

Kingsway To the Sea: Landscape and Public Realm Improvement - West Hove Seafront

Overview

Kingsway to the Sea is a project that is being developed by Brighton and Hove City Council (BHCC) with local community organisations to regenerate what are considered run-down and underused spaces on the seafront in West Hove. Trends in sports participation have altered which has led to a drop in use of the existing facilities here. The scheme is aiming to enhance the green spaces and provide contemporary leisure and sporting facilities which are relevant to the needs and aspirations of residents today.

The project is seeking to transform this highly visible and substantial community asset and provide facilities in line with current and future expectations. The scheme will look to remodel the land between the King Alfred Leisure Centre and Hove Lagoon, improve biodiversity and attractiveness for the green space and rejuvenate the urban realm.

Introduction

Where the area is

The scheme focusses on land between the A259 and the promenade and from the King Alfred to Hove Lagoon – see images below. The promenade is not included in the scope of this scheme for financial and deliverability reasons. However, access, connectivity and the relationship between the development area and the promenade will be considered as part of the design process.

An aerial view of the West Hove Seafront area between Hove Lagoon and the King Alfred Leisure Centre.



Red line boundary showing the land within the scope of this project.



What's happened so far

Work on the project has been ongoing since 2018 when the West Hove Forum approached the council to work on plans to develop the area, The now named 'Kingsway to the Sea' scheme was thus developed at the request of the local community. The council established a register of seafront community stakeholders and received a very positive response.

As part of project development, a number of consultation exercises have been undertaken. In total, 16 separate stakeholders have been consulted. These all belong to the West Hove Seafront Action Group (WHSAG) group. The stakeholder group aims to secure a broad representation of local residents, businesses, membership clubs related to the traditional sports activities in the area, and voluntary organisations.

During the production of project designs in May 2021, the landscape architects appointed by BHCC conducted another stakeholder consultation exercise with WHSAG. Around 30 local stakeholders attended the meeting to discuss their requirements and aspirations for the project. The current project plans and ideas have been produced with direct input from the stakeholder group.

Feedback from the consultation will be used by the project team to inform the concept design. This will be shared with the stakeholder group and will be developed to the stage where it can be presented to the Tourism Equalities Communities & Culture Committee (TECC) early next year.

A Planning application will be submitted following approval by the TECC committee.

Your details

1a What is your postcode?

Q1b Approximately how many years have you lived or worked in Hove?

Q1c How old are you?

Q1d What gender are you?*Please select only one item*

- Female Male Other Prefer not to say

If other, please specify

Q1e How would you describe your ethnic origin?*Please select only one item*

- Asian or Asian British: Bangladeshi Asian or Asian British: Indian Asian or Asian British: Pakistani
 Asian or Asian British: Chinese Asian or Asian British: Any other Asian Background Black or Black British: African
 Black or Black British: Caribbean Black or Black British: Any other Black background Mixed: Asian & White
 Mixed: Black African & White Mixed: Black Caribbean & White Mixed: Any other mixed background
 White: English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British White: Irish White: Gypsy or Irish Traveller
 White: Any other White background Other ethnic group: Arab Other ethnic group, please give details below
 Prefer not to say

Other ethnic group

Q1f Do you consider yourself to have any particular accessibility needs? If you would like to make us aware of this please specify below.
Visiting West Hove seafront**Q2a** Why do you visit or use West Hove Seafront? - Please tick all that apply.*Please select all that apply*

- For health and fitness reasons (e.g. sport, play, walks, etc.) For the public open spaces
 Leisure (bars, restaurants and cafes) Social reasons (e.g. to meet up with friends and family)
 Passing through on my way to or from the beach / Esplanade Dog walking For work Other, please give details

Details for 'other' above

Q2b What particular facilities and amenities do you visit? - Please select all that apply.*Please select all that apply*

- Lagoon (watersports) Outdoor Gym Children's amusements Skatepark Playground/paddling pool
 Croquet lawn Bowling greens Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) Tennis courts
 Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above

Q2c How regularly do you visit West Hove Seafront?*Please select only one item*

- Daily Weekly Several times a month Once a month Several times a year Once a year Never
 Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above

Q2d If you never or infrequently visit West Hove Seafront, please tell us why. Please share any ideas that you think would encourage you to spend time here.**Qualities, issues and ideas for improvements****Q3a** What do you most like or enjoy about the West Hove Seafront area? - Please select all that apply.*Please select all that apply*

- The existing green spaces Sports (e.g. tennis, bowls, watersports, etc.) Play facilities Events
 Leisure offer (e.g. café's, bars, restaurants, etc.) Proximity to the beach Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above

Please add any comments in relation to what you most like and enjoy.

Q3b What do you think are the main issues with the existing public realm and green spaces that influence your use or experience of West Hove Seafront? - Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Amount of space available for relaxation, meeting up, activities, and events
- The existing offer of activities
- The quality of the public realm and green spaces
- The level/provision of accessibility for all ages and abilities (e.g. routes, level changes, surfaces, appropriate space)
- Safety, security, antisocial behaviour
- The quality and scope of sports on offer
- Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above

Please add any comments in relation to the existing public realm and green spaces.

Q3c What public realm and green space improvements would you like to see across the West Hove Seafront area? - Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- More space for relaxation, events and activities
- Improved quality of spaces (e.g. better material quality, more inhabitable spaces, and provision for seating)
- Improved accessibility (e.g. to make the West Hove Seafront spaces more user-friendly for all)
- Better lighting (e.g. for improved safety/security)
- More shade, shelter and seating areas
- More planting (e.g. trees, perennials, lawn, etc.)
- Better quality and more choice of sports activity
- Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Buildings and facilities

Q4a A number of sports clubs, bars, café's and facilities operate across a range of existing buildings across the West Hove Seafront area – please indicate the facilities that you visit (please tick all that apply) and use the box to tell us more about the reason for your visit.

Please select all that apply

- Hove Lagoon Watersports
- Hove Surf Lifesaving Club
- Big Beach Café (Hove Lagoon)
- Public toilets
- Bowls Clubhouse
- Tennis pavilion
- Rockwater
- Promenade concessions (Lexi's, Fish Galore)

Reason for visiting

Q4b Is there anything about the current provision of clubhouses, facilities, and businesses that you particularly appreciate?

Q4c Is there anything about the current provision of clubhouses, facilities, and businesses that you think could be improved upon?

Q4d Do you think West Hove Seafront would benefit from any further facilities? - Please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- Pump track
 New skatepark
 Rollerskating surface
 Sand courts for beach tennis
 Sand courts for beach sports
 Improved tennis courts
 Padel tennis
 Artificial sports pitches
 Improved public toilets
 New sports club facilities
 Café/restaurant/bar/retail
 Other, please give details below

Details for 'other' above.

Do you have any comments about the benefits of further facilities?

Final comments

Q5 Do you have any further specific thoughts or suggestions about the scope of this public realm and landscape project as you understand it, and how West Hove Seafront could be improved?

