

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

17 JULY 2003

4.30PM

BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillor Jeane Lepper (Mayor); Councillors Allen, Battle, Bennett, Bodfish, Mrs Brown, Burgess, Carden, Mrs Cobb, Davidson, Mrs Drake, Elgood, Fitch, Forester, Framroze, Giebeler, Hamilton, Hawkes, Hazelgrove, Hyde, John, Kemble, Mallender, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Meegan, Mitchell, Morgan, Mrs Norman, K Norman, Older, Oxley, Paskins, Peltzer Dunn, Pennington, Pidgeon, Randall, Mrs Simson, Smith, Taylor, Mrs C Theobald, G Theobald, Tonks, Turner, Turton, Watkins, Wells, Williams, Wrighton and Young.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

15.1 No declarations on interest were reported.

16. MINUTES

16.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 12 June 2003 be approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

17. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

17.1 The Mayor informed the Council that Councillor Willows had suffered a minor heart attack several days ago. He had now been discharged from hospital and was recovering at home. The Mayor invited the Council to send Peter and his family its very best wishes for a speedy and complete recovery.

17.2 The Mayor informed the Council that on 26 June 2003, elections were held for the Older Persons' Council. She said that she thought that it would be nice gesture to invite the newly elected members to be introduced to the members. They were Ray Blackwood, James (Jim) Buttimer, Beryl Day, Bob Gunnell, Ruth Larkin, Joan Moorhouse, David Smart (David could not attend due to a prior engagement), and Harry Steer. They were invited to have refreshments with members during the break.

18. PETITIONS

18.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from Councillors. She reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate Committee or Sub-Committee without debate and the Councillor presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.

18.2 Councillor Peltzer Dunn presented a petition signed by some 434 residents in favour of a safer crossing, other than the one we already have for our children attending "West Hove Junior School" (School Road).

18.3 Councillor Giebeler presented a petition signed by some 203 residents of Goldstone Road, Fonthill Road, Ranelagh Villas, Hartington Villas, New Town Road, Hove Park Villas, Wilbury Gardens and Wilbury Avenue urgently requesting to be included in the Goldsmid scheme of permit parking which had already taken place in the other areas of the Goldsmid Ward.

18.4 Councillor Norman presented a petition signed by some 276 parents and carers of children at Westdene School expressing support for the proposals to extend the school prepared by the Council. The parents were concerned over the number of temporary classrooms in the school and called upon the Council to complete the scheme for the extension and provide funding for its construction as a matter of urgency.

18.5 Councillor Pidgeon presented a petition signed by some 47 residents of Haywards Road in Brighton, requesting that the Council gives urgent and proper attention to the effective repair of the grass verge on the south side of the road by the use of tarmac to replace the now non-existent grass covering.

18.6 Councillor Older presented a petition signed by some 33 residents concerning a number of issues in relation to the Tesco development in Church Road in Hove.

18.7 Councillor Burgess presented a petition signed by some 150 residents concerning the number of vehicles that use Carlton Hill as a major road and requesting that a crossing or speed humps should be introduced at the entrance to Carlton Hill School.

18.8 Councillor Oxley presented a petition signed by some 428 residents opposing the inappropriate development of Hove's shoreline.

18.9 Councillor Paskins presented a petition signed by some 79 residents against the proposed sex establishment at 2 Surrey Street, Brighton.

18.10 Councillor Battle presented a petition signed by some 33 residents about the call for the introduction of a safe crossing point for pedestrians

on Old Shoreham Road at the junction of Fonthill Road and Goldstone Crescent, Hove.

18.11 Councillor Battle presented a petition signed by 47 residents protesting about the excessive noise created by the American Motor Cycle Works based at 96 Ethel Street, Hove, who rev their motor cycles and test drive them around the immediate area causing a nuisance to the local residents.

18.12 Councillor Hawkes presented a petition signed by ? residents calling for a traffic management scheme in Lynchett Close, Brighton.

19. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

19.1 The Mayor reported that 4 written questions had been received from members of the public.

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Nigel Furness	Level of remuneration given to the Chairman of the Economic Partnership	Councillor Burgess, Deputy Chair of Policy & Resources Committee
Brian Ralfe	The use of funds saved as a result of the reduction in Councillors.	Councillor Burgess, Deputy Chair of Policy & Resources Committee
Alison Walters	Recycling targets	Councillor Mitchell, Chair of Environment Committee
Ann Dean	Travellers	Councillor Mitchell, Chair of Environment Committee

20. DEPUTATIONS

20.1 The Mayor reported that no deputations had been received from members of the public.

21. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

21.1 The Mayor reminded the Council that Councillors' questions were now taken as read by reference to the list, which had been circulated.

21.2 Questions on the following subjects were replied to by the appropriate Councillor as follows:-

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Councillor Smith (and supplementary questions from Councillor Smith and Councillor Hawkes)	Refuse Collections in Rottingdean	Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Meegan	Parking in Goldsmid Ward	Councillor Battle
Councillor Pidgeon (and supplementary questions from Councillor Pidgeon and Councillor Kemble)	Scaffolding covering pylon on the A23	Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Paskins (and supplementary questions from Councillor Paskins and Councillor Taylor)	Sex establishment in Surrey Street	Councillor Turner
Councillor Mrs Theobald (and supplementary questions from Councillor Mrs Theobald and Councillor G Theobald)	Rose gardens in Peace Gardens at Patcham	Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Mrs Brown (and supplementary questions from Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor Burgess)	Redundancies in schools	Councillor Hawkes
Councillor Mrs Brown (and supplementary questions from Councillor Mrs Brown and Councillor Mrs Norman)	Deficit budget in the current financial year in schools	Councillor Hawkes
Councillor Older (and supplementary questions from Councillor Older and Councillor Fitch)	Tesco store in Church Road, Hove	Councillor Mitchell

22. REVIEW OF CONSTITUTION

22.1 It was moved by Councillor Bodfish and seconded by Councillor Oxley that the recommendation contained in the report of the Chief

Executive concerning the appointment of Honorary Aldermen be approved.

22.2 The motion was carried.

23. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES: CALLOVER

23.1 **RESOLVED** - That the reports to the following Committees with the recommendations contained therein be approved:

Committee	Item
Overview and Scrutiny Organisation Committee: 2 June 2003	9.2 (a) Annual report of scrutiny at Brighton and Hove 2002-2003
Children, Families and Schools Sub Committee: 9 June 2003	9.4 (a) Adoption Agency Annual Report

23.2 The following items were reserved for discussion:

Committee	Item
Standards Committee: 25 March 2003	9.1 (a) Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy and Policy
Policy and Resources Committee: 8 June 2003	9.3 (a) East Brighton College of Media Arts
Policy and Resources Committee: 8 June 2003	9.3 (b) Future airport run way development in the South East
Policy and Resources Committee: 8 June 2003	9.3 (c) Designated Public Places Order

24. ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

24.1 There were no oral questions from Councillors on the items, which had not been reserved for discussion.

25. ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY AND POLICY

25.1 It was moved by Councillor Framroze that the report of the Standards Committee of 25 March 2003 together with the recommendations contained therein be approved.

25.2 The motion was carried.

26. EAST BRIGHTON COLLEGE OF MEDIA ARTS

26.1 It was moved by Councillor Hawkes that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 June 2003 be approved.

26.2 The motion was carried.

27. FUTURE AIRPORT RUN WAY DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTH EAST

27.1 It was moved by Councillor Turner that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 June 2003 be approved.

27.2 The motion was carried

28. DESIGNATED PUBLIC PLACES ORDER

28.1 It was moved by Councillor Mitchell that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 8 June 2003 be approved.

28.2 The motion was carried.

29. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Removal of Customs Officers from Newhaven Port

29.1 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Hyde and seconded by Councillor Mrs. Norman:

"This Council regrets the recent decision by HM Customs and Excise to withdraw all front-line customs officers from Newhaven Port and expresses extreme concern about the potential consequences of this decision on (a) the drug problem, and (b) the potential terrorist threat, in Brighton & Hove.

This Council notes that:

- An independent report last year, by Lord Carlile of Berriew, into Britain's anti-terrorism laws, described small ports, such as Newhaven, as "the soft underbelly of ports policing".
- In May this year, the Customs Minister, John Healy announced that customs officers at all of the UK's 1000 points of entry were to be issued with new hi-tech equipment for detecting terrorist material. In addition, as a result of the events of September 11th 2001, customs officers have been given the power to question, search and detain anyone suspected of having a connection to terrorist activity.
- Despite these increased powers, the number of permanent customs officers at Newhaven has dwindled from a high of 124 in 1990 to 14 last year to zero now.
- Norman Baker, the MP for the Lewes constituency, which contains Newhaven, recently described the decision to remove the customs officers as "a green light for smugglers", and Alan Churchard, deputy

general secretary of the Public and Commercial Services Union, which represents customs officers, has said that "the removal of a permanent presence will leave the back door open to smugglers".

Furthermore, this Council notes with dismay that:

- Brighton & Hove was recently named as the drugs death capital of the UK in a report by the highly respected European Centre for Addiction Studies. The rate of 28 per 100,000 population, equates to one drug-related death per week.
- Recent research at Imperial College, London, has shown that numbers of addicts to Class A drugs in Brighton & Hove are now on a par with inner London and Liverpool.

This Council, therefore, resolves:

- To recognise that a permanent customs officer presence at Newhaven offers a significant deterrent to the activities of potential drug smugglers and terrorists who would otherwise naturally gravitate towards Brighton & Hove.
- To recognise that recent efforts by the Police in Brighton & Hove to crack down on drug dealers could be severely undermined by the removal of a permanent customs presence at Newhaven Port.
- To make representations to our 3 local MPs to lobby the Home Office, with the aim of restoring this permanent customs officer presence to Newhaven Port as soon as possible.

29.2 The Motion was approved.

(b) Proposed European Constitution

29.3 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Oxley and seconded by Councillor Theobald:

"This Council notes that:

1. The proposed European Constitution being prepared by the European Convention will have huge implications for Brighton & Hove City Council. The Constitution will give the European Union 'shared competence' over home affairs, transport, energy, social policy, economic and social cohesion, consumer protection and the environment. This will mean that, overall, more legislation and guidance which is binding on local government will be decided at a European, rather than a national level.
2. Given that the Government has used referendums to approve other constitutional change affecting local and national government, including establishing regional assemblies and directly-elected mayors, this Council believes the people of Brighton & Hove should be able to have their say on these constitutional changes in a referendum.

This Council, therefore, resolves:

To make a formal written submission to the Prime Minister, supporting calls for a national referendum on the proposed European Constitution."

29.4 The following amendment to the Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Elgood and seconded by Councillor Davidson:

"This Council notes that:

1. The proposed European Constitution being prepared by the European Convention will have huge implications for Brighton & Hove City Council. The Constitution will give the European Union 'shared competence' over home affairs, transport, energy, social policy, economic and social cohesion, consumer protection and the environment. This will mean that, overall, more legislation and guidance which is binding on local government will be decided at a European, rather than a national level.
2. Given that the Government has used referendums to approve other constitutional change affecting local and national government, including establishing regional assemblies and directly-elected mayors, this Council believes the people of Brighton & Hove should be able to have their say on these constitutional changes in a referendum.

This Council, therefore, resolves:

To make a formal written submission to the Prime Minister, supporting calls for a national referendum on the proposed European Constitution, **following a period of public debate and consultation prior to a decision by the British Parliament.**"

29.5 On being put to the vote the amendment was passed and therefore became the substantive motion. The Notice of Motion as amended was approved.

(c) Fluoridation of Public Water Supplies

29.6 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Mallender and seconded by Councillor Randall :

"Council notes that the Government plans to introduce an amendment to the Water Industry Act 1991, which will give indemnity against legal action to water companies adding fluoride to their supplies. This plan is a precursor of aims to extend fluoridation of the public water supply throughout the United Kingdom.

This Council is concerned that:

- Mass medication without consent is unethical and contrary to a European Convention on Human Rights and Medicine.
- Evidence challenges the belief that fluoride reduces tooth decay. Readily available fluoride products, such as fluoride toothpaste are available for those who may wish to use them.
- Fluoride added to drinking water is hexafluorosilicic acid - a hazardous toxic waste by-product of the phosphate fertiliser industry derived from the pollution scrubber liquor from its factory chimneys.
- Considerable scientific evidence has been gathered that fluoride, more toxic than lead and only slightly less so than arsenic, can be harmful to health even in small quantities and accumulates within the body increasing the likelihood of cancer and increasing the rate of tumour growth. Additionally fluoride has been linked to other medical conditions including thyroid complaints, irritable bowel syndrome and dental fluorosis.
- Calcium levels in the body decrease as fluoride levels rise: bone density rises and the internal structure of the bone changes making them brittle. Studies show an increased incidence of hip fractures in elderly people living in fluoridated areas.

The vast majority of countries do not fluoridate their water supplies, a number that once did have now abandoned the practice, and more are reviewing their own policy on the matter.

Bearing in mind this Council has a duty to protect the health and human rights of Brighton & Hove residents it believes the appropriate policy for water supplies and dental health would contain:

- A properly resourced strategy for reducing tooth decay, including education of children and adults about dental hygiene, the need for a healthy diet, and the effects of excessive consumption of sugar.
- A ban on the fluoridation of drinking water.
- A health warning on all sources of fluoride intended for human consumption.

John Butterfill, MP for Bournemouth West, has submitted an Early Day Motion (EDM 1258) to Parliament stating:

“That this House considers that the only chemicals which should be added to public water are “those which are essential for its purification for public consumption; believes that the addition of “medicines to public water supplies is a breach of fundamental human rights; and rejects any

"proposals to amend legislation to permit the addition of fluoride to public water supplies."

This Council agrees wholeheartedly with these sentiments and wishes to publicly state its opposition to an unnecessary and unethical imposition of mass fluoridation, and therefore resolves:

- To call upon our local MPs to sign and support Early Day Motion 1258.
- To oppose moves to fluoridate our local water supply.
- To require the Chief Executive to write to our partners in local health care, Southern Water and the relevant ministers seeking their support for this Council's firm opposition to fluoridation."

29.7 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Bodfish and seconded by Councillor Watkins:

~~"Council notes that the Government plans to introduce an amendment to the Water Industry Act 1991, which will give indemnity against legal action to water companies adding fluoride to their supplies. This plan is a precursor of aims to extend fluoridation of the public water supply throughout the United Kingdom.~~

This Council is concerned that:

- ~~• Mass medication without consent is unethical and contrary to a European Convention on Human Rights and Medicine.~~
- ~~• Evidence challenges the belief that fluoride reduces tooth decay. Readily available fluoride products, such as fluoride toothpaste are available for those who may wish to use them.~~
- ~~• Fluoride added to drinking water is hexafluorosilicic acid – a hazardous toxic waste by product of the phosphate fertiliser industry derived from the pollution scrubber liquor from its factory chimneys.~~
- ~~• Considerable scientific evidence has been gathered that fluoride, more toxic than lead and only slightly less so than arsenic, can be harmful to health even in small quantities and accumulates within the body increasing the likelihood of cancer and increasing the rate of tumour growth. Additionally fluoride has been linked to other medical conditions including thyroid complaints, irritable bowel syndrome and dental fluorosis.~~
- ~~• Calcium levels in the body decrease as fluoride levels rise: bone density rises and the internal structure of the bone changes making them brittle. Studies show an increased incidence of hip fractures in elderly people living in fluoridated areas.~~

~~The vast majority of countries do not fluoridate their water supplies, a number that once did have now abandoned the practice, and more are reviewing their own policy on the matter.~~

~~Bearing in mind this Council has a duty to protect the health and human rights of Brighton & Hove residents it believes the appropriate policy for water supplies and dental health would contain:~~

- ~~• A properly resourced strategy for reducing tooth decay, including education of children and adults about dental hygiene, the need for a healthy diet, and the effects of excessive consumption of sugar.~~
- ~~• A ban on the fluoridation of drinking water.~~
- ~~• A health warning on all sources of fluoride intended for human consumption.~~

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~~This Council agrees wholeheartedly with these sentiments and wishes to publicly state its opposition to an unnecessary and unethical imposition of mass fluoridation, and therefore resolves:~~

- ~~• To call upon our local MPs to sign and support Early Day Motion 1258.~~
- ~~• To oppose moves to fluoridate our local water supply.~~
- ~~• To require the Chief Executive to write to our partners in local health care, Southern Water and the relevant ministers seeking their support for this Council's firm opposition to fluoridation."~~

29.8 On being put to the vote the amendment was lost.

29.9 The motion was carried.

(d) Timing of roadworks in the City

29.10 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Oxley and seconded by Councillor Mears :

"This Council notes that:

Over the last couple of months, roadworks at specific locations in the City have reduced the streets of Brighton & Hove to complete gridlock on several occasions. These roadwork sites have included: the main A259 coastal road, Madeira Drive, North Street Quadrant, Pool Valley, Jubilee Street, Church Road Hove and the Old Shoreham Road.

The problems have been exacerbated by the fact that the works are being carried out during daytime rush hours, at the peak of the tourist season.

This Council recognises that roadworks are necessary in order to (a) keep the City's roads in a good state of repair, and (b) to ensure that all the City's dwellings are served by adequate and reliable utilities.

However, this Council resolves that in future, officers should seek to arrange the schedule of roadworks with the purpose of keeping disruption to both local people and tourists to a minimum. Works should, therefore, be carried out, outside of the tourist season if possible or during evenings/at night if during the summer months."

29.11 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Battle:

"This Council notes that:

Over the last couple of months, roadworks at specific locations in the City have reduced the streets of Brighton & Hove to complete gridlock on several occasions. These roadwork sites have included: the main A259 coastal road, Madeira Drive, North Street Quadrant, Pool Valley, Jubilee Street, Church Road Hove and the Old Shoreham Road.

The problems have been exacerbated by the fact that the works are being carried out during daytime rush hours, at the peak of the tourist season.

This Council recognises that roadworks are necessary in order to (a) keep the City's roads in a good state of repair, and (b) to ensure that all the City's dwellings are served by adequate and reliable utilities.

However, this Council resolves that in future, officers should seek to arrange the schedule of roadworks with the purpose of keeping disruption to both local people and tourists to a minimum. Works should, therefore, be carried out, outside of the tourist season if possible or during evenings/at night if during the summer months. **In pursuit of this policy, officers should prepare a full report for the Policy and Resources Committee on the financial and resource implications of these proposals."**

29.12 Councillor Oxley indicated that the amendment was acceptable to the Conservative Group and it therefore became the substantive Motion.

29.13 The motion as amended was approved.

30. CALL IN AND URGENCY

30.1 It was moved by Councillor Bodfish that the report of the Director of Communications and Democratic Services in relation to Call in and Urgency be noted.

30.2 The motion was carried.

The meeting concluded at 8.45 p.m.

Signed

Mayor

Dated this

day of

2003