



**Cllr. Lee Wares, Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald &
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C/o Hove Town Hall
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Geoff Raw
Chief Executive
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Date: 9th November 2018
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Dear Geoff,

RSPCA BRIGHTON – BRAYPOOL LANE – COMMERCIAL WASTE

We are submitting this letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting of 27th November 2018.

RSPCA Brighton in Braypool Lane (RSPCA) is a self-funding charity raising monies from local benefactors and initiatives and does not, regretfully, receive financial support from the “parent” organisation that reportedly receives millions. For years the RSPCA has benefitted from significant waste services provided by the Council on an ex-gratia basis. In recent months the Council has withdrawn all but two of the waste bins previously provided advising that more can be supplied at a cost.

At the same time, the RSPCA has been providing the Council with ex-gratia services by taking in stray dogs from the Council or those taken by the Housing Department. Most of the dogs are eventually transferred to the Council’s paid for kennel providers and some dogs are returned to the RSPCA in the hope of finding new owners. The cost of this ex-gratia service to the RSPCA is circa £10,000 per annum. Likewise, the RSPCA has invested in and maintains on public land lighting to improve safety, repairs the Council owned car park, maintains the trees and daily litter picks. They also assist in preventing unauthorised encampments on the land by securing the entrance at night. The RSPCA also support the Council by taking in reptiles and other animals.

RSPCA Brighton cannot operate efficiently with just two bins and is happy to pay for additional ones. However, this seems unreasonable given the Council still wish to benefit from the ex-gratia services the RSPCA is providing. It seems further unnecessary for both the Council and the RSPCA to incur additional administrative costs in billing each other for mutually beneficial services to only continue the relationship both had previously enjoyed; this seems a waste of effort and money to achieve nothing more.

We respectfully enquire therefore if you would support officers in reaching a mutually beneficial arrangement with the RSPCA to avoid this waste of time and money or perhaps

confirm that the Council will no longer rely on the RSPCA because it intends to construct and run a new kennel facility at Hangleton Bottom and now no longer needs the support of the RSPCA.

Yours sincerely

Cllrs. Lee Wares, Geoffrey Theobald and Carol Theobald