

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

25 SEPTEMBER 2003

NOTICE OF MOTION

SOUTH DOWNS NATIONAL PARK - BOUNDARY REVIEW

This Council supports the South Downs National Park and welcomes the ongoing work of the Countryside Agency which will lead to its creation and recognises the founding purpose of British National Parks is to “provide for open air recreation” for large urban populations, and that the South Downs are a precious and much loved natural resource.

This Council notes;

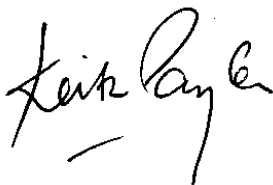
1. The SDNP Public Inquiry is starting on November 10 2003.
2. That there is continuing and renewed public concern over the Council preferred boundaries which were adopted on February 28 2002, and subsequently notified to the Countryside Agency.
3. That in particular there is a wide public support for the inclusion of the following areas (including all parks, allotments and sports fields contained within them) inside the proposed National Park boundary. (Also detailed on map to follow)
 - Whitehawk Hill & Sheepcote Valley.
 - The chalk clifftops & undercliff from Black Rock to Saltdean.
 - The edges of Hollingbury Hill, including Hollingbury Park.
 - Ladies Mile LNR, Patcham.
 - Toad's Hole Valley.
 - Benfield Valley.
 - Mile Oak's urban fringe
4. In supporting the inclusion of these areas within the National Park boundary recommendation of this Authority this Council recognises;
 - The exceptional quality of much urban edge Downland, which – for a variety of reasons – is frequently richer in wildlife, cultural and archaeological heritage than more remote Downland areas. The resources that National Park status will bring will

ensure Downland protection and restoration, and preserve their existing recreational uses.

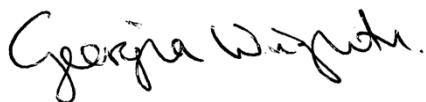
- That these urban edge sites are of high value for Downland recreation, and are more accessible and intensively used by the public of the City than many more remote Downland areas, whose traditional qualities have been more extensively eroded
- That these urban edge Downland sites are the essential "Gateways" to & from the wider Downs. Sites such as Ladies Mile LNR, Benfield Valley, Whitehawk Hill & Sheepcote Valley, are crucial stepping-stones to the wider Downland. Their inclusion in the Park will ensure the meshing together of the new Park in its setting around the city.
- Those areas currently classified AONB because of their special landscape qualities will be removed of their status if not designated within the Park boundary. Additionally the sites at Sheepcote Valley and Whitehawk Hill are of significant archaeological and historical value

This Council therefore determines;

- That the SDNP boundary recommendations adopted on February 28 2002 be reviewed, and instructs officers to re-present the appropriate reports (updated where necessary) to the Policy & Resources Committee meeting of October 22nd 2003.
- That the said Policy & Resources Committee meeting determine if changes to our stated boundary preferences are appropriate and, if so instruct officers to prepare a fresh representation to the Countryside Agency.
- That this representation will be provided to the Countryside Agency by October 28th, so that it can be used as a basis for our presentation at the National Park Public Inquiry.



Proposed by Councillor Keith Taylor



Seconded by Councillor Georgia Wrighton