

CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE CABINET MEMBER MEETING

Agenda Item 5

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject: Petitions
Date of Meeting: 12 July 2010
Report of: Director of Strategy & Governance
Contact Officer: Name: John Peel Tel: 29-1058
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Key Decision: No Forward Plan No. N/A
Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive the following petition in (i) below presented to the Leader of the Council on 17 June 2010 and any petitions presented directly to the Children & Young People's Cabinet Member Meeting.
- (i) Petition presented by the saveHOVE network submitted both as an e-petition and written petition. The e-petition has 195 signatories and the written petition has 519 signatories.

"We the undersigned petition the council to lease or buy Connaught School, Hove from City College Brighton, and to immediately return it to Infant School use. Further, in view of its size & capacity, we urge BHCC to consider taking it into Infant Primary use as well in order to provide the continuity so highly valued by parents at Davigdor/Somerhill and at the C of E St. Andrews School. This 125 year-old purpose-built school was taken out of infant school use in the 1970's when pupil numbers fell. City College are now taking it out of its current adult education use; and the future of this Grade 2 Listed school building is now at issue. Any newbuild school will take years to achieve elsewhere, and the current strategy of add-ons is robbing other schools of playspace which is to be resisted.

Connaught School is in a safe side street, away from main roads, and very close to Hove Library. This very large school building is needed NOW to provide infant school places for children currently forced to travel long distances to schools out of the area they live in. Further, the current baby-boom in this part of Hove means a huge bulge in need which BHCC will struggle to meet in the very, VERY near future.

The details and reasoning are given within the petition itself. saveHOVE has raised this petition in the light of information, advice and input from parents of young children who are part of the saveHOVE network. This school was recently given Grade 2 Listed status in recognition of its value as a fine example of a Victorian School building. Keeping it in use as a school is both a practical and conservation matter".

