

Subject:	Make Brighton and Hove Events Plastic Free – Petition for Debate:		
	Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 31 January 2019		
Date of Meeting:	7 March 2019		
Report of:	Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee

To receive the petition referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations:

- (1) That the petition be considered at its meeting on the 7th March 2019;
- (2) That, the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee agree to receive a further report before the end of September 2019, containing outline proposals and costings for the following:
 - The introduction of an Environmental Impact Charge levied by the Council on event organisers to directly mitigate against any long term environmental or ecological damage;
 - The provision of infrastructure aimed at reducing waste and the usage of plastics at events (e.g. water-fountains or properly signposted standpipes), and improved recycling facilities;
 - The employment of an additional Officer in the Sustainability Team; working specifically on achieving the timetables outlined here and bringing in best practice, such as the management of waste at Latitude Festival in collaboration with Greenpeace, and other measures as set out in the Dec 2018 Notice of Motion on ‘Climate and Biodiversity Emergencies’ and
- (3) That the report in 2.2 above should further explore:
 - Options to improve partnership working between the Council, event organisers, and local campaign groups, regarding plastic and waste reduction; and
 - Additional work with partners to ensure better public transport links for all events, encouraging low-emission travel.

Petition:

“Make Brighton and Hove Events Plastic Free

We, the undersigned, call on Brighton & Hove City Council and the organisers and sponsors of the city's biggest public events to commit to eliminating the use of single-use plastics by 2020 at the latest.”

<https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/make-brighton-and-hove-events-plastic-free>

Lead petitioners: Carole Mortimer and Sarah Kingdom

Additional Information:

Internationally, each year, over 8 million tonnes of plastic finds its way into our oceans and some of it already turns up on Brighton beach, but the impact is even worse when city events create vast amounts of additional waste such as water bottles from the marathon or disposable plastic glasses during the Festival and Pride. It doesn't have to be this way. Events should be using alternatives such as stack cup and water refill stations.

In the summer of 2018, Green Councillors persuaded Brighton & Hove's Labour Council to introduce new criteria to ensure city events go 'plastic free' and in particular that event organisers eliminate single-use plastics as a condition of their event permission. Following this success the Councillors presented another proposal to investigate food waste collections and an increase in plastic recycling, this passed, but without the support of a single Labour Councillor.

Now we need action on this progress and to ensure that future events in our city are plastic free: no ifs, no buts. By 2020 at the latest no major public event should be given permission, funding or sponsorship if they are using single-use plastics.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 31 JANUARY 2019****COUNCIL CHAMBER - BRIGHTON TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

Present: Councillors Simson (Chair), Phillips (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Bell, Bennett, Bewick, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Janio, Knight, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Platts, Robins, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls, West and Yates.

PART ONE**63 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE****(3) MAKE BRIGHTON AND HOVE EVENTS PLASTIC FREE**

- 63.21 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 3 such petitions. She also noted that there was an amendment to the covering report's recommendation from the Green Group.
- 63.22 The Mayor then invited Dr Kingdom to come forward and present the petition.
- 63.23 Dr Kingdom thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition had over 3,500 signatures calling on the council to ban the use of single-use plastics at outdoor events in the city. It was felt that the council could move faster to make change happen and is in a position to stipulate conditions as part of any agreement that allows an event to take place in the city which would see the use of alternatives to single-use plastic cups, the provision of water fountains, and improved public transport routes. She believed that Brighton should be regarded as an aspirational destination for event co-ordinators and she hoped that the petition would be supported.
- 63.24 Councillor Robins thanked Dr Kingdom for presenting the petition and stated that officers were already considering how to ensure sustainable event management and to amend the Event Strategy to take account of this issue. He noted that significant changes had already been achieved by working with the Brighton half-marathon organisers but he accepted that there was still a long way to go. A report detailing the proposed Event Strategy was due to come to the committee in March and that would be helpful given that was when the petition would also be considered. He hoped that there would be a possibility to phase out single-use plastics at events in the city.

63.25 Councillor Littman welcomed the petition and moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which called for the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee to commission a further report for September that looked at options for other actions that could be implemented to help ensure events in the city were plastic free.

63.26 Councillor Greenbaum formally seconded the amendment.

63.27 Councillor Nemeth welcomed the petition in principal and agreed that action needed to be taken, but also noted that it would be difficult to prevent events such as the half marathon from being completely plastic free given the use of the material in other associated products such as, energy capsules and the medals presented at the end of the event. He also suggested that it would be difficult to control the actions of stall holders at such events but looked forward to considering the reports at future meetings of the committee.

63.28 Councillor Robins noted the comments and stated that he could not accept the amendment. He was happy to discuss the petition's ambitions at the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee but felt that the council was already doing a great deal in this area and perhaps needed to consider how to publicise that more. He noted that other cities such as San Francisco had attempted to reduce use of plastic bottles but then found other problems with the alternatives that were put in place.

63.29 The Mayor thanked Dr Kingdom for attending the meeting and presenting the petition, and noted that the Green Group's amendment had not been accepted. She therefore put the amendment to the vote which was carried by 29 votes to 19 votes.

63.30 The Mayor then put the recommendations as amended to the vote which was carried unanimously.

63.31 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the petition be noted and referred to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 7th March 2019;
- (2) That, in addition to the referral of this petition to the March meeting, to request that a further report be received by Tourism, Development & Culture Committee before the end of September 2019, containing outline proposals and costings for the following:
 - The introduction of an Environmental Impact Charge levied by the Council on event organisers to directly mitigate against any long term environmental or ecological damage;
 - The provision of infrastructure aimed at reducing waste and the usage of plastics at events (e.g. water-fountains or properly signposted standpipes), and improved recycling facilities;
 - The employment of an additional Officer in the Sustainability Team; working specifically on achieving the timetables outlined here and bringing in best practice, such as the management of waste at Latitude Festival in collaboration

with Greenpeace, and other measures as set out in the Dec 2018 Notice of Motion on 'Climate and Biodiversity Emergencies' and

- (3) That the report in 2.2 above should further explore:
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