



**Brighton & Hove
City Council**

COUNCIL ADDENDUM 2 Public Engagement

4.30PM, THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2022

HOVE TOWN HALL - COUNCIL CHAMBER

ADDENDUM

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Agenda Item 51

Subject: Petitions

Date of meeting: 15 December 2022

Ward(s) affected: All

TO RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING E-PETITIONS:

1. [Falmer Pond Preservation](#)
Lead Petitioner: Angela Cox
2. Petition for two new pedestrian crossings in Woodingdean
Lead Petitioner: Councillor Dee Simson

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Agenda Item 52

Subject: Written questions from members of the public.

Date of meeting: 15 December 2022

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

Every question shall be put and answered without discussion, but the person to whom a question has been put may decline to answer. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public.

1. QUESTION From: Theresa Ross

Is it possible to convert the tennis courts at East Brighton into paddle courts? The starting costs for a basic paddle court are varied but some quotes suggest at the basic level £15,000. Paddle tennis is the fastest growing sport in the world and second most popular sport to football. The UK has only just woken up to it. Currently there is one court in Withdean, (I am aware that Hove has planned some courts). East Brighton park would be an ideal spot as there are tennis courts already there. It would offer a great new sport to the local area.

Councillor Davis / Hills, Joint Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply.

2. QUESTION From: Dilys Brown

Myself and eight other residents live in Kipling Court Rottingdean directly opposite the new flats under construction in St Aubyns field . I understand the need for new housing ,what I don't understand is why developers were allowed to build the flats fifteen metres from our homes with all future residents able to look directly into our bedrooms and living rooms . Planning Officials have said this loss of our privacy is acceptable but they have never been inside our homes . Is there anything the Council can do to force the developer to install frosted glass windows ?

Councillor Littman, Chair of the Planning Committee will reply.

3. QUESTION From: Rob Shephard

Your plan to reduce transport carbon by 4% each year failed horribly, averaging just 1.2%.

At that rate Transport alone, will greatly exceed our 2030 Carbon Neutral Programme's total carbon target. We can only guess how much greater the total failure will be. So, what are

1. The 3 biggest new things you are doing to improve on previous Transport plans.

2. The % annual carbon savings you expect each of these 3 things to achieve.

and what is

3. Your revised annual target for reducing Transport Carbon

Thank you.

Councillor Davis / Hills, Joint Chairs of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply.

4. QUESTION From: Gary Thomas

I run the Mooch hair salon on New Road. Life is a struggle for small independent businesses like mine. Last week we received a £110 fine for putting our rubbish out

for its weekly collection at 515pm instead of 6pm because we had no late appointments and wanted to go home.

The rubbish was in large canvas bags tied to our drainpipe and sealed against the seagulls. They are neat and tidy.

Please would you considering amending the times when rubbish can be put out in the North Laine to help those traders who open later and shut earlier.

Councillor Davis / Hills, Joint Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply.

5. QUESTION From: Alex Partridge

Residents of Roedean Road are extremely concerned for the safety of pedestrians walking up and down the road. There is a virtual pavement but this is woefully inadequate. Are there any plans to install a traditional pavement or similar?

Councillor Davis / Hills, Joint Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply.

6. QUESTION From: Derek Wright

Will the council look into rapidly extending the free B&H wifi provision to the Eastern seafront along Madeira Drive and the Lower Promenade to help increase safety and serve visitors to the existing, new and future businesses and outdoor activities at Black Rock

Councillor Davis / Hills, Joint Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee will reply.

7. QUESTION From: Jo Colwell

At what stage does the council provide those suffering from a section 21 eviction and who are in need of housing advice and support will a homeless prevention officer normally be assigned to prevent homelessness and or to provide a route to suitable housing to these vulnerable people?

Councillor Gibson / Hugh-Jones, Joint Chairs of the Housing Committee will reply.

8. QUESTION From: Daniel Harris

Have there been any reports/data on how the discretionary social fund is being allocated and a breakdown or any stats? I would really welcome some, as I am getting a lot of people experiencing homelessness and hardship claiming they are being placed in accommodations with nothing, literally nothing, we also have people in temporary accommodation spending hundreds each week on energy bills, for poorly insulated homes!!"

Councillor Gibson / Hugh-Jones, Joint Chairs of the Housing Committee will reply.

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Agenda Item 53

Subject: Deputations from members of the public.

Date of meeting: 15 December 2022

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 spokesperson for 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.

(1) Deputation concerning Mental Health Emergency
Spokesperson - Matilda Barrowman & Konstantinos Mytafidis

Supported by:

Matilda Barrowman	Konstantinos Mytafidis
Shelly Baker	William Baldwin
Donna-Marie Janson	Grainne Byrd
Claire Jarman	Olivia Chapman
Becca Finney	Sam Corry
Michael Austin	

Councillor Shanks, Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board will reply.

Thank you, Members of Council. Our names are Konstantinos and Matilda, and we love our city. We think it is one of the best places on earth; but only for some. We are here to ask you, how are our young people? As simple as this question may seem, the answers that come to mind are uncomfortable. I'm here because societal pressures make it difficult for me as a young man to speak about my emotions. My friends and I are at a critical stage in life as we transition into adulthood. The quality of our mental health in these few years will have a significant impact on our future. I believe that if we don't put the work in now, my whole generation will feel the negative effects.

I'm here because at school, I suffered from depression, anorexia, catatonia, anxiety and suicidal ideation as a consequence of bullying and internalised ableism. I didn't receive adequate support at school, and the support I did get came from unqualified teaching assistants who mostly made my situation worse. For example, the teaching assistants treated me as if I had a cognitive disability rather than a physical one, which led to an identity crisis and crushed my self-esteem. This is why we need trained professionals in schools.

We bring our Deputation before you today on behalf of young people at schools and colleges across our city who are suffering with poor mental health and are struggling to get the help they need. Our college, Varndean College, is part of Brighton & Hove Citizens, an alliance of schools, colleges, universities, faith institutions, and community organisations representing over 50,000 people across our city. Our Alliance has been working constructively with the Council and our local NHS Trust on issues of mental health for over a year now. The existence of a local and national mental health

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emergency is undeniable. The data is clear. In fact, the data is heart-breaking. A few weeks ago, we learnt that 1 in 4 17 to 19-year-olds nationally, face Mental Health difficulties. In 2020, it was 1 in 6. Things have gotten much worse. Can I please ask you to raise a hand if you know someone who faces mental health difficulties? Can I ask you to raise a hand if, like me, you want to see a better world for them? The NHS data published recently, highlights that inequalities have been deepened, again! It is young women who are suffering the most, it is LGBTQ+ people who are suffering the most, it is people with disabilities who are suffering the most, it is people of colour who are suffering the most, and it is the poorest who are suffering the most.

Mental Health is undeniably an issue of social justice. Unless we can confidently answer this question - How are our young people? - then we cannot rest. We must rise to the challenge and do all we can to make things better. If we hope to address what is going on locally, here in Brighton and Hove, it will take courage. If we do not meet this crisis with the courage it requires, my generation is at risk of becoming a lost generation. I do not want to be part of a lost generation.

It will be easy to look at what is going on beyond our city and suggest that it is the responsibility of others. Too easy. Whilst it is clear that the current crisis is rooted in many of the mistakes made in Whitehall, we also know that solutions can be found locally. Local leadership and local solutions should be celebrated as beacons of hope in such dark times. You will be aware that we are looking forward to working with you to see a roll-out of school- and college-based counselling across the city. We know that for every £1 invested in school and college-based counselling, an estimated £8 can be saved on the system as a whole. That is, reduced waiting lists for CAMHS, reduced pressure on emergency services, better attendance in schools and colleges, less pressure on SEND departments and less pressure on behaviour teams. The evidence from other places where such early interventions have happened is clear: it works. It helps.

So, tonight, it is encouraging to see a joint motion presented on the mental health emergency. We recognise and applaud the work the council has done so far to support the mental health of young people. We know there is energy in this Hall to get things done. We know there is energy for courageous action. Thank you.

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(2) Deputation concerning Bright Start Nursery Proposed Closure Spokesperson - Caroline Jany

Supported by:

As per supporting information

Councillor Allbrooke, Chair of Children Young People & Skills will reply.

Thank you for inviting us to speak on a topic that is very close to our hearts.

Earlier this month we discovered that Bright Start Nursery was being considered for closure. This was devastating news to all parents, staff and surrounding communities. Therefore the following petition was made which has now reached above 1300 signatures.

Let me explain a few reasons why Bright Start is so special to our city.

Staff specialist knowledge and training in dealing with children with complex disability, medical and educational needs. It is very difficult to find this training in any other nursery in Brighton.

Currently the nursery caters for children with the following needs:

- o Children with Type 1 Diabetes - one parent said she tried 8 nurseries before finding this one which is perfect. The closure of this nursery will have a huge negative impact to her son and therefore to her family.
- o Children suffering with Autism
- o Children suffering with Seizures
- o Children with other special educational needs (SEND)

Bright start staff are long term members – other nurseries have a high turnover of staff. This is not the case for Bright Start which has a huge positive impact to our children.

Supporting families of low income households.

- o A quarter of the children come from low income households and
- o Further children are from refugee families

Diverse and multi lingual

- o The Ethnic Minority Achievement Service (EMAS) have stated that Bright Start is the most diverse nursery in Brighton, with families and staff speaking multiple languages.
- o The nursery had a recent council run 'stickman' specialist event, where the story was read in English, French and Arabic - to cater for the Arabic community lead by Christine Boothe and translator Eman.

Community

There is a large community attached to the nursery of present attending families, past attending families, local businesses and the North Laine Community Association (NLCA). For example the following local businesses have/had their children attend the nursery.

- the owner of the local pub the king and queen
- Infinity foods employees

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- Nearby GPs and NHS staff
- American Express employees
- Kimberly Clark employees
- University of Brighton (grand parade) staff
- Pronta Print and other local print and graphic design agencies.
- and many more.

Location, facilities, timings and cost

- The only North Laine City Centre childcare available
- A great outdoor space which is often not available in other nurseries
- Baby room contains a quiet sleep area, other rooms have great space availability
- Care available from 8am-6pm for both term time and holiday periods
- Affordable pricing
- Acceptance of childcare vouchers and schemes

Our Ask:

Before making such a large decision of closure hastily, please kindly consider looking into other options for the nursery.

Building costs

Some letter responses from counselors have stated that the building renovation costs are equivalent to £50k. Are you able to provide us with the detail on this? Quotes from relevant contractors? If you are unable to provide us with this can we send in our own specialists to provide us with quotes?

Would the council be willing to receive a grant or donations for the building costs? And if so would the nursery still have enough funding to keep running?

Could another central venue be used?

42 nurseries

It has also been stated there are 42 other childcare options. Can you please provide us with a list of those nurseries? From our own personal research, none are so central, have the same facilities or even have any available spaces, waiting lists can be very long.

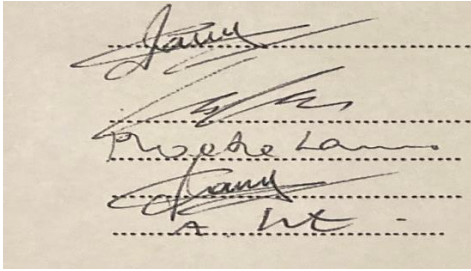
Date of closure

If closure of the nursery is required, please can you kindly consider the impact to the children. Particularly those who will be starting school in September. Rather than having a closure date of April 2022, please consider extending it to August/September 2022, to avoid children having alternative care just for a few months.

Thank you for listening, for those of you that are parents, you will understand the detailed effort you would undertake for your own children's care, safety and education. To make sure they feel loved and cared for. Children with good childcare has an exponential effect to their development as an adult. Our Brighton children are the future of our city, if we prioritize their care we can ensure a greater future for our very much loved city.

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Supporting information:



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Agenda Item 54

Subject: Petition for Debate

Date of meeting: 15 December 2022

Report of: Executive Director for Governance, People & Resources

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka
Tel: 01273 291006
Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) 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 The e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 1,359 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is noted and referred to the Children, Young People & Skills Committee for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 The Petition:

Save Bright Start - Brighton's City-Centre Council-Run Nursery!

This is a petition against the planned closure of Bright Start Nursery in Barrack Yard. We refute the rationale set out by the council for the closure and instead believe that closing the nursery deprives the city of an essential service and further disadvantages the city's vulnerable population.

The global pandemic and political turmoil of the past few years has had a significant impact on children under 5, and throughout this period the staff at Bright Start have been exemplary in providing support and care to all children who go there, allowing many key workers with families to work essential jobs during lockdowns and beyond. The skills and expertise of the staff reflect a track record of providing high quality care to children in Brighton for several decades. Shutting down Bright Start would show a total lack of regard for the wellbeing and dedication of the staff who have given so much to our community over the years.

As one of only a few council-run services in the town centre, Bright Start provides affordable, accessible childcare for parents throughout the city, many of whom work in the city centre, but also many of whom commute to work outside of Brighton. It's central location close to public transport routes makes it accessible to families without cars. In fact, Brighton has very few nurseries who provide care all year round, for all children aged 3months-5years, from 8am-6pm every day. Bright Start is one of them. Losing this kind of care will impact families who have to work long hours, single-parent families, and families who cannot afford to take longer periods of parental leave.

The staff at Bright Start also have specialist knowledge and training in dealing with a range of children with complex medical, disability and special educational needs. At a time when many of the other services for children with additional needs are being squeezed, closing down the nursery will mean depriving them of one of the few remaining sources of support available to them. Furthermore continuity of care is essential for the well-being of these young children, some of whom face the extra upheaval of having to find a new nursery for only a few months before they then move on to primary school.

We do not believe the council has sufficiently considered the significant impact that the closure of Bright Start will have, not only on the staff and families of the children who currently go there, but on the community as a whole. There are not enough suitable childcare settings that equal the provisions that Bright Start can offer to such a diverse range of needs. Moving the more than 50 children who currently go to Bright Start to the few other nurseries that provide comparable care (if that is even possible) would decrease the staff:children ratios at these nurseries creating further strain on already over-stretched services. We believe Bright Start needs to be kept open in order to provide essential services for all families in the city and its closure will be a huge loss to Brighton.

Lead Petitioner – Suda Perera

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 petition and confirm the number of signatures;
 - (ii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the debate;
 - (iii) An amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 of the report or to add additional recommendations should be submitted by 10.00am on

the day of the meeting; otherwise it will be subject to the Mayor's discretion as to being appropriate. Any such amendment will need to be formally moved and seconded at the meeting;

- (iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:
- (v) (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
- (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).

