

Councillor Dick Page

**Brighton & Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove BN3 3BQ**

The Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall
Hove
BN3 3BQ

Date: 01 March 2017
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
Phone: (01273) 291834
e-mail: dick.page@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Geoff

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting of 14th March 2017.

As a HEG ward councillor I am aware of the huge efforts of officers and residents to work together on Parking Scheme proposals over the last two years or more, which reflect the preferences and needs of diverse neighbourhoods across the whole ward. This has been a thorough consultation of c.7,500 households, involving more than 1,000 initial volunteer surveys thanks to our Local Action Team, and with a final “turnout” of nearly 37% - in a ward with low vehicle ownership.

I fully support proposal (a) for a Full Scheme – a “wedge” up the whole western side of the ward – and will continue to explain and support this with practical suggestions in response to residents’ questions and concerns.

However I cannot support proposal (c) – a Light Touch scheme for the whole of the remainder of the ward. Several coherent neighbourhoods have for specific local reasons either expressed a strong preference against any scheme on a high turnout, or have shown no clear preference on a much lower turnout. This area (for it is one), of a viable size to remain with unrestricted parking, is high up a big hill and relatively distant from the city centre, so residents there have spoken – in the full knowledge that they may experience displacement parking once neighbouring schemes are in place. They have judged this on balance to be a risk worth taking, alongside other considerations. Whilst it could be argued that this is an unwise choice, if our Council’s policy of responding to residents’ wishes over Parking Schemes – rather than imposing them – means anything, we should proceed with a Light Touch scheme only in a defined area which has perhaps reluctantly, but clearly, opted for one. This is bounded by and includes Bonchurch Road, Shanklin Road, Hartington Terrace, Totland Road (or the road parallel to it) and that section of Elm Grove.

Should residents in the resulting unrestricted “third” of the ward approach me in future about changing their mind, I will explain that we have carefully considered the preferences of different neighbourhoods in this big consultation exercise, and that it may not be efficient or effective for the Council to revisit arrangements for some years to come.

Your agreement to such a defined alternative Light Touch scheme will not only enhance trust in the Council for respecting consultation results and residents’ preferences, it will also protect our reputation against claims of imposing CPZs to generate the maximum income from motorists.

Unfortunately due to an important health treatment I am in Bristol on the day your Committee meets, but I will support any representations my colleague Cllr Gibson makes to you in person.

Yours sincerely

Cllr. Dick Page

Hanover & Elm Grove ward councillor