

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 following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of two Deputations have been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

(1) Deputation concerning the PVP St James' Street Party**Spokesperson Mr R. Rolfe**

Supported by:
David Hainsworth
Trevor Scoble
Janie Thomas
Robert Edwards
Teresa Scoble

Ward affected: All

Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee will reply.

(2) Deputation concerning Music Venues**Spokesperson Mark Stack**

Supported by:
Jacqueline Mitrovic
Robin Coward
Alex Fraser
Simon Hill
John Robertson

Ward affected: All

Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee will reply.

(1) Deputation concerning the PVP St James' Street Party

We the under listed members of The Kingscliffe Society wish to make a deputation for moving the PVP (St James's Street Party) down onto Madeira Drive, at the next full Council Meeting on the 19th April 2018.

We therefore would refer to the Economic Development & Culture Committee meeting 13/11/ 2014 and to Agenda item 35 (ref 3.28.21) in support.

Introduction

We the Kingscliffe Society and on behalf of many other businesses and residents have sent the Council a notification of a Declaration dated 7th April 2018. The subject of the Declaration is a list of the effects imposed on us, without any effective consideration of our needs, by the St James's Street Party (PVP). We will introduce a copy of an Email from the Pride organisation issued prior to the actual event for the comparison of our list of effects with their proposed action plan.

There are amongst our residents the old – some housebound, some less able and some who require help two or three times a day. There are young families that cannot afford simply to move away and rent, because it is the most expensive time of the year. The late night noise of the street party disturbs everyone young & elderly well into the night. Many of our more lucky residents simply move away temporarily, but some of our local businesses have to bite the bullet and close, losing a valuable weekend's income and more.

The resulting street conditions can only be described as a disgusting nightmare. All of these problems have been growing from year to year without being resolved and without respect and consideration for us all. In past years pre---event public meetings have been called without informing all the businesses and residents, yet still claiming a favourable response, even though the real views and/or consent of all those concerned have never been sought.

The original purpose of this party as a celebration of the gay community has been completely undermined by the presence of a vast army of hangers--on, who appear intent only on unlicensed excess and drink/drug taking, and who have no natural connection to the city at any other time of the year. We are obliged to live with the effects for days afterwards and we then dread the fact that it will all happen again next year, getting worse each time.

There are no real reasons why this event should not be moved to the adjacent seafront at Madeira Drive. Proper controls could be more easily instituted, while few, if any, of the residents would be seriously affected. At least any acts of appalling drunkenness and bad behaviour would not be occurring close to our homes, properties and businesses. [It might even become an event to which people would be proud to bring grandparents or nieces and nephews.]

With due respect, we cannot imagine that any of our Councillors would like the St James's Street party imposed on their own home and front doorstep for a full weekend Friday night to Sunday night. We therefore respectfully request Council not to give permission for this event to take place in the St James's Street area.

We are grateful to all members and businesses who have taken the time to send us feedback about last year's event. The following is a summary of last year's event:

- No street cleaning until days after the event and only St. James Street was
- cleaned, the side streets were ignored
- No rubbish collectors during the event
- Nobody from Pride was visible or contactable during the event
- Sound systems not adhering to their contractual start/finish times
- Toilets were installed even though the contactors were aware they were not
- working
- Nobody in charge of the stewards who had at best a disinterested attitude in
- their role
- Feedback from many attendees at the event was that bags and wristbands were not

Supporting Information:

- checked
- No security in attendance in any of the side streets
- External Police Forces were used who did not know the area - they did not know where evacuation points were
- Excessive on-line 'administration' fees as well as processing fees for wristbands
- How it is always Aeon Productions and its associates who wins the tender for the event even when they are offered cheaper and better alternatives
- No local consultation regarding the event
- Residents were refused access by the security guards at the bottom of Dorset Gardens
- We used to enjoy the street party when it was actually focused on the gay community - rather than the economically motivated, overcrowded heterosexual Carnival now being promoted
- We were annoyed to have to wear wristbands to shop in our own community
- Police coverage in the St James' Street area virtually non-existent

Collated by The Kingscliffe Society.

We will be meeting the event organisers shortly to discuss this and we will also present feedback to a meeting of the full Council in due course.

From:	paul@brighton-pride.org
Sent date:	13/07/2017 - 15:39
To:	trevor.scoble894@btinternet.com
Cc:	jayne@brighton-pride.org, david.hainsworth@gmail.com, rogerrolfe@icloud.com, becky@brighton-pride.org
Subject:	Re: PVP St James's Street Party 2017
Attachments:	PVPmap2017 v1.pdf 1.4 MB Pride: Police: BHCC :Statement 2017].docx 344.3 KB PVP 2017 St James St.pdf 104.8 KB image001.png 57.9 KB

Dear Kingscliffe Society,

Thank you for your most recent correspondence the content of which has been noted. With regard to your request to be provide with copies of our plan and risk assessment i must once again state that these are not for public distribution.

These documents are not distributed in the public domain as they contain detailed security plans, which if publicly distributed, would undermine the safety and security of the entire event.

As explained previously Sussex Police carry out a threat assessment on the event and implement plans accordingly. At this time we have not been advised that there is a change to the threat assessment carried out by Sussex Police

I am not saying that our plans are secret but they do contain our security plans and therefore Pride will not share these plans with individuals outside of our agreed event planning team.

I have to disagree with you comment that I have for years strongly disagreed with moving the PVP to another location, this is not my view and we have already raised possible alternative options with statutory partners .

What I have said is, we believe that large numbers of people (not necessarily visitors to Pride) would simply return to St James Streets for what would be seen as a free public gathering; without the management and safety measures that Pride CIC have put in place. We are concerned about the negative and potentially dangerous consequences of such an un-managed gathering.

It would be irresponsible to request a relocation change for the Village party without fully exploring the consequences of what would happen in St James St & surrounding streets but I'm confident that should Kingscliffe Society or others produce a detailed plan to ensure the management and safety of large gathering on St James St or Marine parade or surrounding Streets that the appropriate authorities will give then due consideration to your plans.

Pride would also be seeking view of detailed plans before we would be able to embark on a funding and managing an event on Madeira Drive or other locations.

My response to two of your other questions are set out below.

1 Police Barricades

I would like to clarify with you that these are not barricades but barriers that are installed by the police counter terrorism team and are there to prevent unauthorised vehicles from entering the area at speed. These are staffed for the duration, from installation to removal they are not 3m high fences and would not in an emergency prevent people leaving the area.

Street Plan

I have attached a copy of the Street Plan that will be circulated to residents over the next two weeks along with information about the event, a contact number and email. for the weekend. This shows the venues that are participating in the event but they don't all have sound systems or stages those that do are...

George St - Queen Arms & Kings Arms share a stage
Broad St - Marine Tavern Stage
St James St - The Zone, Bulldog, Block - One music zone for this area DJs
St James St - Shortts Bar- DJs
Manchester Street - Mucky Duck Latest Music Bar & Bella Cafe share or one music zone
Marine Parade - RBar, CharlesSt, Bar Patterns, Amsterdam - One music zone
Marine Parade - Funky Fish/ New Madeira Hotel one music zone
Rock Place - Brighton Rock One music zone

Marlborough - Stage and Music

We would advise that you or others submit your plans to your local councilor who can then take this up with the relevant departments at BHCC.

Although Pride will continue community dialog around the PVP after this years event I would be grateful that you take up any further concerns with BHCC or Sussex Police as ultimately, the statutory authorities have the final say on any events held in the City.

Kind Regards

Paul Kemp



Pride Arts and Film
21st July – 6th August 2017
Pride weekend 4th –6th August 2017

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Brighton and Hove Pride is the UK's biggest Pride Festival and is operated by Brighton Pride CIC, a not for profit community interest company.
All tickets revenue raised goes directly to the operational and running costs of producing the Pride Festival, LGBT Community Parade, Pride Village Party and community fundraising for the Rainbow Fund and Pride social impact fund.

From: TREVOR SCOBLE <trevor.scoble894@btinternet.com>
Reply-To: <trevor.scoble894@btinternet.com>
Date: Tuesday, 11 July 2017 12:01pm
To: <paul@brighton-pride.org>
Subject: PVP St James's Street Party 2017

Dear Paul

(2) Deputation concerning Music Venues: A thank you; a request; and still - who is VisitBrighton.com for?

Three years ago, I stood before you presenting one of the larger petitions you receive; bringing with me so many supporters they had to be accommodated in an anteroom with a video link. Such is the passion for live grassroots music in this city.

It was not a hostile petition and it was non-party political. Likewise, this deputation is neither hostile or party political. The petition was the grassroots music scene of Brighton and Hove reaching out to you saying get to know us, understand us and work with us. And you did. Thank you.

In truth, I expected you to slap the petition down, to somehow use council procedure to negate it, or just side-line it. But you didn't. Thank you.

The petition was backed unanimously and furthermore, you moved to create a Policy Panel to explore the issues affecting live music venues in the city. That process reached a milestone last month with the publication of the council's Brighton & Hove Live Music Venue Partnership Report.

This deputation is a big thank you for the work so far, to explain why I feel it is so important all Councillors keep an eye on the developments not just the specific committee members and also to mention a couple of new threats that have appeared since I last stood before you. I want to explain why the council's own Live Music Venue Partnership Report is so important. The second part of the deputation revisits my passionate feelings towards the Visit Brighton website.

The Music...

I appreciate that with your council workload, for some of you, the live music scene only triggers into your council consciousness when something goes wrong or there are negatives involved. These negatives you come across as Councillors only feed into that feeling that the city's nightlife is a problem to be tolerated rather than something wonderful to be celebrated. I'd like you to see past those over-emphasised negatives and join in with the positives.

The B&H Live Music Venue Report is an important step forward and I urge to read it (it's not that long). It sets out the background and history of live music in the city, some of the current challenges for the sector both locally and nationally, and places it within a worldwide perspective. Our city is known worldwide as a grassroots musical hub that attracts a wealth of creative talent across all the creative industries. It's one of the reasons this city has such a high graduate retention.

The report makes 4 key recommendations.

The first of which is to set up two groups: a '**Live Music Roundtable**' and a '**Live Music Venue Partnership**'. To me this is the most important of the recommendations and an expansion of the forum idea that I put forward in the original petition. It is suggested in the report that the Roundtable will consist of around 20 members from across the sector from musicians and sound engineers, promoters, festival organisers, venue owners, etc., and key representatives from relevant council departments

This fledgling initiative needs treating with great care. The right inclusive balance is crucial from the off to get the local music scene fully onboard. If the Roundtable seen as a clique then musicians and small promoters will distance themselves from it en masse.

On a personal note, I feel it is imperative that a representative from police licencing is on the Roundtable. They and the local music scene need to bridge that gap of trust and understanding to work together for the benefit of both. For the economic survival of our venues I see this as paramount.

Supporting Information:

The Roundtable is to be supported by a Live Music Venue Partnership open to anyone working within the live music industry in the city to join. It's a forum of individuals supporting and passing ideas forward to the Roundtable.

The reason why I suggest you all keep an eye on developments is because you get people like me helping you out of passion not money. Like 90% of the people who are part of the grassroots live music scene, I don't make any money from it, actually quite the reverse. Yet I am intensely passionate about it though; and willing to put the time and effort in to help the music scene progress - and I'm by no means unique in that. In these times of budget cuts these passionate people are a resource that can really help you. If this initiative is successful, and I am so hoping it is, then the model should be portable to other sectors of council business in this climate of austerity. Please consider how cost-effective that can be.

Since I presented the petition new threats have emerged. The Business Rate review is a major concern. It has levied increases to some venues of 250 and 300 percent.

To put that into perspective for you, I was told by one venue owner that equates to a £2 per ticket rise, assuming the night was fully sold out (and of course that is not the norm). When you consider the normal ticket price for the venue is £3 to £7 you can understand what a big hike that is. What is galling, is that you Councillors don't even get to spend the money increase, as you just collect it and send it off to the government.

Though they are smaller, our local neighbours can offer some pointers that can be useful to you. Hastings has an evolving music scene, I'm told supported by the council and is definitely attracting positive reviews. The high cost of living here is making it attractive to some people on the music scene and I know of some grassroots musicians who have moved there and some promoters moving a number of their gigs there too.

Worthing Councillors on the other hand have made the retrograde step of issuing a music venue 70db limit without actually understanding what that means. The decibel scale is not linear - each reduction of 10db reduces the sound level by half. I ask you to keep this in mind if you ever plan to put decibel restrictions on venues.

- Most grassroots venues operate at around 100db without complaint from their neighbours.
- 90db is half that 100db volume (50%),
- 80db is a quarter of 100db loudness (25%).
- In asking for a live music venue to operate at 70db that is less than 13% of the volume that venues normally operate at. It is the sound of a vacuum cleaner, less than the average noise level of your TV or radio in your own home.

Three years ago, I asked you to remember my petition every time you saw a musician on the city's streets. Whether it was someone with a guitar strapped to their back, a towering stack of drums walking down the street, a jazz band unloading into a venue, a proud grandpa escorting one of the city's many young musicians to their first gig or an out of town band arriving at the station because Brighton is such a great place to play. I asked you to remember the petition.

This was because live music is everywhere in this city. It is so common we don't notice it any more. It's akin to how we forget to hear the waves when we take a long walk on the beach, because it's there ever present. I still need you to notice it, even now, because it is still under threat, it still needs your help and understanding. Thank you.

The Tourist website

The comments I am making here are because I am passionate about this city live, work and play in. I love being a party of this city. I mean no personal disrespect to anyone but I feel I should point out if something is not working.

Regardless of your political position, Brexit is going to make a difference. We are spoilt in this city with what the influx of tourists awards us - an abundance of shops, restaurants and leisure amenities we wouldn't normally be able to support. Will Brexit change all that? Will the foreign tourists and language students still come in the same numbers? Will it increase the number of the country's Staycationers and how can we keep ahead of that game?

In the past seaside resorts like Margate, Blackpool and Rhyl became complacent over what they had and then declined dramatically as times changed. We must make sure Brighton & Hove doesn't become complacent in the face of Brexit and other changes.

Supporting Information:

Which brings me back to the council's tourist website VisitBrighton.com – our shop window as a city, how we offer what we have to the world to entice them in.

When I presented the petition back in 2015 one Councillor accused me of taking a pop at Visit Brighton when I highlighted the complete lack of music scene visibility on the site. Well if 7 of the official 'Top 50' things the city has to offer are not even in the city (including a golf club as far away as Uckfield) and it didn't reflect the live music scene at all, then I felt it far to take 'a pop'. I asked at the time "Who is this website made for?" and I'm now asking the same question again.

Since then the site has had a revamp. It's pretty, it's glossy, lots of huge pictures. It is not pushing far-away golf courses as a city attraction anymore but apparently out of town llama farms are a 'Must See'. Please do not get me wrong, I've no beef nor wish to disrespect the designer here. They will have been working to a brief and done that job very well.

The site reminds me of one of those glossy publications where companies get featured for buying adverts in the magazine. It looks wonderful but when you get down to it, it is devoid of real content. [Councillors I appreciate that for most of you with your normal council workload you may not have extensively looked at this site or be aware of its lack of actual content]

The layout of the site is extra large pictures scrolling across there screen. It's intuitive to click them as links but most of which do not take you anywhere if you do. The pictures are so big you do not realise there is text below them when you scroll, it's almost deliberate to hide the fact that there's not much text at all.

On the new 'Top 50 things to do in Brighton & Hove' page - 7 of the 50 are outside the city with "Go Ape Crawley" having 2 separate entries as does "Laughter Yoga and Chocolate Chuckles Brighton (Activity Organiser)". This isn't something to be laughing over though it is a complete joke. What is the criteria for being feature on the site? There is not a single mention of the live music scene.

The actual Music Venues page [<https://www.visitbrighton.com/things-to-do/entertainment-and-nightlife/music-venues>] is pretty sparse with mainly council own venues and – WOW! - Newhaven Fort as the top music venue on the list. Ironically buried deep on the council's .gov website is a much more informative page that captures most of the city's main venues and other music scene links [<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/leisure-and-libraries/arts-and-culture/live-music>]. Please compare the two sites and you'll understand what I mean. Surely with its importance to the city, the live music scene and its venues should have its own tab on Visit Brighton.

I could go on and on citing other neglected areas not just live music but I think you get the drift by now. Rather than be negative I'd prefer to give some positive pointers.

- Why not have a breakdown of the beaches and what you'll find there each with its own page. From Hove lagoon through to the marina – the family orientated beaches, basketball, i360, beach volleyball, even the nudist beach. Expand it further with the restaurants, cafes, bars and other points of interest around that section.
- Map out the city with link pages of all the local mini-neighbourhoods and what you'll find there.
- How about a map of where all the cycle stations are in the city and the cycle routes you can use them?
- Ask video bloggers to send you their take on the city and what it has to offer. For a link back to their blogging channel you'll get plenty of potential subscriptions for free.

These are just ideas off the top of my head. Open it up to the people who live and work in the city to come up with their suggestions for the top 50 and what should be and they'll tell you what we should be broadcasting about the city.

Councillors, Visit Brighton shouldn't be just pretty pictures on a website for the sake of it. It needs to be an integral part of the council's strategy to attract new people to the city and make it as appealing and informative as possible.

Many thanks for listening and please, each time you see a musician on the city's streets, remember this deputation and our amazing live music scene. Thank you.