

AGENDA ITEM 59(C)i

Geoff Raw
Chief Executive Office
Brighton and Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall
Norton Road
Hove, BN3 3BQ

09.01.2020

Dear Geoff;

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the 21st January meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

RE: STONEHAM AREA TREE-PLANTING PLAN

We write this letter for inclusion on the agenda of the 21st January meeting of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.

For the past two years, we have been working closely with residents, various resident groups (in particular, the Friends of Stoneham Park and Hove Civic Society), two schools, several businesses and council officers to bring forward an assortment of tree-planting and nature-related schemes in and around Stoneham Park in Wish Ward.

The schemes, which feature various administrative and funding arrangements, include:

Wish Park Surgery, Portland Road

Agreement has been reached that four missing trees will be replaced outside the Wish Park Surgery building on Portland Road. These were damaged by motorists prior to the successful conclusion of our campaign in this location for Hove's first pavement parking ban.

Mainstone House, Marmion Road / Mainstone Road

The Section 106 Agreement for 'Mainstone House' (BH2018/01894) provides for seven trees in the locality following our negotiations with the developer. Our proposal at the time was that five go on Mainstone Road and two go in nearby Stoneham Park. Locations in principle have been agreed subject to an inspection of Mainstone Road.

Stoneham Park

Two of three recently-planted trees that were paid for by the Friends of Stoneham Park have sadly died. Agreement has been reached for these to be replaced.

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Westerman Complex, School Road

We worked with council officers to secure £50,000 for street trees around the new Hyde scheme on School Road (BH2016/02535). Agreement has been reached in principle for these to go on Portland Road in front of the school and on School Road. Again, surveys are awaited.

The same Section 106 Agreement provides £69,000 for Stoneham Park as well. We would like some of this to go towards the Friends of Stoneham Park's 'wildlife corridor' proposal for the south-west corner (along with the two park trees from the Mainstone House application as mentioned above).

The reason for our letter is to win the backing of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for these items to be grouped as a single project with an identifiable lead officer, and for an ambitious time-table to be sent to us that includes some planting during the current planting season at the very least. To be clear, we are not asking for any additional funding.

We look forward to having the opportunity to attend committee to present the proposal and to answer any questions as necessary. Numerous officers have been very helpful in taking it this far but we feel that we now need backing from Councillors to really get spade to ground.

With best wishes

Cllr Robert Nemeth and Cllr Garry Peltzer Dunn
Wish Ward