

20 January 2015

Brighton & Hove City Council

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of depositions from members of the public. Each deposition may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Depositions received:

(i) Deputation: Brighton & Hove Liberal Democrats- Sunday Parking Charges

In March 2014, Brighton & Hove Liberal Democrats presented a petition, signed by 1,288 people, to full council calling for the introduction of free Sunday parking.

Councillors asked Officers to produce a report costing the proposal which was presented at the Policy & Resources Committee held in June.

Members decided not to implement free Sunday parking, but accepted the recommendation to review Sunday parking tariffs as part of the annual review of parking fees and tariffs.

As such, Brighton & Hove Liberal Democrats are today calling for the following:

- i) A 50% reduction to charges at council managed car parks on Sundays.
- ii) A 50% reduction to on street parking charges on Sundays.
- iii) A 7.14% reduction to the cost of residents parking permits (the equivalent of a half day reduction).

After an extremely successful pilot, Worthing Borough Council has made their £1 an hour parking tariff a permanent arrangement. It has resulted in an 11% increase in occupancy rates, with visitors staying five times longer and businesses reporting a growth in sales. The new tariff represents a 40% reduction on the existing hourly charge.

Evidence has since grown. The first six months of 2014 saw a 13% increase in customer use compared with the same period in 2013 – equivalent to 42,610 extra visitors. Cllr Clive Roberts is on record stating: 'This is a huge economic and social boost for the town.'

In addition, Sharon Clarke, Town Centre Manager for Worthing, is on record as saying: "Footfall is up, the duration of visits is up, confidence in Worthing is on the up.'

Jeremy Gale (Lead Spokesperson)
Lawrence Eke
Paul Chandler
Hyder Khalil
David Sears

(ii) Deputation: road safety improvements for Holmes Ave & Nevill Avenue

Local residents & members of the community are extremely concerned about the safety of children, as there isn't a zebra crossing, or safe place to cross for all pupils at Blatchington Mill School. And there is inadequate space on the pedestrian refuge that is currently on Nevill Ave (opposite Bishop Hannington Church).

The Dangers

Hundreds of children cross the busy Holmes Avenue and Nevill Avenue daily, given that Blatchington Mill School, Hove Park, Goldstone, West Hove schools and 2 nurseries are within this area.

Zebra crossings are not a luxury that parents should have to protest about. They should be installed outside schools and on routes to schools as a matter of course.

Currently, there is no zebra crossing, OR safe pedestrian refuge at all opposite Blatchington Mill School on Holmes Ave.

I approached a local councilor after his meeting with transport officer, Mark Prior and he explained we would need to wait up to a year for monitoring to take place, in order to justify a zebra crossing being put in.

The impact on the community

This is unacceptable, as hundreds of children cross here daily and it's only a matter of time before someone is killed. Several students have already told me they have nearly been hit by cars and 1 boy was hit last year, but fortunately did not need medical attention at the time.

With regards to the small area, which is described as a 'pedestrian refuge' on Nevill Ave, opposite Bishop Hannington church. This is not large enough to accommodate a buggy AND parent at the same time.

Action needed

We therefore ask the Council to consider immediate and urgent action to install a zebra crossing with flashing beacons opposite Blatchington Mill school and to widen the 'pedestrian refuge', or put another zebra crossing with flashing beacons in this area, too.

Mr & Mrs Sen (Lead Spokesperson)
Blatchington Mill School- (Mr Harold)
Mr & Mrs Doherty
Mrs Clair Wilson
Mrs Briony Jacobs
Mr & Mrs Fernie
Mr D Morgan
Mrs E Wyatt
Mrs H Hopwood