

# **ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT & SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE ADDENDUM**

**4.00PM, TUESDAY, 25 JUNE 2019**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL**

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# ADDENDUM

ITEM		Page
5	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT	5 - 10



**WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting for questions submitted by a member of the public.

The question will be answered without discussion. The person who asked the question may ask one relevant supplementary question, which shall be put and answered without discussion. The person to whom a question, or supplementary question, has been put may decline to answer it.

The following written questions have been received from members of the public:

**(i) New Trees in Bevendean- Mitchie Alexander**

"Recommendations include that this Committee agrees £500,000 on woodland management and tree planting.

As a local Bevendean resident have been emailing the council for over a year now about getting new trees planted along the Avenue. The community will fund-raise for this project. The Housing Dept have agreed in principle but state that City Parks need to give the go ahead too. Following several emails to city parks dept, I still have not received a response.

Can the Chair ensure that our community's tree planting project is given the go-ahead for the benefit of the local residents and the environment?"

**(ii) Strategic Road Network- Andrew Peters**

"The DFT and Highways England's plans for a strategic road network - much of it is underwritten in our region by the same Local Enterprise Partnership that is funding the Valley Gardens scheme.

Nowhere else is there a plan to deliberately throttle the region's trunk roads as currently proposed on all routes through central Brighton.

Can the Chair confirm that the current preferred option for the Valley Gardens meets the approval of the DFT's plans and can they share this advice with us?"

**(iii) Valley Gardens Phase 3- Paul Crawford**

"If it were shown that the ETSC's decision on February 7<sup>th</sup> to delegate all further decision making on Valley Gardens Phase 3 to Officers was taken on the basis of incomplete, inadequate or erroneous information would the Chair consider recalling oversight of the project to elected members, and, if so, can you advise us how and when, and, if not, why not?"

**(iv) Valley Gardens Forum- David Rochford**

"The Council wrote to the Valley Gardens Forum last month accepting our offer of formal ADR mediation. During a constructive meeting with Council Leader, ETS Chair and Officers a few days ago, ADR was cited as a useful way to resolve whether correct and sufficient consultation had been

undertaken without recourse to judicial review - on the basis that we all want to progress the Valley Gardens project. However, the Council wrote back to us 24 hours later bluntly withdrawing the offer - suggesting instead, an unmoderated meeting with Officers. What was the reason for withdrawing from the earlier commitment?"

**(v) Bins provision, Bramble Way- Michael Jenkins**

"Please will you honour the thirty resident homes and families who live at the top of Bramble Way. Please do your duty to provide them with a complete new set of seven brand new 1100 Litre Mobile Bins for the second Bramble Way bin area please. Five for normal Refuse, one for mixed recycling, one for glass recycling"

**(vi) Valley Gardens Phase 3 Environmental Impact Assessment- Gary Farmer**

"Current Illegal pollution levels throughout the city centre are a lethal danger to residents, workers and visitors and yet current Valley Gardens plans intentionally make this worse for the east of the city. WHO Director Maria Neira suggested last week that politicians should face prosecution for knowingly exacerbating air pollution on their watch. "No politician will be able to say I didn't know because we all knew". Advocates for the Valley Gardens scheme repeatedly talk about winners and losers - but this isn't a game. Will the council conduct a full and open environmental impact assessment for the scheme?"

**(vii) Valley Gardens Deadlines- Daniel Nathan**

"At November ETSC, we heard that there was no pressure from the LEP to drawdown funding for VG3. The LEP subsequently stated that such drawdown "should not be used as a reason not to follow proper consultation processes" and imposed fresh funding conditions. Valley Gardens Forum Directors met with Councillors & Officers a few days ago and we were grateful to hear another myth debunked; there is no imminent deadline for the spending of the LEP grant or the completion of VG3. There is still time to properly consult after all. Will the Chair please confirm and repeat this today?"

**(viii) Valley Gardens Events- Sam Rush**

"For Phases 1 and 2 the programming of construction works and the provision of facilities towards events requirements have only been achieved after an extensive and concerted campaign of lobbying, complaints, written questions and a deputation from the Brighton events community. This struggle has caused considerable disruption and damage to the Brighton events programme particularly to Brighton Fringe. Can the Chair ensure that, for Phase 3, Events Organisers are genuinely involved in the planning and design process - and therefore to pause Phase 3 now to allow a sensible timescale for this proper consultation to take place"

**(ix) Local Infrastructure & Walking Improvement Plan- Mark Strong**

"We note the item to progress the LCWIP (Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan) for Brighton & Hove. Improved infrastructure for active

travel will benefit the many people in our city who currently - or would like to - walk or cycle.

However, we are very concerned about lack of active participation proposed during the LCWIP's development. The proposed process follows the bare minimum in DfT guidance, (e.g. Transport Partnership workshops) which will not allow ongoing support and feedback. We therefore ask the Chair to revise the Steering Board to include stakeholders plus representatives from the 3 main parties”

**(x) Aquarium Roundabout- Julia Basnett**

"The Council's own technical report commissioned from Mott Macdonald showed that retaining a roundabout would actually prevent 328 accidents as compared with the current proposed junction, does the Chair agree that a roundabout is safer, cheaper and by allowing the most flexible throughput of traffic also the most environmentally friendly solution for the aquarium junction."





**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes.

Deputations received:

**(i) Deputation: Valley Gardens Phase 3**

This deputation relates to the concerns of our residents group over Phase 3 of the Valley Gardens project. Our group is made up of residents of the streets situated close to the old Amex House site.

Although rooted in the issue of the 'Edward Street Quarter' development we have gradually become a vibrant neighbourhood association devising initiatives and holding events. We have found ourselves looking at a range of issues affecting neighbourhoods beyond our own. The struggle of Milner/Kingswood/Morley Street council tenants in relation to the Circus Street development is one recent and shocking example. Air quality/child asthma is already an issue here. Additional N02/PM2.5 arising from Phase 3 will entail immediate danger to families in this community and to nearby Carlton Hill School. We trust that the council takes its duty of care seriously and will provide this community and this primary school with reassurance. Many feel that the knock-on effects of air pollution due to congestion on Grand Parade (caused by Phase 3) require the council to share its assessment of potential health impacts with these communities.

Air quality has become a constant discussion point in all our neighbourhoods and it's regrettable that plans for such major alterations have only recently come to our attention. Promoted as a solution to rising pollution and congestion (a "green lung" for our city) Phases 1 and 2 are welcome innovations in the direction of creating a people-friendly 'valley' corridor of accessible green space from St Peters Church southward. However, it is striking to learn of the growing chorus of voices (shopkeepers, event's organisers, residents, taxi drivers, other nearby community groups like ours and many more) who raise objections to phase 3 (i.e. Edward Street to seafront). It is clear that they are united in their plea for the council to pause and listen to what the people of this city are trying to tell it. We gather it is not too late for the council to do this and trust that it will.

We are sure that you are aware of the inadequate public consultation and the highly questionable features of the scheme itself. Funnelling five lanes of traffic on to the east side will surely witness already blighted neighbourhoods around St James Street and those situated to the north and east becoming blocked off by shunting traffic (even obvious innovations like a 'green' footbridge providing people on the east with a vital human link to the proposed Valley spaces seem not to have been considered). Removal of the roundabout and creation of a one-way route east on Madeira Drive to Dukes Mound seem to lack diligent assessment of (a) traffic flow consequences (increased vehicle stop/start and resultant rise in N02, PM2.5 and childhood asthma) and (b) increases in 'rat-runs' criss-crossing through St

James/Edward Street and Kemptown's residential side roads (also with resultant deterioration of air quality).

It would be a tragic irony if the original Valley Gardens vision for cleaner air and safer movement of pedestrians and cyclists ends with the exact opposite. The vision was to restore "*a balance between these important priorities and the dominance of the motor car*" but as it stands the rationale for phase 3 appears blinkered. If the rationale is to nudge people from car use by making things worse the council should not only make this strategy explicit but first invest in affordable, efficient public transport alternatives while providing impact data estimating *how much worse* and for *how many years*. We feel certain that this committee would not sanction a project that altered car driver behaviour at the cost of potentially fatal spikes in child asthma. We therefore urge committee members to pause the Phase 3 process, listen to the community and not allow the plan to proceed unless you are completely satisfied with a full and open consideration of the environmental impacts of the scheme.

**Signed by:**

Adrian Hart (Spokesperson)

David Sassons

Annie Hill

Jan Norris

Rick Hurst

Sarah Gillson

Sharon Sando-Newman

Tara Lenehan

Tony Adams

Paul Simmons

Abha Aggarwal

Chloe Hillier