

MEETING LICENCING COMMITTEE (LICENSING ACT 2003 FUNCTIONS)

Agenda Item 6

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Petitions		
Date of Meeting:	23 June 2011		
Report of:	Strategic Director, Resources		
Contact Officer:	Name: Penny Jennings	Tel: 29-1065	
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Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	Brunswick & Adelaide		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the Committee responds to each petition and in each case gives consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee*
- calling a referendum
- writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views about the request in the petition
- receiving and noting the petition
- requesting a further report

3. PETITIONS

3(i) Stop the all-night openings, drinking and anti-social behaviour in the Brunswick Area

To receive the following e-Petition and accompanying paper petition presented at Council on 24 March 2011 by Ms Valerie Paynter and signed by 371 people:

“We the undersigned petition the Council to acknowledge that a section of the Brunswick Town area is fast becoming an anti-social rival for West Street at its seething, raucous, violent and drunken worst and ask that the City Council calls a halt to allowing any more alcohol licences or post midnight opening hours in Brunswick Town-especially along Western Road.

Applications for clubs, bars, cafes, etc. to sell alcohol and remain open virtually all night long are now lodged so frequently, that residents within what is said to be the most densely populated area in the whole of Europe feel both threatened and under siege.

For years the situation has been so grim that residents of Farman Street asked for installation of a gate at their Western Road entrance to prevent entry to, but not exit from, Farman Street by people coming from Western Road to urinate and disturb their sleep.

Listed buildings are sufficiently high maintenance as it is without the added expense of constantly having to deal with damage caused to areas fouled by excrement and urine, vomit and vandalism. Brunswick Town contains the highest concentration of Grade 1 and Grade 2 Listed buildings outside of Bath and Edinburgh. The Waterloo Street and Western Road parts of it need to be protected from the degeneration and squalor the ever increasing all night activity actively heaps on this highly important Conservation Area.

Even without the hugely important Conservation value and the high proportion density, it is surely incumbent upon this Council to draw a line in the sand and begin to reverse the Skidrow-on-Sea acceptance of vomit and urine soaked streets in the name of support for the night-time economy.”