

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 deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

(a) Deputation concerning Support for a community café and storage space

(Spokesperson) – Ms. S. Betts

Supported by:
Adam Buckingham
Imogen Richmond-Bishop
Jess Hooper
George Beard

Deputation: Support for a community café and storage space

We wish to urge the council to support us in our search for a premises for a community café and storage space. The Real Junk Food Project Brighton has been running for just under a year, in this time we have saved over 14 tonnes of edible food from landfill and fed thousands of people. We have served food to both MP's at the Houses of Parliament and to the most vulnerable members of our community. We have worked with and supported a number of organisations in our city, including but not limited to Justlife, Rise, Brighton Voices in Exile, Chomp, and the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership. We are however unable to expand further without our own full time café space and storage area.

- 1 - Malnutrition and child poverty: Malnutrition and child poverty are on the rise in the UK. In some areas of Brighton poverty affects 41.9% of under 18s, this not only has immediate consequences on the wellbeing of the individual, but also can have long term health effects. At our pop-up cafes we provide not only a nutritious meal, but also ingredients for people to take home.
- 2 - Social isolation: We help individuals who are suffering from social isolation, loneliness and other mental health issues, our community cafés are open to all and aim to provide a safe space for those who need it. We can also help individuals find support appropriate to their needs through our ties with numerous community groups and charities in our city.
- 3 - Unemployment – We rely on a core team of volunteers to help us run our café. We provide volunteers with valuable experience working in kitchens, in dealing with the public and we also are working on providing formal training for our core team therefore improving their chances of gaining employment. In the future once we are able to be open full time we will be aiming to provide employment opportunities to members of our community.
- 4 - Food Waste: Food waste in the household costs the average family £680 per annum, we aim to help people reduce this by holding workshops on menu planning and food budgeting. We also to aim to tackle food waste on a national level as well, it is for this reason that we have supporting Kerry McCarthy's food waste bill.
- 5 - Health issues and obesity : In 2010 obesity cost the NHS in Brighton and Hove £78.1 million, obesity can be linked to processed foods that are high in fats, sugars, and salt, we are working on providing healthy nutrition classes that will be both provided by our core team of volunteers and external practitioners. For this we have built close relationships with nutritionists, and in particular with the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership and Nutrition for Change and are just waiting for a full time premises to be able to run these.

Spokesperson – Ms. S. Betts

Supporting Information:

'We've been working in partnership with Real Junk Food in Brighton for about 6 months, their work is nothing short of incredible. The Real Junk Food team work tirelessly to produce healthy, creative and tasty meals for dozens of Justlife clients who gather every week for support and developmental activities. Our work with people who are close to the streets has been enhanced immensely by RJFs reliability, generosity and professionalism in every encounter and we fully endorse any application which they make for further support.'

Gary Bishop, CEO, Justlife.

'We've partnered with Real Junk Food for our Chomp project. Chomp provides nutritional meals during the school holidays for kids that rely on free school meals during term time. Real Junk Food have been great at communicating what food they have collected and donate to Chomp - fresh produce that we can use in our meals or excess tinned goods that we can give to families that we know are struggling financially. Real Junk Food have also kindly invited Chomp families to dine complimentary at their cafe, which has been great for our families. One of our values is to reduce waste and use local food and Real Junk Food help us achieve this in an efficient way so we can focus on the families.'

Amy Goodwin, Chomp Manager

'I support The Real Junk Food Project Brighton because it redeems an injustice'.

Ben Szobody, One Church

'The Real Junk Food Project is ground-breaking and I am delighted to welcome it to Brighton and Hove. At a time of growing concern about the provenance of our food, about food waste and increased reliance on food banks, The Real Junk Food Project is asking all the right questions – and coming up with answers too. It seeks not just to address the symptoms of some of the problems with our food production system but goes back to the causes, in a bid to reconnect people with the pleasures and benefits of real food.'

Caroline Lucas MP