

We trust that the committee are familiar with the ethos and purpose of the Beacon Hub project. We believe that the project is a perfect fit with Brighton and Hove City Council's, Community Sustainability Plan 2012-16.

The plan's key principles advocate:

- Protecting and expanding old habitats and creating new space for wildlife.
- Reviving local identity and wisdom; support for and participation in the arts.
- Inclusive, empowering workplaces with equal pay; support for local communities & fair trade.
- Encouraging active, sociable, meaningful lives to promote good health and well being.



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As further justification, please consider the following:

The treatment cost of cardiovascular disease for just one person per year is £140,000. Walking 30 minutes per day has substantial direct cost reduction for local health services. Brighton's Royal Sussex Cardiac centre is in the top 10 busiest in the UK, with 40% more pacemakers fitted than the UK average. Cardiovascular diseases cause more than a quarter of all deaths in the UK, accounting for more than 161,000 deaths each year. If illness prevention in just 2% of 250 walkers per week = 5 deaths from CVD prevented. The estimated health cost saving in treatments for 5 cardiac patients = £700,000 pa costs saved in local cardiac treatment.\* Regular exercise reduces work related absences. So, estimated savings in cost of absence for 5 persons earning £25,000 per annum equates to £125,000 additional extra local income.\*\*

BHB has support from a number of local schools wishing to supply potentially 3000 students every year to this unique project, offering education in conservation and environmental management, improving core skills in sustainability with long term economic benefits.

Over 5 years approximately 15,000 individuals will gain additional skills which will boost their employability. Estimated cost saving per person in unemployment benefits is presently £6000 per annum. If 100 students find work, consequent unemployment benefit cost saving would equal £600,000 saved per annum.\*\*\* These extra 100 students would be capable of earning an average employee starter wage of £20,000 a year, or £2 million in extra local incomes.\*\*\*\*

BHB will increase public walker footfall on the hill, which has increased from 20 per week in 2012-13 to an observed 250 persons per week in 2014. The HUB will be accessible to all local community groups of all abilities and all ages for arts, science and physical recreation enhancing cultural awareness and as a tourist attraction. With the facility up and running, local walker footfall is estimated to increase by a further 200 persons per week. Envisaged additional tourist footfall from outside the local area is 100 per week, each of whom will spend on average £40 locally generating £208,000 annually in extra income to the local economy\*\*\*\*\* .

A daily 'manned' facility with improved gate security will significantly reduce the risk of 'traveller' incursion, the potential impact of which is a costly problem for ALL stakeholders.

BHB operations plan is bench-marked in the full project proposal by three similar wildlife interpretation and conservation centres. In addition, the BHB team demonstrate exceptional levels of successful experience and knowledge in the management of local volunteer groups, tourism & social enterprise, fund management, risk assessment, business continuity planning, environment conservation, design and cultural heritage.

We are informed by potential funders (including SDNPA) that to entertain major funding, they would require a minimum period of 15 years and wish to see matched funding by the owners. BHB Trustees have already donated £75K of IN KIND time/costs to date.

In conclusion, despite boundless enthusiasm and dedication, BHB Trustees are realistic about the possibility of success on the terms suggested in the City Council's own Committee Report and are therefore disinclined to donate their time and costs on this basis without additional support and an extended lease from Brighton & Hove City Council to ensure viability. We therefore respectfully seek a minimum 15 year period to facilitate third party funding in order to redevelop the building and accommodate larger class sizes which will guarantee the ongoing success of the project.

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## STATISTICAL SOURCES

\* Statistics derived from NHS reports - Social impact on health: reduce heart failures and associated illnesses.

\*\*Statistics from CIPD - Chartered Institute of Personnel and Development.

\*\*\*Statistics refer to NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training) and Employability Cost Savings.

\*\*\*\*Statistics from DWP (Department for Work and Pensions).

\*\*\*\*\*Statistics from UK Tourism reports.



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## REPORT ERRATUM

We wish to highlight points in the Council's report where information has been overlooked or misconstrued. BHB correct BHCC's statements as follows:

- Para 3.1 and 7.1 Any implied loss of revenue £49K pa to BHCC should not be considered a "loss" as the site is not commercially viable (as a golf course).
- Para 3.4 Friends of Beacon Hill are NOT the proposers. BHB proposal is to manage it via a formally constituted CIO (Beacon Hub Brighton).
- Para 3.5 The private donor has asked for a 15 year lease, not 7 years. Planning permission may not be required if initial design drawings to SDNPA are accepted.
- Para 3.6 BHB has significant support for volunteers from Brighton University and the University Technical College. Income viability has been proved by the substantial written endorsement of usage by local schools and community groups.
- Para 4.2 BHB has not asked for 7 years lease, but 15 years to obtain SDNPA grant funding and support.
- Para 5.2 There is negligible (1 person) support for a golf course. Local traders are NOT supporting a golf course. Beyond BHB No other formal recreation alternatives have been discussed with the community. The BHB proposal is based on several months of consultations with many local community groups, the Parish Council, businesses, and education bodies. BHB facebook site shows this extensive support.
- Para 6.2 BHB fund raising plans are not "ambitious" as the refurbishment cost is relatively small compared to the economic outcomes and impact. BHB has donated £75K in kind support and has asked BHCC as owners of the building to contribute a sufficient amount for refurbishment. Thereafter BHB forecast income covers running costs.
- Para 6.3 BHCC "minimum requirements" needs to specify reasonable operating performance criteria. If BHCC can cease the lease at will then the lease becomes untenable.
- Para 7.1 There are substantial "Equalities Implications". If BHB proposal is rejected the local community access is at risk. The original motorised Segway use would have barred the elderly, young children and dog walkers. Golf balls would have the same effect. 2013 Parish Council survey shows elderly and young families seek access to this site for health and exercise.
- Para 7.2 There is no reference to Wild Life Protection. The site contains rare species of plants and wild life which are listed on At Risk registers.
- Para 7.3 This is blank. BHB emailed BHCC last week significant financial implications re local employability, economic and health benefits.