

COUNCIL ADDENDUM 2

4.30PM, MONDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2025
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

ADDENDUM

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Council Agenda Item 35

Subject: Petitions

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Director of Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka

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Ward(s) affected: All

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

- 2. Recommendations
- 2.1 That Council notes the petition(s).
- 3. Context and background information
- 3.1 To receive the following petition:

Request to Implement Controlled Parking Zone: Elms Lea Avenue, Brighton, BN1 6UG

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to consider implementing a controlled parking zone on the residential road of Elms Lea Avenue. Implementing a CPZ on the avenue would primarily prioritise parking for residents and regulate vehicle occupancy. It would also facilitate easier access to driveways for all residents; there are often daily issues where public vehicles block driveways hampering residents' access to and from their properties. In addition to this, the residents feel that the lack of an CPZ has led to a greater prevalence of abandoned vehicles on the avenue. Not only does this cause residential access issues it has (most recently) resulted in incidents where council officials have had to tackle chemical spills from abandoned vehicles or deal with the burden of vehicle removal.

We respectfully ask Brighton & Hove City Council to consider this proposal.

The residents would be open to discuss CPZ options available (i.e. a Mon-Fri restriction) and work with the council to decide the best option to benefit everyone: be that residents of Elms Lea Avenue and the public.

3.2 To receive the following petition:

<u>Support Brighton Buskers: Designated Spaces, Amplification and Shelter</u>

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to:

- 1) Officially designate the area around the Upside-Down House on Brighton seafront as a permanent busking zone,
- 2) Permit amplification and percussion instruments at this location,
- 3) Encourage/Advise local shops and businesses nearby they need to be busker-friendly,
- 4) Create additional designated busking spots across Brighton & Hove. particularly along the seafront, in The Lanes and throughout the city centre, ideally with simple shelter structures (like a canopy or overhead cover) to help protect performers from the weather. Brighton is known for its creativity, openness, and vibrant street life. Street performance brings culture, joy, and atmosphere to our public spaces and should be supported, not suppressed.

Recently, a restrictive sign was installed at the Upside-Down House prohibiting the use of amplifiers, drums, and warning of potential seizure of instruments. This approach silences creativity and goes against the spirit of our city. Busking (especially in open-air spaces like the seafront) requires amplification to be heard. Banning drums unfairly excludes entire musical styles and performers. We ask Brighton & Hove City Council to take a positive and proactive approach by supporting buskers through dedicated spaces, fair rules, and thoughtful design. Other cities, like London (through the "Busk in London" initiative), have installed small structures like "The Shell" to offer performers and audiences a focused, protected environment, a model we could adapt locally. Let's keep Brighton a place where music is made, shared, and celebrated in public; not pushed away or silenced. Let Brighton Play. Support Street Music. Shelter the Artists. This petition simply aims to preserve and support Brighton's street music culture. The Upside-Down House has become a key location for busking, but current restrictions are discouraging performers. We are asking the Council to recognize this space officially, allow for appropriate amplification and drums, and to provide additional designated busking spots across the city (ideally with some shelter to protect buskers from the weather).

Providing structured and supportive spaces for street performance benefits both the local community and the city's cultural identity. Let's follow successful examples from other cities and ensure Brighton continues to thrive as a hub for creativity and live public music.

3.3 To receive the following petition:

Petition objecting to the proposed closure of Rottingdean Library

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to keep Rottingdean Library open under local authority financing.

We strongly believe that the proposal to close the library is wrong. Rottingdean Library is a well-used library with separate sections for children and teenagers.

This is important in an area that has an increasing number of families and is close to two primary schools and two nurseries. There are audio books as well as a wide range of books and groups, such as a book group, use the library as a central hub for the community. It is also the only place to go for free Wi-Fi and computer access if you do not have these facilities at home. There is support for people to use computers, printers and scanners. We believe that closing this library would have a negative impact on our community, especially the elderly, children and those less advantaged. We urge you to ensure this library remains open.

3.4 To receive the following petition:

Bring Southern Water into public ownership

We the undersigned call upon our councillors to write to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed urging that the government brings Southern Water into public ownership.

Southern Water has been plagued by poor performance, excess debt, and mismanagement going on for many years. It's incurred a shocking £94 million in fines, the highest in the industry. It has amassed more than £6bn of debt - one of the UK's most indebted water companies (BBC). Now to top it all, it has raised prices by 47%, taking average bill to £703, a huge jump from the 2024-25 average of £478. In a cost of living crisis, many will struggle to pay this amount. Meanwhile consumers face sewage leaks in rivers and the sea, and a failure to invest over many decades since privatisation. 82% of voters across all parties want water in public ownership, to end the mismanagement of the failed privatisation model. Public ownership of Southern Water should include in its governance structure a role for households, workers and anti-sewage groups, alongside local councillors.

Council Agenda Item 36

Subject: Written questions from members of the public

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

A period of not more than thirty minutes shall be allowed for questions submitted by a member of the public who either lives or works in the area of the authority at each ordinary meeting of the Council.

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

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

1. Question from: Omaid Hiwaizi

Please could Brighton Council endorse the Plant Based Treaty, following over 46 towns and cities worldwide?

Since I last raised the Treaty in February 2024, when 24 towns had endorsed it, the number has grown to over 46, showing momentum. The Treaty calls for a global commitment, alongside the Paris Agreement, to reduce food system emissions and encourage local action. After Edinburgh endorsed it in February 2023, they introduced carbon labelling in schools and universities, staff training, and public education.

I ask that the Council show leadership by endorsing the Treaty and making plant-based food more accessible to residents.

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

2. Question from: Adrian Hill

Residents have been told by the bus company and the council since 2018 that there is an Ultra Low Emission Zone on North Street and Western Road. The zone only applies to buses, is non charging, doesn't exclude non compliant vehicles, didn't actually become live until 2024 and is voluntary. Vehicles including buses violating the zone are still being driven on these roads. Do you understand the link between air pollution and health and can you charge vehicles that don't meet the zone's requirements?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

3. Question from: David Wilson

I walk my dogs in Saltdean's Oval Park every morning and see the debris that has been dumped overnight outside the recycling bins.

As West Saltdean residents all have roadside recycling or communal bins for their flats, this communal facility is not necessary and is regularly used by residents of East Saltdean, Telscombe and Peacehaven where they are no communal recycling points. I know this because I look at the labels on the cardboard boxes and envelopes that blow around.

Please would you remove this recycling point and turn the area into muchneeded disabled parking bays.

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

4. Question from: Nigel Furness

Would you kindly furnish us, Councillor Muten, with a full breakdown of the funding scources for the City's Concessionary Bus Passes?

Reply from Councillor Muten, Cabinet Member for Transport and City Infrastructure

5. Question from: Ian White

On behalf of the 150 plus local children who use the outdated and worn out cricket nets on Nevill Sports Ground each week, please can you tell me when will the council release the circa £80,000 CIL monies allocated to the Westdene and Hove Park ward to Brighton and Hove Cricket Club Net so we can begin our net renovation project in time for the 2026 cricket season?'

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet member for Sports, Recreation and Libraries

6. Question from: David Gibson

Rent collection in this financial year has fallen again. Council reports blame this on the migration from housing benefit to universal credit, particularly as payment delays cause arrears. This is partly true. The government could prevent this by ending the delay that tenants experience in receiving Universal Credit. These delays cause misery for tenants as well as adding to burgeoning rent arrears. Given that in the last financial year alone the council failed to collect around £5 million in rents owing. Given also that this £5 million shortfall each could support huge borrowing of around £100m (enough to buy hundreds more council homes that could reverse the soaring costs of temporary homeless accommodation) will the council write to their colleagues in national government urging them reform the payments system used by the DWP to prevent the creation of debt for new claimants moving over to Universal credit from Housing benefit?"

Reply from Councillor Taylor, Cabinet Member for Finance and City Regeneration

7. Question from: Diane Montgomery

Is Cllr Robins confident that this authority can continue to treat the King Alfred as two sites for proposed building?

Reply from Councillor Robins, Cabinet member for Sports, Recreation and Libraries

8. Question from: Maxine Horn

In December 2024 the council appointed a third-party company New Timber, to work with city parks to undertake rapid reinstatement of damaged green spaces following use by outdoor events.

Can the council therefore list the reinstatement fees and bonds each event has paid since the new policy was introduced in December 2024 and where those funds are being held.

Can the council confirm when the reinstatement of the grassed areas will take place and give precise details of the nature of the work and a breakdown of the costs.

Is the council liable for any shortfalls or will event organisers meet additional charges,

Will any underspend be retained by City Parks or returned to the event organisers?

Reply from Councillor Rowkins, Cabinet Member for Net Zero & Environmental Services

Council Agenda Item 37

Subject: Deputations from members of the public

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

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 following which one Member of the council, nominated by the mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the mayor and voted on without discussion that the spokesperson for the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification that four deputations have been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

1. Deputation concerning Biodiversity vs Microplastics Pollution

Supported by:

Suzzanne Mitchell Sven Jaworski Mike Jacks Mark O Hare Henri Palmer Helena Roberts Alan Edwards Terry Skinner Angela Thompson Lisa Collings Terrence Rose

Summary of deputation:

Microplastics pollution is a 100% man-made crisis. Its persistent accumulation, global invasiveness, longevity and inability to remove it, makes it a serious ecological threat to all biodiversity and ecosystems.

Professor Fiona Mathews research statement: (Sussex Uni. May 2025) "Microplastics are ubiquitous at every level of the food web." 580 invertebrates sampled from 51 sites across Sussex – with fragments of plastic found in the stomachs of beetles, slugs, snails and earthworms, which in turn make their way up the food chain into birds, mammals and reptiles. Traces of microplastics are also found in our drinking water as well as various seafoods but current research has yet to establish a direct threat to human health.

However, the Marine Conservation Society has access to laboratory research on marine organisms exposed to SBR solutions. Studies revealed the following findings: impaired immune & reproductive systems, deformed organ development and shortening of life span.

SBR rubber crumb comes from repurposed car tyres in a granulated form & gives 3G pitches a grass like feel & performance. But with over 2000 pitches just in England, it also creates a huge environmental crisis with mounting pollution created either by casual escape or disposal at its end of life cycle. (10 yrs) October 2019 - FIDRA stated that 3G pitches were on average, losing between 1 to 5 tonnes of SBR per annum. (Hence 16 to 80 tonnes annually for the sixteen 3G pitches in Brighton & Hove)

2019 - European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) report to the EU that the widespread losses of SBR rubber crumb across Europe was uncontrolled and threatened most ecosystems if left unchecked. In October 2023, the EU issued a directive under a REACH Agreement that from 2031, SBR rubber crumb would NO LONGER BE PERMITTED as infill for new synthetic pitches. In June this year, Sport England and DEFRA acknowledged "SBR rubber crumb was the PRIMARY SOURCE OF MICROPLASTICS POLLUTION in the UK, from intentionally added microplastics." Intentional because each 3G pitch used between 120 to 200 tonnes of SBR infill. (12200 car tyres) Sport England responded further by issuing measures to improve containment and reduce the levels of accidental escape. (Caused by wind, rain, clinging to players' boots and clothing, brushing and pitch maintenance.)

A greater concern however is what happens to the disposal of pitches after their 10 year life span? Disposal is not only very expensive, the huge volumes removed mean that only a small fraction of the total volume is actually recycled with the majority of it still ending up in landfill or licenced waste storage. (With a further 120 to 200 tonnes added for the new replacement pitch.) Councillors!! Participation in sport, promoting physical and mental health are really important targets BUT a way must be found to drastically reduce microplastics pollution from SBR rubber crumb.

CONSIDER the city's BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY & how its policies are bound to our unique status as – the only urban UNESCO LIVING COAST BIOSPHERE in the UK.

CONSIDER our city's CLIMATE CRISIS commitment to be CARBON NEUTRAL by 2030.

CONSIDER COUNCILLORS that you are the custodians charged with a duty to ensure that you protect our UNESCO BIOSPHERE for future generations as well as the biodiversity that exists in and around Brighton and Hove and beyond.

New green alternatives exist that are flood resistant, resilient, sustainable, carbon friendly and don't require removal after 10 years. Please consult with ground / drainage engineers who can explain more about how grass pitches can benefit from Biochar, grit and SuDS technologies and how these solutions can become an environmental model that other authorities in the UK may choose to follow. IN OTHER WORDS COUNCILLORS

When 3G pitches with SBR infill reach their end of life use

Become the 1st UK"Back to Grass Council"

Supporting Information:

- 1) Life span of micro plastics from MDPI October 2023 publication
- 2) BBC News 23rd May 2025 Professor Fiona Mathews An environmental biologist at Sussex University
- 3) Risk of microplastics to human health: NIH National Library of Medicine "Synthetic turf pitches with rubber granulate infill"
- 4) Marine organisms study sourced from Steve Bryce at the Marine Conservation Society.
- 5) SBR Rubber crumb is short for STYRENE BUTADIENE RUBBER and is known to contain Poly Aromatic Hydrocarbons, Volatile Organic Compounds and other metalloids.
- 6) DEFRA is the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- 7) Sport England is one of this country's sports statutory bodies.
- 8) ECHA is the European Chemical Agency
- 9) FIDRA is an environmental charity named after Scottish island of Fidra. It focuses on preventing plastic & chemical pollution & supporting sustainability through evidence-based solutions.
- 10) REACH AGREEMENT was an EU law /regulation (The acronym being Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation & Restriction of Chemicals.)
- 11) About the deputation author: Dirk Mitchell Brighton resident since March 1969. Retired Physical Education and Mathematics teacher with all 36 years of teaching in local Brighton schools.

BIOCHAR can improve grass pitches by enhancing soil structure, increasing water and nutrient retention, and promoting beneficial microbial life, leading to healthier, more resilient turf that recovers faster from wear and tear. By improving aeration and water management, it helps prevent waterlogging and reduces the need for excessive irrigation and chemical treatments, making it an environmentally friendly and cost-effective solution for sports turf. How Biochar Improves Pitch Health

· Enhanced Soil Structure:

Biochar's porous, honeycomb-like structure improves soil aeration, allowing for better oxygen flow to roots and preventing compaction from intense foot traffic.

Improved Water Retention:

The soil's ability to hold water is increased, which helps maintain consistent moisture, reduces the risk of patchy areas, and lessens the need for frequent watering.

Better Nutrient Availability:

Biochar's chemical properties enhance the soil's cation exchange capacity, leading to better nutrient retention and increased availability for plant roots.

Increased Beneficial Microbes:

The microscopic structure of biochar provides ideal habitats for beneficial microbes, which help defend roots and contribute to overall turf health.

Faster Recovery:

Biochar-treated pitches show improved resilience, enabling the turf to recover more quickly from the heavy use and damage caused by athletes. Application for Pitches

New Pitches:

Incorporate biochar into the soil at the rate of about 1 kg per square meter before laying new turf or planting seeds, then water it in.

Existing Pitches:

For existing fields, mow the grass short, then use a mechanical aerator or garden fork to create holes. Sweep the biochar into these holes at about 1 kg per square meter, and water it in.

Benefits for Greenkeepers and the Environment

Reduced Costs:

Improved water and nutrient retention means less spending on irrigation and fertilizers.

Environmental Advantages:

As a carbon-rich material, biochar sequesters atmospheric carbon dioxide, contributing to carbon storage in the soil and a lower carbon footprint for the pitch.

Organic Solution:

Biochar offers a natural, organic alternative to chemical-based treatments, making it suitable for organic growing practices and promoting overall environmental health.



2. Deputation concerning will you support us?

Supported by:

Susan Sheftz
Judith March
Kim Gordon
Pieter Hemsley
Sheila Baker
Yoram Allon
Joy Youngman

Summary of deputation:

Councillors, thank you for giving us these minutes.

We are British Jews, representing our voices and our perspectives. We speak to all 54 councillors in this chamber, and we ask you directly: will you support us?

The government's recognition of a Palestinian state has been a profound shock. For Jews locally, nationally, and worldwide, it feels like a betrayal — a failure to understand the war between Hamas and Israel, the history of the Middle East, and the long, painful history of the Jewish people. At a time when Jews and Israel are fighting for survival, this decision has been felt as a blow — and yes, by many, as antisemitic.

Every year, you stand with us at Holocaust memorials. You say, "Never Again is Now." And you mean it. But this is the "Now." Jews again face an existential threat — and too often we feel we do not have your support.

Bias against us, expressed as Antizionism, is visible in the police, the judiciary, the Arts, education, universities, the media, local and central government, even the NHS. Social circles that once welcomed us are closing. Many in our community are even making plans to emigrate to safer countries.

Councillors, we know politics is complex, and we respect the humanitarian impulses at work. But we ask you to hear us — your Jewish constituents. Hear our fear, our grief, our memory, our limits.

Stand against rhetoric that paints Jews or Israel as having genocidal intent. Reconsider calls for divestment from Israeli companies — which unfairly single out one nation and, in practice, isolate Jews. Above all: ensure your words and actions do not push an already vulnerable community further to the margins — or embolden antisemitism in this city.

We are not asking for blind loyalty. We are asking for fairness. For accuracy. For sensitivity. Most of all, we are asking plainly: will you support us?

3. Deputation concerning why devolution matters for skills and opportunity to the next generation

Supported by:

Harry Walsh-Black (Speaker)
Ida Greenall
Henrik Berry
Noah Groenewoud
Iris Neale
Becca Trebble
Adem Serttas
Linus Allen

Summary of deputation:

Devolution means decisions being made closer to the people they affect. For young people in Brighton & Hove, that matters. We want a city where opportunities match our talents and ambitions, where decisions are shaped by local voices, not just by people in Westminster and where we are genuinely listened to and involved in shaping our future.

One of the most exciting changes is the transfer of powers over Further Education and skills training. This directly affects us as young adults. We welcome funding that can be tied to the jobs and industries that matter in our city and across Sussex, from the environment and health to creative work and digital skills. It also means better support for adults who need a second chance at learning, and clearer pathways for school leavers into apprenticeships, training, and local jobs. This isn't just about courses for us, it's about creating a joined-up system that gives people the tools to thrive.

Our hopes are simple, more chances to learn new skills, to build careers without having to leave Brighton & Hove, and to be part of a political system that feels open, fair and relevant to us locally. We want real action to tackle inequality, so no community in our city is left behind.

But we also have concerns. Too often, young people's voices aren't heard, and we don't always know who is making the decisions or how to influence them. Our message to the Council and to national government is that devolution should be about hope. Hope in a system that delivers locally, that invests in education and work, and that connects young people to politics. We want Brighton & Hove to lead the way in showing how devolution can give communities and the next generation a stronger voice.

4. Deputation concerning Green Spaces

Supported by:

Lynn Weddle Nova Cookson Hazel Baxter Luke Meredith Ian Wilson

Summary of deputation:

We are bringing this deputation on behalf of residents of West Saltdean regarding two green spaces known locally as The Greens (Sites 2 and 3), both covered by the 1938 Covenant between the Saltdean Estate Company Limited ('the Owners') and the Borough of Brighton ('the Corporation', now Brighton & Hove City Council). The covenant explicitly identifies these plots as "open spaces" and gives the Council the power under Clause 4 to designate them as public open spaces.

For more than 80 years, these areas have been treated as community open spaces. Since 2007, they have been maintained entirely by residents at zero cost. Volunteers have cared for their ecology and ensured they remain valued community assets.

Earlier this year, the landowner of Site 2 erected barriers, blocking community access for the first time in living memory. This action undermines both the spirit and purpose of the covenant and shows why Clause 4 was included: to give the Council the power to safeguard them as public open spaces.

Our community has developed a stewardship and biodiversity plan with environmental scientist Dr Richard Stow, supported by Saltdean Climate Action Network and CPRE volunteers. This plan guarantees long-term care of the land at zero financial cost to the Council, while:

- Increasing biodiversity and protecting wildlife, including a potential badger sett confirmed by the Badger Trust;
- Reducing carbon emissions by using local volunteers rather than petrol machinery;
- Strengthening community involvement, health, and wellbeing.
- We respectfully submit that:
- The land has already been successfully maintained by the community for decades at zero cost;
- Clause 4 exists as a safeguard for situations such as this, where landowners are no longer treating the plots as open spaces;
- Invoking Clause 4 would protect access, resolve disputes about covenant interpretation, and provide a replicable model for other wards across the city.
- Our request: That Brighton & Hove City Council invokes Clause 4 of the 1938 Covenant to designate Sites 2 and 3 of The Greens in West

Saltdean as public open spaces, secured for the community and future generations.

Council Agenda Item 37a

Subject: Petition for Debate

Date of meeting: 13 October 2025

Report of: Director of Governance & Law

Contact Officer: Name: Anthony Soyinka

Tel: 01273 291006

Email: anthony.soyinka@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the petition is noted.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 To receive the following petition:

Save the Hove Floral Clock

We, the undersigned, petition Brighton and Hove City Council to save Hove's iconic 70 year old floral clock.

The floral clock CAN be restored and BHCC has plenty of CIL tax which can be invested in garden infrastructure for the community.

The clock can also be sponsored for special occasions as used to be the case.

Why is this important?

The floral clock is a famous city landmark and has appeared on many postcards over the years.

It would be a crime to get rid of Hove's once-beautiful floral clock and the community have been given no say in this council decision.

4. PROCEDURE:

- 4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:
 - i. The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
 - ii. The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in the matter, before calling on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the debate:
 - iii. An amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 of the report or to add additional recommendations should be submitted by 10.00am on the working day before the meeting; otherwise it will be subject to the Mayor's discretion as to being appropriate. Any such amendment will need to be formally moved and seconded at the meeting;
 - iv. After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:
 - v. (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).