

EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 24 MARCH 2011

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

4.30pm 24th MARCH 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Wells (Chairman), A. Norman (Deputy Chairman), Alford, Allen, Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Carden, Caulfield, Cobb, Davey, Davis, Deane, Drake, Duncan, Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Fryer, Hamilton, Harmer-Strange, Hawkes, Hyde, Janio, Kemble, Kennedy, Kitcat, Lepper, Marsh, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, K. Norman, Older, Oxley, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pidgeon, Randall, Rufus, Simpson, Simson, Smith, Steedman, C. Theobald, G. Theobald, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, Watkins, West, Wrighton and Young.

PART ONE

84(A). ROYAL SUSSEX COUNTY HOSPITAL PARKING

84. Royal Sussex County Hospital Parking

84.1 The Mayor stated that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained 1,250 or more signatures, it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of a combined e and paper petition concerning the Royal Sussex Hospital.

84.2 The Mayor invited Councillor Bennett to present her petition.

84.3 Councillor Bennett thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 1,745 people had signed either the paper or e-petition version which read as follows:

"We the undersigned petition the council to relax their parking policies and work with the hospital trust to ensure that the amount of on site parking for all Royal Sussex County Hospital patients and their visitors is greatly increased.

Parking at the hospital should be easy and safe for patients and visitors, at what is for most people a stressful time."

84.4 Councillor Bennett stated that she hoped a workable solution could be found to the parking issue at the new development and that the petition would be fully supported.

- 84.5 Councillor Theobald welcomed the petition and stated that he understood the difficulty and that he felt access for everyone concerned with the working at or visiting the hospital was important. He noted that the council and the NHS Hospital Trust were working closely with each other in regard to the overall development of the site and that the council was pressing for the maximum number of parking spaces to be included.
- 84.6 Councillor Turton stated that as the Chair of 3Ts Hospital Liaison Group he had been involved in discussions with the Hospital Trust over the development and he welcomed the petition that Councillor Bennett had brought forward. He also stated that he wished to move a Labour Group amendment to the report's recommendation, as there was a need to give consideration to the increased staffing levels and to take account of alternative transport arrangements.
- 84.7 Councillor Morgan formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.8 Councillor Fryer moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group to the report's recommendation and stated that there was a need to find a solution to the problem that accounted for the needs of all and provided alternative options to parking.
- 84.9 Councillor Davey formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.10 Councillor Carol Theobald stated that she hoped consideration would be given to how people could get to the hospital from the outskirts of the city as well as the staff parking.
- 84.11 Councillor Geoffrey Theobald stated that he hoped the proposed new transport model would help to offer solutions to the issue as not everyone could rely on alternative methods to a car to get to the hospital.
- 84.12 The Mayor noted that two amendments had been moved along with the recommendation to refer the petition to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting and stated that he would put each one to the vote.
- 84.13 The Mayor then put the Labour Group's amendment followed by the Green Group's amendment to the vote, each of which was carried.
- 84.14 The Mayor then put the substantive recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried.
- 84.15 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration, about how to improve access to the hospital for everyone, in particular in light of the proposed 3Ts development. This will include making public transport more accessible through ensuring the hospital promotes bus routes and working with bus and taxi companies to make sure they can both stop in or very near the hospital as well as making it easier to access the hospital by foot or bike. This will help to ease congestion and improve air quality around the hospital and ensure that emergency vehicles can reach the hospital more quickly and safely;

- (2) That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration with the following recommendations:
- (i) That the council works with Brighton, Hove and Sussex NHS Hospital Trust to ensure that the number of 450 additional staff that will be working at the Royal Sussex County Hospital site once the development is complete is taken into account when setting final car-parking numbers;
 - (ii) That the council actively encourages the Trust to significantly increase the frequency and capacity of the 40X bus;
 - (iii) That the council completes an area-wide feasibility study to determine whether through-traffic can be diverted away from the immediate vicinity of the hospital in accordance with the council's agreed LDF Core Strategy document; and
 - (iv) That the council works with the hospital Trust and other large employers in the city to provide genuine sustainable travel modes and choices for their workforce.

