

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which the Cabinet Member may speak in response. The deputation will be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

(a) Deputation concerning Controlled Parking Zones M, N and O

Juliette Hunting (Spokesperson)

INTRODUCTION

Lansdowne Area Residents' Association, LARA, is a formally constituted residents' group seeking to improve the environment in which we live, and to this end we have successfully worked with the council on the following projects and many other issues.

We negotiated for a safety traffic island, improved sitings and increased the number of parking bays available in the area, we have planted trees, we have turned an unsightly corner into an attractive oasis and are presently involved with the installation of bicycle racks. We received the Edward Furey award for community involvement in 2009 from City in Bloom.

We met with officers of the Transport Department and put forward the suggestion that zones M, N and O should be combined to form one central zone as has been done in Brighton. The officers appeared to support and welcome this suggestion. We asked our Councillors for their support on this petition, which they agreed to, and presented at the Council meeting on 10th December 2009. We will now make a deputation to the Environment Cabinet Meeting on 26th January in which we can elaborate on this proposal.

RATIONALE

Zone M was the first dedicated parking area, since then we have steadily been 'closed in' by zone O to the north and zone M to the west as well as a zone to the east. Brunswick and Adelaide ward, M. Many of our members have great difficulty in parking, despite holding permits. The waiting list for a permit in Zone M is now over a year. Parking is the biggest issue that threatens residents' enjoyment of this beautiful historic area.

PROPOSAL

Zones M,N and O should be combined to form one central Zone, as has been done in Brighton.

Zone M is one of the most densely populated areas in Hove, consisting of mainly flats in converted large historic houses; there are over 400 households in Lansdowne Place alone, lots of residents work in the wider community, for example Gatwick Airport and American Express Burgess Hill, and are reliant on their cars as they work unsocial hours, not catered for by public transport.

On returning late at night it is impossible to park anywhere near the home, which is a matter of safety.

If the area became one the pressure on Zone M would be lessened. Zones N and O consist of many family houses with garages and parking areas and purpose built blocks of flats with parking. Zones N and O do not have waiting lists for permits

Similarly, residents in Zones N and O would be able to park when shopping in Brunswick Town, recently designated a shopping area in the Amendment to the Local Development Framework, which would greatly help local traders in these difficult economic times.

CONCLUSION

As the Cabinet Member for Environment is aware, we are a community association which has achieved considerable success in improving the area, and this latest proposal would be of **considerable benefit to us all**. It is not only desirable it is a necessity.