisions of previous administrations. It was recently discovered that the trial arrangements had never been formalised by a traffic regulation order.

The proposed traffic order was advertised to enable the Council to obtain the views of interested parties and determine whether to formalise the existing "trial" arrangements or introduce amendments to it.

I am very glad that we have had a clear response which has demonstrated that there is support for not formalising the left turn from London Road into Oxford Street, and so the officer's recommendation to committee is now not to formalize the prohibition of left turns from London Road into Oxford Street.

The matter will be fully considered today by Members under item 51 of the agenda".

45.5 **RESOLVED-** That the petition be noted.

(c) Deputations**(i) Pedestrian crossings in South Portslade- Rae Powers/Road Safety St Peter's School- Councillor Alan Robins**

- 45.6 The Chair stated that due to their similar subject matter, he intended to receive both of the above items consecutively and provide one response addressing both.
- 45.7 The Committee considered a Deputation that requested urgent pedestrian infrastructure improvements to the South Portslade area to improve safety issues in the area.
- 45.8 The Committee considered a letter from Councillor Robins that requested urgent improvements to the crossing facilities for St Peter's School.
- 45.9 The Chair provided the following response:

"I hope I can say I speak for all members of the committee when I acknowledge the concerns of parents and teachers over road safety on routes serving St Peter's School in Portslade. This concern I know is very much shared by officers of the Council too. At the last meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee in October, as Chair I received and acknowledged the 800+ strong petition from parents, teachers and governors, requesting crossing facilities or a school crossing patrol for Church Road near its junctions with North Street and St Peter's Road.

Following a verbal address to that meeting by Ms Powers, the petition spokesperson, I responded that I had met with officers from the road safety team and ward members to look at the situation. I also pointed out that the council assesses over 100 sites each year, many of them in response to residents concerns about road safety, and they are each considered carefully. I also said that Ms Powers request would be assessed too. Surveys of crossing movements had been undertaken in June 2013, following which detailed analysis had been carried out in accordance with the Council's formal assessment criteria, previously approved by the Council, in line with nationally recognised guidelines published by the Department for Transport. This is not a tick box exercise, but ensures we use resources effectively and fairly where they are most needed.

That analysis had indicated that there was insufficient crossing activity to support either a formal crossing facility or a School Crossing Patrol. However, despite this, and in appreciation of what had been said about rising numbers of pupils, I agreed that officers would revisit the site and carry out further surveys and analysis to assess the levels of road safety risk and to determine whether conditions had altered sufficiently for these criteria to be met.

It is important to note that the opportunity to introduce infrastructure measures in support of safer walking routes to St Peter's arose as a result of contributions made possible by planning gain following the expansion of St Peter's School to accommodate more pupils.

These funds were in the sum of £20,316 and during the summer the Council's road safety team installed 8 x sets of dropped kerbs on roads in the vicinity of the school; provided a section of pedestrian guardrail outside the entrance to the school on Brambledean Road; installed a calendar controlled electronic school warning sign located on Church Road (on its northbound side near the junction with the A259) and

constructed an additional pedestrian refuge on Station Road near its junction with Seaford Road.

The funds were not sufficient to cover the design and construction costs of all these measures and the shortfall of £5465 was met from the Council's Safer Routes to School project for 2013-14 bringing the total sum spent on safer routes to schools measures in the St Peter's school catchment area to £25,781.

I consider that these measures in conjunction with an updated School Travel Plan from the school go some way towards improving the walking environment. The results of further surveys, analysis will be reported at the January meeting of this Committee.

45.10 **RESOLVED-** That the items be noted.

45.11 The Chair stated that due to their similar subject matter, he intended to receive all three Deputations on parking in Preston Park North area consecutively and provide one response addressing all three.

(ii) Residents Parking Scheme in Preston Park Station North area- James May

45.12 The Committee considered a Deputation presented by James May that conveyed support for the proposed residents parking scheme in the Preston Park Station north area.

(iii) Inclusion of Hazeldene Meads and The Beeches in the Resident Parking Scheme in Preston Park Station

45.13 The Committee considered a Deputation presented by Pat Drake that requested the Hazeldene Meads and The Beeches be included in the proposed Resident Parking Scheme due to their concerns that they would be adversely affected should the scheme be implemented.

(iv) Preston Park Station north area parking consultation- James Thompson

45.14 The Committee considered a Deputation that requested deferral of any decision on the proposed Residents Parking Scheme in favour of a new consultation as there was no mandate to do so from the consultation results and the report recommended minor amendments that had not been consulted on.

45.15 The Chair provided the following response:

"Thank you all for your Deputations. These matters have been heard by the Committee and officers and will inform the discussion when report on this matter is discussed later in the meeting".

45.16 **RESOLVED-** That the Deputations be noted.

46. ITEMS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL

(a) Petitions

(i) Sheep grazing on Ladies Mile Local Nature Reserve- Mrs Harvey-Verenne

46.1 The Committee received a petition referred from Full Council signed by 90 people that expressed their opposition to sheep grazing on Ladies Mile Local Nature Reserve.

46.2 The Chair provided the following response:

“We are currently consulting on the future management of Ladies Mile Local Nature Reserve.

Along with historical and archaeological interest, the nature reserve also contains an important area of ancient chalk-grassland, which is a European priority habitat. Chalk grassland around the fringe of the city has been deteriorating over many decades, since grazing ceased in the 1930s, and it is important to manage the advance of encroaching scrub. Grazing has been proposed as we have found that this works really well on similar sites around the city and has proved popular with the public.

Early results from the consultation show that grazing would also be popular at Ladies Mile.

In a letter accompanying the petition, the petitioner has objected to grazing as dogs would not be able to be exercised off lead for 365 days a year. It is anticipated that most of the year there will be no sheep on site but when there are it will be grazed in sections. This means that there will always be half the site with no sheep on where dogs can be exercised off lead and the areas will be clearly signed.

I do not believe therefore that it will seriously compromise the suitability of the site for dog walking but it will increase the amount of rare downland flowers which will improve most people’s enjoyment of the site as well our conserve our natural heritage.”

46.3 **RESOLVED-** That the petition be noted.

(ii) Removal of double yellow lines on Goodwood Way- Kristaps Aizupietis

46.4 The petitioner was not present at the meeting to hear the response therefore, it was provided in written and is set out below:

“Thank you for your petition. Officers will investigate and assess this request and report back with their findings and recommendations to the next Environment, Transport & Sustainability committee”

46.5 **RESOLVED-** That the petition be noted.

47. MEMBER INVOLVEMENT**(a) Petitions****(i) Kingsway taxi rank outside King Alfred- Councillor Wealls**

47.1 Councillor Wealls presented a petition signed by 12 people requesting the removal of the taxi rank positioned outside the King Alfred centre which was underused and was leading to inconsiderate parking.

47.2 The Chair provided the following response:

“Thank you for your petition and for bringing this to our attention. I also visited the site recently with officers to see the situation for myself
Officers have consulted with the taxi trade and they have confirmed that this taxi rank is still required particularly if there are any new developments in this area.
There is also pressure on the Council for rank space to avoid over-ranking and congestion. It has been outlined by the Licensing team that we need more ranks rather than less so as to help taxis and their passengers.
Council officers will continue to monitor this taxi rank and if it is still not being used over the next six months we will consider making changes in the spring traffic amendment order”.

47.3 **RESOLVED-** That the petition be noted.

48. SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

48.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Environment, Development & Housing that requested approval of the Surface Water Management Plan which would then be used to develop schemes to reduce the risk of flooding in the city. The Plan would also form part of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy that the authority has a statutory duty to prepare.

48.2 Councillor Theobald stated that the risk of flooding was very high in his ward Patcham. Councillor Theobald noted that the dangers of flooding would only be removed by increasing pipe size or a pipe with an outlet to the sea and that proposals should be drawn up in the chance that funding became available in the future.

48.3 Councillor Mitchell noted the figures from revenue funding allocated to this point and asked which of the seven high risk locations identified were likely to require capital funding. Furthermore, Councillor Mitchell noted that many drains had appeared blocked during recent heavy rain and asked if gully and drain emptying was continuing.

48.4 The Head of Transport clarified there was a national standard of gully and drain clearance that the local authority had to adhere to. He supplemented that the current in-house arrangement required review which would be undertaken in the near future. The Transport Officer replied that use of the accrued revenue budget would be informed by the authorities discussions with the Environment Agency when bidding to draw down capital funding to support the schemes and that Members would be kept regularly updated.

48.5 Councillor Sykes asked if more passive measures of flood prevention were encouraged such as sustainable drainage.

48.6 The Transport Officer confirmed that passive measures were being used such as permeable paving, promotion of sustainable drainage and, from April 2014 planning applications will need to demonstrate how the development will manage surface water run-off to assist flood prevention.

48.7 **RESOLVED-** .

- 1) That Committee approves the Surface Water Management Plan to coincide with the publication of updated flood risk maps by the Environment Agency in December 2013.
- 2) That Committee authorises the Executive Director Environment, Development and Housing to commence local consultation on options for reducing flood risk at the locations identified in the Surface Water Management Plan as being at highest risk of flooding.

49. DYKE ROAD PED & CYCLE FACILITIES: CONSULTATION RESULTS & PERMISSION TRO

- 49.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Environment, Development & Housing that provided the consultation results regarding the introduction of walking and cycling facilities at Dyke Road between the junctions of Old Shoreham Road and The Upper Drive and sought permission to proceed with development of the proposals to the detailed design stage and advertising the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders.
- 49.2 Councillor Theobald stated that he was pleased the cycle route going northwards would go through the park and therefore minimise loss of parking space. Councillor Theobald requested officers monitor parking in the area to ensure parking capacity could be maximised.
- 49.3 Councillor Hawtree welcomed the proposals that he hoped would increase use of sustainable transport in the area and the gradual creation of a coherent cycle network.
- 49.4 Councillor Davey stated that although the proposals represented a small area, he welcomed the opportunity to create a safer cycling environment in a location close to Dyke Park, Cardinal Newman School and BHASVIC.
- 49.5 Councillor Mitchell stated her support for the proposals and hope that dialogue could progress with the local school and adjacent housing complex regarding parking issues.
- 49.6 **RESOLVED-**
 - 1) That the committee notes the results of the informal consultation showing that 65% of those who responded to the consultation were in favour of the proposals overall and that 64% supported the introduction of cycle lanes/tracks.
 - 2) That the committee grants officers permission to proceed with detailed design of the proposals and to advertise TROs required for scheme implementation.

50. AREA A (PRESTON PARK STATION NORTH) RESIDENT PARKING SCHEME EXTENSION

- 50.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Environment, Development & Housing that set out the results of the recent public consultation for a

proposed extension to the Area A Residents Parking Scheme and sought permission to proceed to the final design stage including the advertising of the relevant Traffic Regulation Orders of a stand alone Monday to Friday scheme.

- 50.2 In response to the public representations presented to the meeting, the Parking Infrastructure Manager clarified that the consideration of the scheme had been considerably thorough. There had been a high response to the consultation which had resulted in 50% of respondents in favour of the scheme and 50% of respondents against the scheme. The Parking Infrastructure Manager relayed that further analysis of the responses had clearly demonstrated that respondents both in favour and against the proposals had concerns about restrictions being applied at the weekend. On that basis, officers were proposing a stand alone Monday to Friday scheme to be advertised as a traffic order to allow further comments from residents. This proposal was supported by the ward councillors. The Parking Infrastructure Manager added that leaflets would also be sent to all residents making them aware of the proposals and the opportunity to respond to the traffic order.
- 50.3 Councillor Cox moved the following additional recommendation as shown in bold italics below:
- (d) That within 3 months of the implementation of the scheme, a formal review is undertaken to assess its impact in the Beeches, Hazeldene Meads, Withdean Road and Withdean Avenue, and bring back a report to the next Committee meeting thereafter.***
- 50.4 The Chair put the motion to a vote which was unanimously agreed.
- 50.5 Councillor Robins asked if the enforcement would be between 9am and 8pm, if new schemes would be offered similar options and if there was a chance residents in areas with existing parking controls may ask for a retrospective review of tariffs in their zones.
- 50.6 The Parking Infrastructure Manager confirmed that enforcement would be between 9am and 8pm.
- 50.7 The Chair added that members of the public could request a review of their parking scheme at any time and that Preston Park Triangle was currently being consulted on a similar scheme of options for a CPZ in their area.
- 50.8 Councillor Theobald asked if those living in Tivoli Crescent would be able to use their permits in Woodside Avenue.
- 50.9 The Parking Infrastructure Manager confirmed that residents would be able to do so.
- 50.10 Councillor Cox stated that this was a difficult decision for the Committee as the consultation had provided a 50/50 split in favour and against. Councillor Cox added that the compelling point of the consultation and proposals was that the ward councillors were in favour and they, ultimately, were the Members directly accountable in that area. Councillor Cox supplemented that the proposals were innovative however; he was concerned about the possibility of associated problem parking arising in Hazeldene Meads and believed that should be monitored carefully.

- 50.11 Councillor Davey stated his support for the proposals that he believed was a intelligent and considered response to those with concerns. Councillor Davey added that the proposals would also address parking in the cycle lane on Dyke Road which had been a problem for many years.
- 50.12 Councillor Hawtree stated his support for the proposals and that offered flexibility for residents.
- 50.13 Councillor Mitchell stated her support for the proposals and that special circumstances had been taken into account. Councillor Mitchell hoped that such an approach might be applied to other areas in future schemes.
- 50.14 **RESOLVED-** That the Transport Committee authorises the Executive Director Environment, Development & Housing to implement the following proposals:
- (a) That a new stand alone Monday to Friday Residents Parking Scheme in the Preston Park Station north area be progressed to the final design with the Traffic Order advertised to allow further comment.
 - (b) That double yellow lines in Withdean Road and Withdean Avenue be progressed to the final design with the Traffic Order advertised to allow further comment.
 - (c) That an order be placed for any required pay and display equipment to ensure implementation of the new proposed parking scheme (if agreed at a further committee meeting) is undertaken as programmed.
 - (d) That within 3 months of the implementation of the scheme, a formal review is undertaken to assess its impact in the Beeches, Hazeldene Meads, Withdean Road and Withdean Avenue, and bring back a report to the next Committee meeting thereafter.

51. OXFORD STREET TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

- 51.1 The Committee considered a report of the Executive Director of Environment, Development & Housing that addressed the comments and objections made in response to the advertising of a proposed Traffic Regulation Order in Oxford Street, Brighton.
- 51.2 Councillor Theobald enquired as to the level of opposition or support for the proposed prohibition of right turns into Oxford Street from London Road.
- 51.3 The Senior Project Manager said that relatively few responses related to this aspect of the Traffic Order – the primary concern amongst the local community was the restriction on left turn movements. On that basis, there was no strong reason to change the existing right turn restriction.
- 51.4 Councillor Davey welcomed the proposals and expressed his hope that it would hopefully see an improvement in the poor air quality standard in the area and the transport links in the area as a whole.

- 1) That, having taken account of all duly made representations and objections, the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee approves as advertised the Brighton & Hove (Oxford Street) (Bus Lane & Prohibited Turns) Order 201* subject to the following amendment:

Delete Schedule 2, item 2 (prohibition of left turn from London Road into Oxford Street).

52. ITEMS REFERRED FOR FULL COUNCIL

- 52.1 No items were referred to Full Council for information.

The meeting concluded at 6.10pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of