

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

25 September 2003

4.30PM

HOVE 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, Kielty, 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, Willows, Wrighton and Young.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

31.1 No declarations on interest were reported.

32. MINUTES

32.1 **RESOLVED** - That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2003 be approved and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

33. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

33.1 The Mayor informed the Council that there was a considerable amount of business on the agenda. There was common agreement between the parties that, if at all possible, all the business on the agenda would be dealt with today. There were a number of Notices of Motion and that there were also a number of amendments to those Motions. The Mayor respectfully asked that members keep their comments to the specific issues, and as succinct as possible. This was to facilitate the order of business and members' co-operation would be very much appreciated.

33.2 The Mayor informed members that she proposed to take the two Notices of Motion on GM products together with separate votes at the end of the debate.

33.3 The Mayor also stated that in relation to the Notice of Motion on the members' facilities at Brighton Town Hall, a letter had been circulated from the Deputy Chief Executive. Members may well feel that this answered a number of the issues that were the subject of the Motion.

33.4 The Mayor informed the Council that in relation to the Notice of Motion on George Street pedestrianisation, she had been advised that in the light of legal advice, this Motion might be withdrawn.

34. PETITIONS

34.1 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.

34.2 Councillor Norman presented a petition signed by some 32 residents asking the Council to reconsider the recently proposed No Waiting restriction on the north side of Varndean Road, and to consider alternative suggestions such as widening the road and thus preserve the green verge and aid the flow of traffic.

34.3 Councillor Mitchell presented a petition signed by some 164 residents asking the Council that due to the lack of security and the continuing rise of vandalism to the properties of Arundel Street (East Side) via Boundary Road, to consider the urgent closure of Boundary Road to the public, with key access for all residents of Arundel Street (East Side)

34.4 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by some 70 residents asking the Council to address the problem of the graffiti on the rugby hut in Hove Park and arrange for it to be cleaned as soon as possible as it spoils the amenity and enjoyment of this beautiful green flag park.

34.5 Councillor Battle presented a petition signed by some 47 residents asking for a home zone in Cissbury Road.

34.6 Councillor Battle presented a petition signed by some 85 residents concerned about the speed of traffic and the amount of rubbish, and asking for Goldstone Road to turned into a home zone.

35 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

35.1 The Mayor reported that 2 written questions had been received from members of the public.

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Nigel Furness	The Tesco Store's car park in Church Road (plus supplementary question)	Councillor Mitchell, Chair of Environment Committee

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Christopher Hawtree	Powers of covert surveillance (plus supplementary question)	Councillor Bodfish, Council Leader and Chair of Policy and Resources Committee

36. DEPUTATIONS

36.1 The Council heard a Deputation concerning Brighton and Hove becoming a Fair Trade City. Mr Jamie Bell was the spokesperson on behalf of Oxfam.

36.2 Councillor Mitchell as Chair of the Environment Committee replied on behalf of the Council.

36.3 The Mayor thanked Mr Bell for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the Deputation. She explained that the points made had been noted and would now be referred to the appropriate Committee. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the Committee meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action taken or proposed in relation to the matters set out by the Deputation.

37. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

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

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

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Councillor Oxley (and supplementary question from Councillor Oxley)	King Alfred Redevelopment	Councillor John
Councillor Cobb (and supplementary question from Councillor Cobb)	Graffiti on Junction Boxes	Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Young	Karis ING and Karis Holdings Ltd	Councillor John
Councillor Young (and supplementary questions from Councillor Young and Councillor	Diary bookings for the Brighton Centre	Councillor John

Questioner	Subject	Reply by
Smith)		
Councillor Randall (and supplementary question from Councillor Randall)	Ballot on future of housing stock	Councillor Hazelgrove
Councillor Taylor (and supplementary question from Councillor Taylor)	PFI contract at East Brighton College of Media Arts	Councillor Hawkes
Councillor Taylor (and supplementary question from Councillor Taylor)	PFI contract at East Brighton College of Media Arts	Councillor Hawkes
Councillor Taylor (and supplementary questions from Councillor Taylor and Councillor Turton)	Future of East Brighton College of Media Arts	Councillor Hawkes

38. CONFIRMATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF NEW COMMITTEES 2003/2004

38.1 It was moved by the Mayor that the report on the membership of the new committees arising from the changes in the constitution be noted.

38.2 The motion was carried.

39. REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CALLOVER

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

Committee	Item
Policy and Resources Committee: 16 July 2003	9.1(b) Audit of the Food Sampling Function by the Food Standards Agency

39.2 The following items were reserved for discussion:

Committee	Item
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Policy and Resources Committee: 16 July 2003 9.1(a) Budget 2004/05 Update

Policy and Resources Committee: 24 July 2003 9.2(a) King Alfred: Decision on a preferred developer

39.3 The Mayor reported that item 9.3(a) concerning the Standards Committee meeting of 16 September 2003 had been withdrawn.

40 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

40.1 Councillor Theobald asked an oral question in relation to the Audit of the Food Sampling Function by the Food Standards Agency. Councillor Mitchell gave an oral response.

41. BUDGET 2004/05 – UPDATE

41.1 Councillor Burgess moved that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 16 July 2003 be approved.

41.2 The motion was carried.

42. KING ALFRED: DECISION ON A PREFERRED DEVELOPER

42.1 Councillor John moved that the report of the Policy and Resources Committee of 25 July 2003 be approved.

42.2 The motion was carried.

43. REPORT OF THE PATCHAM PLACE PAVILION SCRUTINY PANEL

43.1 Councillor Hamilton moved that report of the Patcham Place Pavilion Scrutiny Panel together with the executive response be received.

43.2 The motion was carried.

44. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Genetically Modified Food and Organisms

44.1 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Wrighton and seconded by Councillor Mallender:

This council notes:

- a) The current "GM Nation" debate called by the government to inform decisions about the future use and release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) in this country.
- b) Delegates at the GM Nation debate organised by this Council's Sustainability Commission on 9 July 2003 unanimously opposed the growing of GM crops in the UK.
- c) The widespread public concern about the possible adverse effects of GM foods on public health and the environment and the acknowledged importance of a precautionary approach to the release of GMOs.
- d) The threat to the biodiversity of areas in and around the proposed South Downs National Park, Sites of Special Scientific Interest and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
- e) The threat of GMO contamination to organic farms, allotments and food production in general in Brighton and Hove
- f) A number of other local authorities have already declared their areas "GM-Free Zones", among them Cumbria, York, Warwickshire, Shropshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Devon and Cornwall and all of Wales.
- g) That the Local Government Act 2000 empowers local authorities to safeguard the environmental, social and economic well being of the communities they represent, and requires them to implement suitable strategies to achieve this.

Accordingly, this Council

1. Resolves in principle to:

- a) Declare the City of Brighton & Hove a "GM Free Zone" in so far as it is able
 - b) Take appropriate action to prevent farm-scale trials of GM crops or the use of GM animal feed on the 11,000 acres of land it owns or controls.
 - c) Review all council contracts for the provision of goods and services to ensure the exclusion of GM foods, particularly in school meals
2. Instructs officers to report to the Policy and Resources Committee the legal, financial and practical implications of adopting the above policy and authorise that Committee to make the final decision
3. Call on the Primary Care Trust, Hospital and Health Authorities working in the City to adopt a GM-Free policy for all goods and services in hospitals and

other health care provision to protect the well-being of our most vulnerable citizens.

Request the government to prohibit the use or sale of GM animal feeds to minimise the amount of GMOs entering the human food chain.

44.2 The Motion was approved.

(b) Genetically Modified Products

44.3 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Edmond Smith and seconded by Councillor Turton:

This Council notes the widespread public concern about the effects of the cultivation and consumption of Genetically Modified (GM) products.

In particular it notes the overwhelming rejection of GM crops at a consultation meeting organised by the Sustainability Commission, under the auspices of the Office for Information, in Brighton on 9 July.

The Council therefore:

1. Requests the Secretary of State for Agriculture to provide legal protection for the land it owns as a GM free area, under Article 19 of 2001/18/EC or under any relevant powers.
2. Agrees in principle to adopt a GM free policy which, when contracts are let or if and when they become renewable, will ensure that GM food, ingredients, derivatives are eliminated; and to inform its farm tenants of such policy.
3. Instructs officers to report to the Policy and Resources Committee on the legal, financial and practical implications of adopting and implementing such a policy before a final decision is made.

44.4 The Motion was approved.

(c) Anti-Litter Campaign

44.5 The Mayor informed the Council that Councillor Elgood had agreed that the following Notice of Motion would be referred to the Environment Committee without discussion:

This council reiterates its support for the outcome of the recent Best Value Review of Waste and warmly welcomes progress made through the provision of a new dedicated enforcement team dealing with persistent waste problems in the City. However, it notes with concern the perception by many residents, businesses and visitors that problems relating to unclean streets persist.

This council notes with interest Darlington's high profile Anti-Litter Campaign which pioneered the use of on-the-spot-fines for littering, where it is estimated that around 600 people (between November 2002 and August 2003) have received the £50 fines issued by community wardens and the council's Environment Response Team. A further number of prosecutions have been made of persistent offenders through court action and a 'naming and shaming' strategy. The scheme has also been praised for pro-actively enlisting the support of residents, traders, businesses and media organisations in the area.

This council believes this pro-active approach is worthy of further consideration and requests that a full report, outlining the implications of such an anti-litter strategy is brought to the relevant committee, as soon as possible.

(d) George Street Pedestrianisation: Suspension of Experimental Traffic Order

44.6 The Mayor informed the Council that following legal advice Councillor Kemble had agreed that the following Notice of Motion be referred to the Environment Committee without discussion:

This Council notes with concern that:

1. A survey of all the businesses in George Street has shown that the experimental traffic order which extends the hours of pedestrianisation in George Street from 10am-4pm to 10am-6pm, has, in the vast majority of cases, led to a significant downturn in economic activity for those businesses.
2. The extension of pedestrianisation has caused considerable problems for the disabled, who can, effectively, now only access the shops in George Street for one hour first thing in the morning. This situation has serious implications for the Council under Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – Access to Goods and Services.
3. George Street businesses, therefore, stand to lose considerable amounts of money over the Christmas/January sales period as a result of the extension to pedestrianisation. This, in turn, could have a significant impact on local levels of employment in the retail sector.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Use the powers of the Director of Environment to suspend the experimental pedestrianisation extension from October 1st 2003 to allow George Street businesses to maximise their takings over the Christmas and New Year period.
2. Bring forward the proposed January 2004 6-month review of the experimental traffic order with a view to permanently restricting the extended pedestrianisation of George Street to the summer months (May-September), when restaurants and bars will wish to utilise the street for longer periods.

44.7 The Mayor informed the Council that the following amendment submitted by the Liberal Democrats would also be referred to the Environment Committee:

This Council notes with concern that:

- 1 A survey of all the businesses in George Street has shown that the experimental traffic order which extends the hours of pedestrianisation in George Street from 10am-4pm to 10am-6pm, has, in the vast majority of cases, led to a significant downturn in economic activity for those businesses.
2. The extension of pedestrianisation has caused considerable problems for the disabled, who can, effectively, now only access the shops in George Street for one hour first thing in the morning. This situation has serious implications for the Council under Part 3 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 – Access to Goods and Services.
3. George Street businesses, therefore, stand to lose considerable amounts of money over the Christmas/January sales period as a result of the extension to pedestrianisation. This, in turn, could have a significant impact on local levels of employment in the retail sector.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

1. Use the powers of the Director of Environment to suspend the experimental pedestrianisation extension ~~from October 1st 2003~~ *during December 2003* to allow George Street businesses to maximise their takings over the Christmas and New Year period.
2. Bring forward the proposed January 2004 6-month review of the experimental traffic order with a view to permanently restricting the extended pedestrianisation of George Street to the summer months (May-September), when restaurants and bars will wish to utilise the street for longer periods.

(e) Tackling Drug/Alcohol Abuse and Associated Crime and Disorder in Brighton and Hove: improved ways of Working

44.8 The following Notice of Motion was moved by moved by Councillor Mrs Norman and seconded by Councillor Oxley:

This Council notes 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.
- Earlier this year, the Home Office identified Brighton & Hove as one of 37 national 'crack priority areas' where use of the drug, and associated criminal activity, is considered to be a major cause for concern.

- 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.

Furthermore, this Council recognises:

- The commitment of local agencies such as the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in trying to tackle the growing problem of substance misuse and associated acquisitive crime in Brighton & Hove.
- The Government's commitment, as laid out in section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to streamline the work of local CDRPs and DAATs to achieve more common delivery, and to minimise the duplication and bureaucracy created by working in isolation.
- That Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that the drugs-related public health agenda is integrated into the wider criminal justice agenda as a result of the Police Reform Act¹.

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- Instruct the Chairs of the local DAAT and CDRP, in consultation with GOSE, to conduct a review of their working arrangements, by the end of the year, with a view to strengthening accountability and targeting resources more effectively.
- This review should examine all options under the Police Reform Act, including possible merger, to ensure effective delivery in reducing crime and disorder and the misuse of drugs in Brighton & Hove.
- Liaise with the PCT to determine how best to integrate it into the revised structure in advance of the statutory requirement of the PCT to become a responsible authority after April 2004.
- Ensure cross-party representation on the proposed streamlined drug/crime reduction body.

44.9 The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Mitchell and seconded by Councillor Hawkes:

This Council notes 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.
- Earlier this year, the Home Office identified Brighton & Hove as one of 37 national 'crack priority areas' where use of the drug, and associated criminal activity, is considered to be a major cause for concern.
- 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.

¹ Section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002 adds PCTs to the list of responsible authorities required to formulate and implement a crime and disorder strategy and a drugs strategy

Furthermore, this Council recognises:

- The commitment of local agencies such as the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in trying to tackle the growing problem of substance misuse and associated acquisitive crime in Brighton & Hove.
- The Government's commitment, as laid out in section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to streamline the work of local CDRPs and DAATs to achieve more common delivery, and to minimise the duplication and bureaucracy created by working in isolation.
- That Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that the drugs-related public health agenda is integrated into the wider criminal justice agenda as a result of the Police Reform Act².

Therefore, this Council resolves to:

- ~~Instruct the Chairs of the local DAAT and CDRP, in consultation with GOSE, to conduct a review of their working arrangements, by the end of the year, with a view to strengthening accountability and targeting resources more effectively.~~
- ~~This review should examine all options under the Police Reform Act, including possible merger, to ensure effective delivery in reducing crime and disorder and the misuse of drugs in Brighton & Hove.~~
- ~~Liaise with the PCT to determine how best to integrate it into the revised structure in advance of the statutory requirement of the PCT to become a responsible authority after April 2004.~~
- ~~Ensure cross-party representation on the proposed streamlined drug/crime reduction body.~~

INSERT

Therefore this council acknowledges that:

- *Since a review started in January 2002 the RAP and DAAT have integrated as far as is possible in recognition of their separate and shared responsibilities and have made joint appointments.*
- *Considerable efficiencies have been achieved.*
- *The Brighton and Hove RAP and DAAT are regarded as merged by GOSE.*
- *The PCT is already centre stage in driving forward the drug related crime treatment and public health agendas while responding to national priorities and performance indicators. The NHS and Local Authority substance misuse budgets are combined via section 31 arrangements.*

² Section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002 adds PCTs to the list of responsible authorities required to formulate and implement a crime and disorder strategy and a drugs strategy

- *The vehicle for linking the agendas of the RAP, the DAAT and the wider CDRP with elected members is the Community Safety Forum which has cross party representation.*
- *That following receipt of government guidance, the RAP and DAAT will complete a rigorous performance evaluation across key headings.*

44.10 On being put to the vote the amendment was passed and therefore became the substantive motion.

44.11 The following further amendment was proposed by Councillor Mallender and seconded by Councillor Taylor:

This Council notes 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.
- Earlier this year, the Home Office identified Brighton & Hove as one of 37 national 'crack priority areas' where use of the drug, and associated criminal activity, is considered to be a major cause for concern.
- 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.

Furthermore, this Council recognises:

- The commitment of local agencies such as the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and the Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) in trying to tackle the growing problem of substance misuse and associated acquisitive crime in Brighton & Hove.
- The Government's commitment, as laid out in section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002, to streamline the work of local CDRPs and DAATs to achieve more common delivery, and to minimise the duplication and bureaucracy created by working in isolation.
- That Brighton & Hove Primary Care Trust will play an increasingly important role in ensuring that the drugs-related public health agenda is integrated into the wider criminal justice agenda as a result of the Police Reform Act³.
- *That improved public awareness of the dangers of drug and other substance abuse plays an important part in reducing both the likelihood of substance misuse and in reducing criminal activity.*

Therefore this council acknowledges that:

³ Section 97 of the Police Reform Act 2002 adds PCTs to the list of responsible authorities required to formulate and implement a crime and disorder strategy and a drugs strategy

- Since a review started in January 2002 the RAP and DAAT have integrated as far as is possible in recognition of their separate and shared responsibilities and have made joint appointments.
- Considerable efficiencies have been achieved.
- The Brighton and Hove RAP and DAAT are regarded as merged by GOSE.
- The PCT is already centre stage in driving forward the drug related crime treatment and public health agendas while responding to national priorities and performance indicators. The NHS and Local Authority substance misuse budgets are combined via section 31 arrangements.
- The vehicle for linking the agendas of the RAP, the DAAT and the wider CDRP with elected members is the Community Safety Forum which has cross party representation.
- That following receipt of government guidance, the RAP and DAAT will complete a rigorous performance evaluation across key headings.
- *Liaise with education and social care services, health partners, agencies involved with drug and alcohol awareness and treatment programmes and community safety and crime prevention, to ensure a consistent approach in delivering easily accessible advice and care services.*

44.12 On being put to the vote the amendment was carried.

44.13 The motion as amended was approved.

(f) Improving the Effectiveness of Partnership Working in Brighton & Hove

44.14 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Mrs Norman and seconded by Councillor Oxley:

This Council notes that:

- A recent audit of strategic partnerships operating in Brighton & Hove, carried out for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), found that there are currently 53 such associations at work in the City.
- The present Government has prescribed partnership working as the primary means of delivering its policy programme at a local level.

Furthermore:

- Recent research (November 2002) by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that there is increasing concern amongst local authority members about the general effectiveness of partnership working on such a scale. In particular, the costs and bureaucracy involved in partnerships were

questioned and the fact that lines of responsibility and local democratic accountability can become blurred.

- A 2002 Audit Commission report on Community Safety partnerships concluded, worryingly, that between 1999 and 2002: "local partnerships have not made an obvious impact on community safety". They go on to say that: "Many partnerships are characterised by high aspirations but weak delivery" and that "there is an over-emphasis on bureaucracy and process, rather than a focus on outcomes, performance management and information sharing."

This Council, therefore, resolves:

- Under the auspices of the LSP, and using the Council's recently published 'Partnership Governance Guide', to examine ways in which the 53 strategic partnerships identified could co-operate more closely in order to reduce duplication and make more effective use of scarce resources.
- To encourage strategic partnerships to become more focussed towards delivering efficient and reliable services for the council tax payers/residents of Brighton & Hove.

44.15 Councillor Mrs Norman indicated that she was prepared to accept the following amendment proposed by Councillor John:

This Council notes that:

- A recent audit of strategic partnerships operating in Brighton & Hove, carried out for the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP), found that there are currently 53 such associations at work in the City.
- The present Government has prescribed partnership working as the primary means of delivering its policy programme at a local level. *Partnerships bring together expertise from different sectors to provide problem solving and more joined-up solutions*

Furthermore:

- Recent research (November 2002) by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that there is increasing concern amongst local authority members about the general effectiveness of partnership working on such a scale. In particular, the costs and bureaucracy involved in partnerships were questioned and the fact that lines of responsibility and local democratic accountability can become blurred.
- A 2002 Audit Commission report on Community Safety partnerships concluded, worryingly, that between 1999 and 2002: "local partnerships have not made an obvious impact on community safety". They go on to say that: "Many partnerships are characterised by high aspirations but weak delivery" and that "there is an over-emphasis on bureaucracy and process, rather than a focus on outcomes, performance management and information sharing." *Locally, however, partnership working on community safety has achieved stronger integration of approaches between the council, the police and the voluntary sector.*

This Council, therefore, resolves:

- ~~Under the auspices of the LSP, and using the Council's recently published 'Partnership Governance Guide', to examine ways in which the 53 strategic partnerships identified could co-operate more closely in order to reduce duplication and make more effective use of scarce resources.~~
- ~~To encourage strategic partnerships to become more focussed towards delivering efficient and reliable services for the council tax payers/residents of Brighton & Hove.~~
- *That it is committed to work with the 2020 Community Partnership (LSP) to streamline and focus partnership working and to evaluate existing partnerships to ensure they are delivering value for money.*
- *The evaluation will be carried out from October to December and options for future partnership structures and accountability be brought to the 2020 Community Partnership and Policy & Resources Committee early in 2004 for decision.*

44.16 The Notice of Motion as amended therefore became the substantive Motion.

44.17 The Motion as amended was approved.

(g) Elected Members facilities withdrawn within Brighton Town Hall

44.18 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Peltzer Dunn and seconded by Councillor Oxley:

This Council notes with concern that:

Elected Members facilities have now been withdrawn within Brighton Town Hall. This is despite comments being made at the Policy & Resources Committee on the 16th July when it was underlined by the Conservative Members that it was essential that proper facilities be available for pre-meetings and for Councillors to be able to carry out the necessary work to fully fulfil their democratic duties.

Facilities still exist within King's House (where public meetings are not held) and within Hove Town Hall where the facilities have yet to have been withdrawn.

It is therefore requested that the Council take no further action to remove the Members facilities within Hove Town Hall and to provide without delay proper replacement facilities within Brighton Town Hall.

44.18 The Motion was approved.

(h) South Downs National Park – Boundary Review

44.19 The following Notice of Motion was moved by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Wrighton:

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.

44.20 The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Theobald and seconded by Councillor Oxley:

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
- *Open space in Windmill Drive*
- *Coney Hill*
- *Patcham Place*
- *Braypool Lane*
- *Allotments adjacent to Horsdean Recreation Ground, the Recreation Ground and the land to the east including the linear space between houses in Braeside Avenue and the bypass.*

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.

44.21 On the request of 11 councillors in accordance with Procedural Rule 28.2 and 28.3 a recorded vote was requisitioned on the Conservative amendment.

For the Notice of Motion as amended (27)

Councillors Mrs Bennett, Mrs Brown, Mrs Cobb, Mrs Drake, Mrs Giebeler, Mrs Hyde, Kemble, Mallender, Mrs Mears, Mrs Norman, Norman, Mrs Older, Oxley, Paskins, Peltzer Dunn, Pidgeon, Randall, Mrs Simson, Smith, Taylor, Mrs Theobald, Theobald, Wells, Williams, Willows, Wrighton and Mrs Young.

Against the Notice of Motion as amended (0)

Abstained (25)

Councillors Allen, Battle, Bodfish, Burgess, Carden, Davidson, Edmond-Smith, Fitch, Forester, Hamilton, Hawkes, Hazelgrove, John, Kielty, Lepper, McCaffery, Meadows, Meegan, Mitchell, Morgan, Pennington, tonks, Turner, Turton and Watkins.

44.22 The amendment was carried. The Notice of Motion as amended became the substantive Motion.

44.23 The Notice of Motion as amended was approved.

The meeting concluded at 9.15 p.m.

Signed

Mayor

Dated this

day of

2003

