

Subject: Live Music Venues - Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 26th March 2015

Date of Meeting: 7 July 2015

Report of: Monitoring Officer

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee:

To receive the item referred from the Council for consideration:

Recommendation:

That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration along with the establishment of a Policy Panel to review the issues raised in the petition for live music and venues in the city.

COUNCIL

4.30 pm 23 October 2014

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors Fitch (Chair), Barnett, Bennett, Bowden, Brown, Buckley, Carden, Cobb (Deputy Chair), Daniel, Davey, Deane, Duncan, Gilbey, Hamilton, Hawtree, Hyde, Janio, Jarrett, A Kitcat, J Kitcat, Lepper, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Marsh, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, A Norman, K Norman, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Pissaridou, Powell, Robins, Rufus, Shanks, Simson, Smith, Summers, Sykes, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wakefield, Wealls, Wells, West and Wilson.

PART ONE**70. (A) LIVE MUSIC VENUES**

- 70.1. The Mayor stated that the council's petition scheme provided that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at a Council meeting. He had been notified of four such petitions which had sufficient signatures to warrant a debate and therefore would call on the lead petitioner to present their petition before opening the matter up for debate. He also noted that one of the petitions listed in the agenda had been withdrawn and therefore three remained for debate.
- 70.2. Mr. Stack presented his petition which called on the council to review its procedures and protocols in respect of noise abatement notices served on live music venues across the city. He stated that the petition had reached two signatures short of 4,700 supporters and explained that he believed a loophole existed in the law which enabled a person to move close to, next to and even into the same building as a long established music venue and then use the legal process to reduce the level of noise from the music venue. Such action had even led to the closure of venues across the city and needed to be addressed to protect the city's culture and its live music heritage. He asked that when councillors saw a musician, attended a concert or the fringe festival they should remember the petition and consider the ramifications of not taking an action to protect them.
- 70.3. Councillor Simson stated that the petition had raised an important consideration and that the need for the Environmental Protection Act to be reviewed was supported in principal by the Conservative Group.
- 70.4. Councillor Bowden thanked Mr. Stack for his petition and stated that he believed it had raised an important issue and one that should be explored further and therefore wished to move an amendment to the recommendation contained in the covering report. He proposed that a cross-party task group should be established to review the current practice and report back to the Economic Development & Culture Committee; given the wide ranging and cross-service aspects that needed to be considered.
- 70.5. Councillor Randall formally seconded the amendment.
- 70.6. Councillor Mitchell noted that the Mayor had previously given advice that the petition should be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee as it was responsible for the noise abatement service. She therefore sought clarification from the Monitoring Officer.
- 70.7. The Monitoring Officer informed the council that the petition was primarily concerned with the use of noise abatement orders which came under the responsibility of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee. It was therefore appropriate for the petition to be referred to the committee. Should the council decide to recommend the consideration of establishing a Policy Panel to look at the matter, the committee could take this into account and establish a task and finish panel.

- 70.8. Councillor Mitchell thanked the Monitoring Officer and stated that the Labour & Co-operative Group fully supported the petition and the amendment on the basis that it would be left to the committee to decide whether or not to establish a Policy Panel, which would need to look across all areas of the council's functions relating to live music and venues.
- 70.9. Councillor Bowden noted the information and indicated that he was happy for the petition to be referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee.
- 70.10. The Mayor noted that an amendment to the recommendation in the report had been moved and put it to the vote which was carried. He then put the recommendation as amended to the vote which was also carried.
- 70.11. **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration along with the establishment of a Policy Panel to review the issues raised in the petition for live music and venues in the city.

