



**Brighton & Hove  
City Council**

**Councillors Pete West, Jason  
Kitcat, Sven Rufus & Keith Taylor**

Brighton & Hove City Council  
King's House  
Grand Avenue  
Hove BN3 2LS

Councillor Mary Mears  
Leader of the city council  
Brighton & Hove City Council  
King's House  
Grand Avenue  
Hove BN3 2LS

**Date:** 2 November 2009

**Our Ref:**

**Your Ref:**

Dear Councillor Mears

You may be aware of the public criticism the council has received over the inadequacy of its consultation upon developing an updated planning brief for the former Royal Alexandra Children's Hospital site on Dyke Road.

Local residents of Regency and St Peter's & North Laine Ward are concerned, that despite the great local interest in the future of the site, the consultation has been poorly publicised, and only around 360 letters have gone out to the community. Ward councillors are further dismayed that it hasn't occurred to officers to even include ward councillors in the consultation!

Rather, ward members have been embarrassed to first find out about the consultation when lobbied by constituents and through the pages of the Argus. There have been two stages to this consultation, it seems, discussions with stakeholders then public consultation. Ward councillors have been "forgotten" throughout. This simply isn't good enough.

You will recall earlier this year the Overview and Scrutiny Commission upheld complaints about the failure to consult ward members and community partners over plans to redevelop the old ice rink in Queens Square, just a few hundred yards further down Dyke Road. Is there a pattern developing here?

The Conservative administration promised a greater role for ward councillors when they forced in new cabinet system a year early. The evidence on the ground does now seem to fall short of that expectation. Will you and your cabinet please consider the adequacy of the Alex consultation, and agree that a re rerun is essential for members of the public and ward councillors to be properly adequately engaged.

Yours sincerely

Cllrs Pete West, Jason Kitcat, Sven Rufus and Keith Taylor

