

Subject:	Save Withdean (puppy) Park Fenced Enclosure – Petition for Debate		
Date of Meeting:	24 March 2016		
Report of:	The Monitoring Officer		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Mark Wall	Tel: 01273 291006
	E-mail:	mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined e-petition and paper petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,971 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 28th June 2016.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition****Save Withdean (puppy) Park Fenced Enclosure**

"We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to Commit to maintaining the fenced area of Withdean Park (known by many as the puppy park), that has become a favourite dog exercising area by locals and the wider Brighton community."

Supporting Information:

Withdean park fenced space is a unique facility in the Brighton area that is popular with local residents and people from wider afield, alike. It is a safe destination for dog walkers that attracts many families and young children wishing to spend time outdoors with other likeminded dog owners. For the council just to decide to withdraw maintenance of such a popular resource without trialling other ways to fund and support this vital community facility (such as a low-cost toll scheme or leasing a cafe site to generate revenue - both of which would encourage more creative and even wider use of the park by the

public) is not responsible and amounts to short-sighted management of the city's park. This petition is aimed at encouraging the council to recognise the importance of this facility to the people who currently use this park for dog exercising, have used it in the past and for anyone who would like to use it in the future. I therefore urge the public to sign this petition and urge the council to change their decision.

3.2 The options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
- (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;
- (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Committee Chair to reply to the points raised;
- (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).