

**NOTICE OF MOTION**

**GREEN GROUP**

**DOWNLAND ESTATE DISPOSALS**

We note that the downland estate has been preserved to protect our City's aquifer and is greatly valued for its biodiversity, heritage, landscape and amenity. Many of these unique characteristics are under statutory designation but in the current political climate this in itself does not guarantee protection.

There has been considerable concern expressed by members of the public and by conservation bodies at the planned sales of parcels of the downland estate. These sales have been developed under the auspices of our Asset Management Plan and aim to raise capital funds towards the restoration and development of Stanmer Park, as proposed in papers agreed by all parties in committee meetings in 2014 and 2016.

Notwithstanding the above, we consider that some elements of the decisions previously approved would have benefited from greater scrutiny at the time, and positive changes to the governance of downland estate disposals are desirable to increase the profile of such proposals.

We have requested, in an accompanying letter, the termination of the disposal of two parcels of land totalling 91.5 acres.

Furthermore we request:

- A review of respective sections of our Asset Management Plan as they concern downland asset definition and disposal;
- The involvement of local conservation bodies in this review;
- The suspension of the £250k threshold under which assets for sale have to come to PRG for approval, to apply only to downland estate assets.

Proposed by: Councillor Sykes

Seconded by: Councillor Mac Cafferty

