



Brighton & Hove

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Councillor Geoffrey Bowden
Chairman
Economic development & Culture
Committee
King's House
Grand Avenue
Hove BN3 2LS

Date: 11th January 2014

Our Ref: KN/ST

Your Ref:

Dear Councillor Bowden

I write to express my serious concern that the Brighton and Hove Motor Club will be denied the closure of Madeira Drive, Brighton, on one Saturday each year to run the world famous and historic Brighton National Speed Trials.

My understanding is that this refusal is being recommended because of the very unfortunate and extremely rare death of a participant during the event in September 2012.

Your recommendations are based purely on the totally inaccurate accusations that the event will go against health and safety regulations! This is absolutely untrue as the Speed Trials has always been run and will continue to be run under well tested rules and regulations that govern all motor sport events in the UK.

Any claims made regarding the condition of the road surface, the close proximity of the general public, closure of all businesses are all untrue. The road surface is always checked by the motor sport governing body prior to each speed trials event and the motor club would not go ahead with the Speed Trials if there was any suspicion that the road surface was not suitable for the speeds attained by the participants.

General public are all either in the pits area behind the start line or the upper viewing level on Marine Parade.

The small businesses under the Colonnade are not closed for the Speed Trials and benefit greatly from the event because they have a captive audience of hundreds of people who either participate or help with the event and who almost all use the business facilities throughout the day.

This prestigious event must not be unceremoniously dumped from the hugely popular list of events that take place on Madeira Drive each year which attract large numbers of visitors to the City and which consequently also bring in very large sums of money to the City.

Yours sincerely
Councillor Ken Norman

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Conservative Member for WITHDEAN Ward