

ENVIRONMENT CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 119

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 11 May 2010
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: Tanya Massey Tel: 29-1227
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Key Decision: No
Wards Affected: Various

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive the following petitions presented at Council, any petitions presented directly to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

119. (i) To receive the following e-Petition submitted via the council's website and presented at Council on 18 March 2010 by Councillor Elgood and signed by 40 people:

We the undersigned petition the council to bring the on-street parking contract back in-house when the contract is up for renewal in two year's time.

119. (ii) To receive the following petition presented at Council on 18 March by Councillor Elgood and signed by 12 people:

We the undersigned residents of Waterloo Street call on the council to replace the broken street light with a historic copy. We are grateful to the council for the temporary replacement, but want to see it fully restored to match the other lamp posts.

119. (iii) To receive the following e-Petition submitted via the council's website and signed by 9 people:

We the undersigned petition the council to provide more salt/grit bins throughout the city in time for the next severe weather spell.

119. (iv) To receive the following petition presented at Council on 18 March by Councillor Harmer-Strange and signed by 26 people:

We the undersigned residents collectively request that Brighton & Hove City Council look into the continuing problems of parking and access to homes and driveways in Hayes Close, Portslade. In addition, will the council also look into carrying out remedial repairs to the pavements/pathways in the close, due to it's unevenness which causes problems for wheelchair users and disabled people living in the close.

- 119. (v)** To receive the following petition presented at Council on 18 March by Councillor Bennett and signed by 110 people:

We urge Brighton & Hove City Council to reconsider the withdrawal of the 27A evening and Sunday service, and continue to subsidise it for the continuation of this necessary service.

- 119. (vi)** To receive the following petition presented at Council on 18 March by Councillor Davey and signed by 497 people:

We, the undersigned local residents, traders and visitors, urge Brighton & Hove City Council to take urgent steps to make York Place safer to cross by installing a Zebra Crossing to link it directly with St Peters Church and the adjoining Bus Stop.

The current crossing arrangements are inadequate. Combined with the excessive railings this serves to isolate St Peters Church from London Road in general and York Place in particular. They also contribute to pedestrians making dangerous movements by leaping over the barriers and across busy roads to avoid the detour to the nearest crossing point.

We feel strongly that providing this crossing will help to make the area safer, more attractive to people and help to address the anti social behaviour problems that currently undermine efforts to improve the area.

- 119. (vii)** To receive the following petition presented at Council on 18 March by Councillor Mitchell and signed by 29 people:

We, the undersigned, as residents of Camelford Street wish to draw your attention to the difficult and unsatisfactory situation that currently exists regarding the Council's refusal to issue parking waivers to workmen or tradespeople who are engaged in carrying out essential and legitimate work on our properties.

You will be aware that Camelford Street is in a Conservation area and is made up mainly of older properties some listed, some not, but many in excess of 200 years old. In order to maintain such old and valuable properties in good order essential renovation and repair work has to be undertaken on a regular basis, to a high standard and by reputable firms. There have been several occasions during the past years when well recommended and highly skilled workmen have reluctantly turned down work in Camelford Street since it is impossible for them to obtain parking waivers which would enable them to park near the properties on which they would be working. To give an example: there are currently two properties in the Street where the roofs are in need of urgent and substantial overhaul. There is another property where both of the flank walls are in need of re-rendering. It has so far proved impossible to get a reputable firm of roofers to undertake the work because, as they quite rightly point out, they have more than sufficient work in areas where access is far easier and less disruptive. You can appreciate that no workman wants to be put to the inconvenience of being separated, sometimes by several blocks distance from their vans and equipment.

There have been many instances of workmen rushing to complete a job and possibly taking unsatisfactory short cuts in order to return to their vans before they are issued with a parking ticket. On at least one occasion recently an emergency electrician called on an insurance claim and refused point blank to undertake the work on the grounds that he was not prepared to risk a parking fine, which he himself would have to pay. Other companies have added extra costs to their final invoices to compensate for the extra time taken and the inconvenience of not being able to park near the property they are working on.

When, in the past, waivers were allowed essential work, it caused very little disruption and most residents were happy with the situation. Parking was managed respectfully and with due regard to the narrowness of the street.

We would be grateful if you would take our serious concerns into consideration and undertake a review of the situation as soon as possible.

