

Geoff Raw – Chief Executive  
Brighton & Hove City Council

31<sup>st</sup> May 2018

Dear Geoff

We are submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

The protection of our allotments and the ability for them to be used by all is our primary objective. As part of the Allotment Federation and Council's endeavours to reduce costs, tackling water consumption is paramount given it is one of the highest costs associated with allotment use.

Initiatives to capture and store water would help significantly in reducing the cost of water as well as reducing the consumption of this mains supply resource.

On 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018 we learnt from the Interim Assistant Director – City Environmental Management, that the Council recently sent to recycling 360 wheelie bins having been deemed unsuitable for refurbishment or parts and spares; 360 x 240 litre wheelie bins equals 86,400 litres of water.

These wheelie bins could have been used on allotments as water butts or composters. Likewise, if there is no demand for allotment users, then these redundant wheelie bins could be offered to the general population for the same purpose.

We are also advised by the Allotment Federation that many allotment users who receive concession entitlement on their rent bills have said that they would be prepared to voluntarily waive their concessions to help avoid increasing rents for others as part of the Council's cost saving measure. At present, concessions are automatically applied whereas it should be feasible for bills to be issued with an "opt-in" or "opt-out" option.

Likewise, the Allotment Federation advise that plot holders would be prepared to voluntary "overpay" but there is presently no mechanism for this to happen.

To that end, we respectfully request that The Executive Director of Economy, Environment and Culture be requested to produce a report for a future Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee to consider, the following:-

1. Restating this Council's commitment to the Allotment Strategy.
2. Providing redundant wheelie bins free of charge to allotment users and the general population.
3. Providing a voluntary "opt-in" or "opt-out" arrangement on concessions for allotment users.
4. Providing a voluntary "overpayment" mechanism for allotment users.

Yours sincerely

Cllrs. Lee Wares and Tony Janio

