

26 November 2013

Brighton & Hove City Council

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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.

Deputations received:

(iv) Deputation: Extension of Area Parking Zone- Mr James Thompson

My name is James Thompson of 172 Tivoli Crescent North, Brighton, BN1 5NA. Several of my neighbours and I have been involved with our local community concerning the council proposals to extend CPZ A into our neighbourhood. I now write further to my previous communications on this matter.

The above committee is due to receive and discuss the council officers report and recommendations (Item 51) at their next meeting on Tuesday 26 November 2013. The officer's report, published only recently, sets out the results of the consultation (50% for and 50% against) which shows clearly that public opinion on the proposed parking scheme in our area is equally divided. There is consequently **no mandate** for the extension of CPZ A, as consulted upon, to go ahead. Yet despite this, the officer's report recommends the implementation of the proposed scheme with the introduction of several minor amendments which have not been consulted upon.

In previous correspondence with officers and councillors, we questioned why the properties in Dyke Road had been included in the consultation process. Quite clearly, all of these substantial detached and semi-detached properties have considerable off road parking provision and consequently, it is highly unlikely that these residents will be affected by the introduction of, or be applying for, residents parking permits. If officers were to exclude the responses received from Dyke Road residents (21) then the results would have been **51.5% against** the parking proposals which, we believe, is a fairer reflection of the views of those residents who will be directly affected by the council's proposals.

I, along with five other representatives from residents and businesses in our local area, will be attending next week's Committee as part of a deputation and will also be presenting a petition. The petition calls for the proposed extension to the Zone A parking scheme to be rejected in favour of **an open consultation** with residents and businesses which explores other options and/ or solutions to the parking problems in our area. In previous correspondence with officers and ward councillors, we have put forward constructive suggestions on how this might be achieved. I would therefore strongly urge you to defer a decision on the implementation of the proposed scheme to allow for a proper and open consultation with residents and businesses in the area. This will allow for a more meaningful scheme to go forward which responds positively to the needs of the local community. It would also enable a proper review of the parking meter tariffs in Woodside Avenue to be conducted and to evaluate the impact of any changes to the tariffs on displacement parking in our area.

Furthermore, I would draw your attention to section 5 of Agenda Item 51 headed "Financial and Other Implications" which states the following:

5.4 The Council has to follow the rules on consultation set out by the government and the courts. The Council must ensure that the consultation process is carried out at a time when proposals are still at their formative stage, that sufficient reasons and adequate time must be given to allow intelligent consideration and responses and that results are properly taken into account in finalising the proposals.

In view of the lack of any reasonable mandate to proceed with implementation of the scheme and concerns about the consultation process itself, we would urge councillors to reject the officer's recommendations. We would also ask Members to defer making any decisions concerning traffic orders and equipment procurement until such times as the above clause has been fully and openly complied with. Finally, we would ask you to support our request for a further inclusive consultation process which involves both local residents and business representatives.