

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which the Chairman or relevant Member of the Cabinet may speak in response. The deputation will be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

**(a) Deputation concerning primary school allocations in BN3.****Pamela McKellar (Spokesperson)**

We are representing a group of parents who not been offered any of their three preferences, and have instead been offered schools anywhere between two and four miles from home!

We are unhappy and angry about this for the following reasons:

- We believe all children, particularly those of primary school age, should be able to walk to a local school, and we do not agree that it is acceptable for a child of four to walk four miles a day or more to and from school. How will they be expected to perform in and enjoy lessons? We would like to know how far a distance the council believes is acceptable for a child of this age to walk.
- If walking is out of the question, does the council think it is acceptable to add to the air pollution problems in Brighton and Hove – which they have acknowledged by refusing permission for housing developments in some of the worst affected areas – by forcing parents to drive their children miles to and from school, five days a week.
- In the *Children and Young People's Plan 2006-9*, the council pledges to “reduce journeys to school by car...by increasing journeys by foot...”. How is this being achieved when children are still being sent to schools as far as four miles from their homes.
- We believe that children should be supported within their communities in terms of the most basic issues – health and education, and that by sending them to schools that have no links to their local community, the authority is ignoring a real problem that has existed in this area for too long. The creation of 60 new places in 2 Hove schools was never going to be enough, and we are upset that the council considers this to be a success!
- We believe the long term answer to the school places problem lies in the creation of at least one more school for Hove, and we want to see the council make a firm commitment to this, but we also want to know what the council plans to do for the children who are without local school places this year.

