

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

4.30pm 20 OCTOBER 2016

COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

MINUTES

Present: Councillors West (Chair), Marsh (Deputy Chair), Allen, Atkinson, Barford, Barnett, Bell, Bennett, Brown, Cattell, Chapman, Cobb, Daniel, Deane, Druitt, Gibson, Gilbey, Greenbaum, Hamilton, Hill, Horan, Hyde, Inkipin-Leissner, Janio, Lewry, Littman, Mac Cafferty, Meadows, Mears, Miller, Mitchell, Moonan, Morgan, Morris, Nemeth, A Norman, K Norman, O'Quinn, Page, Peltzer Dunn, Penn, Phillips, Robins, Russell-Moyle, Simson, Sykes, Taylor, C Theobald, G Theobald, Wares, Wealls and Yates.

PART ONE

25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 25.1 Councillor Druitt declared a personal but not prejudicial interest in Item 39(d), Notice of Motion concerning Christmas Parking and Road Closures as he was a Director of the Big Yellow Bus Company. Although he had no direct interest in the matter, he would not take part in the debate on the item.
- 25.2 Councillor Phillips declared a personal interest in Item 39(e), Notice of Motion concerning the Fast Track Cities Initiative 90:90:90, as she worked for the Terrence Higgins Trust and had been granted dispensation to speak and vote on the matter;
- 25.3 Councillor Bennett declared a personal and pecuniary interest in items 31(a), Petition Debate on Family Homes Not HMOs and Item 39(b), Notice of Motion concerning HMO Landlord Licensing and Business Rates, as she was a Landlord.
- 25.4 No other declarations of interests in matters appearing on the agenda were made.

26 MINUTES

- 26.1 The minutes of the last ordinary meeting held on the 21st July 2016 were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings, subject to the following amendments:
- (i) Page 19, paragraph 20.4 the word 'approved' in line five to be replaced by 'refused' and

- (ii) Page 13 the voting table to show Councillor Peltzer Dunn as having voted against rather than for, although the actual total number of votes shown was correct.

27 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS.

- 27.1 The Mayor welcomed Councillor Russell-Moyle to the Council as the newly elected Member for the East Brighton Ward. He also welcomed everyone present to the meeting and stated that it was great to be back in the Chamber in Hove Town Hall, which had new furniture and sound and voting equipment. He also noted that the seating had been rotated by 90 degrees reverting to the original layout with councillors facing the crest. He hoped that the new layout and systems would work out well in improving the meeting experience in the chamber.
- 27.2 The Mayor stated that he had some awards to present and firstly wished to offer the Council's congratulations to the City Parks Team who had won two awards, the first from Sussex Heritage Trust's "Public and Community" category, in recognition of the work restoring and interpreting the Level's rich social and cultural history, while "bringing the park into the 21st century".
- 27.3 The second award was the "PiPA Lollipop" from Inclusive Play for the excellent standards of accessibility and inclusivity of The Level's play area - and also the other park features that support those with accessibility needs. He then invited members of the Team to come forward along with Councillor Atkinson to collect the awards.
- 27.4 The Mayor then offered the Council's congratulations to the Cityclean Street Cleaning Team who had been honoured with a national award by the Association for Public Excellence which are designed to recognize frontline council services. Cityclean won the Best Service Team award for Street Cleansing and Streetscene services. He then invited members of the Team to come forward along with Councillor Mitchell to collect the award.
- 27.5 The Mayor then offered the Council's congratulations to the City Transport Team who had received the prestigious Transport Local Authority of the Year award in recognition for their work on a host of initiatives promoting safety and sustainable travel. The team were praised for putting people and places at the heart of our local transport plan. He then invited members of the team to come forward along with Councillor Horan to collect the award.
- 27.6 The Mayor then stated that he would like to offer the Council's congratulations and thanks to Denise D'Souza who recently stood down as Executive Director of Adult Services after completing 30 years' service, and noted that she had been nominated for the Argus Public Service Award.
- 27.7 The Mayor noted that all Members had had the chance to tour Hove Town Hall to see how its interior had been transformed, creating a modern workspace for staff and new areas to accommodate partner organisations. It had been a massive undertaking and he was sure all Members would like to express their thanks to all who had worked so hard from planning right through to painting. He knew staff were pretty pleased with their new work environment and hoped that Members would find that the facilities they used worked well for them as well. He noted that there had been an opportunity to

celebrate some history of the town hall and in tune with that, he was wearing the Hove Mayoral chains.

- 27.8 The Mayor stated that he was plugging away with Facebook, posting to the mayoral page, endeavouring to post on all his engagements to help share the story of the amazing people and communities in the city that he met. The page had a growing following across the city and beyond and was rapidly approaching a 1,000 page likes. The feedback suggested that the stories were well received, and stood the Council, as well as the Mayoralty in good stead.
- 27.9 The Mayor stated that he was very keen to support the city's communities and was glad to say that Hangleton & Knoll had been inviting him to many of their community activities. He had also recently visited Coldean Community Corner, a fledgling project, which was working to strengthen the community in a rather isolated part of the city.
- 27.10 The Mayor noted that his Chaplain, Rev Anthea Ballam and Rev Jeff Jones were organising an interfaith Civic Service at the Unitarian Church New Road. Having visited a number of faith communities he was aware how much they appreciated the interest of councillors and he was also aware that faith was often a key bond for members of the newer BME communities in the city. He hoped that many of the council would be able to attend the service on Sunday 18th December.
- 27.11 The Mayor noted that Remembrance Sunday was fast approaching and that there would be acts of remembrance at the Old Steine and in Portslade on the morning of Remembrance Sunday, followed by a service for the whole city at All Saints Church, Hove in the afternoon. Armistice Day would also be marked in the usual way. He noted that 2016 marked the centenary of the Battle of Boar's Head, "the day Sussex died" as well as the carnage of the Battle of the Somme and Battle of Jutland, which offered special significance to the commemoration year.
- 27.12 The Mayor stated that some Members would be aware that the city recently received a delegation at the Mayor's Parlour from Dieppe, during the town's French/Canadian Film Festival. The visitors were concerned to express their desire to see redoubling of the cultural and economic ties between Dieppe and Brighton & Hove. He hoped that the plans for the Paris to Brighton charity cycle ride being developed with the Brighton Property Consortium and Brighton Fringe would assist the 'entente cordiale.' The plan was to open the Brighton Fringe from the Eiffel Tower with live link up to an outdoor celebration in Brighton & Hove; with the riders arrive in Brighton to be greeted by a special charity event in the city centre. He hoped that the cycle ride would become an annual celebration and a significant fund-raiser for the Mayor's Charities.
- 27.13 The Mayor stated that he was also working on a number of other charity fund-raising events with his 27 mayoral charities and was looking forward to walking, 'the Brighton Way' which City Parks would be leading starting in Saltdean Oval and ending at Emmaus Portslade. It offered a great experience of some of the best urban fringe areas including Castle Hill, Stanmer and the Chattri, and he hoped Members would come along on the 30th April and do at least part of the route.
- 27.14 He noted that the Mayor's Christmas reception would be held at the Brighthelm Centre with entertainment, a pay bar and other charities on the 16th December.

27.15 Finally, the Mayor stated that one of the great delights of the role of Mayor was to be invited to help celebrate the birthdays of some of the city's eldest citizens. He had attended a number of birthday parties for people over 100 and had recently attended a 70th wedding anniversary of a couple who married just after the War and were still going strong. On Sunday, he had the unexpected delight of meeting one of the youngest citizens, wee baby Nancy Bee, who was just two days old and is the new baby daughter of Robert & Kerry Nemeth. He hoped everyone present would join him in offering their congratulations to Robert & Kerry, who had a truly bee-utiful daughter.

28 TO RECEIVE PETITIONS AND E-PETITIONS.

28.1 The Mayor invited the submission of petitions from councillors and members of the public. He reminded the Council that petitions would be referred to the appropriate decision-making body without debate and the person presenting the petition would be invited to attend the meeting to which the petition was referred.

28.2 Councillor Taylor presented two petitions signed by local residents concerning the provision of double yellow lines and speeding traffic in Reigate Road.

28.3 Councillor Cobb presented a petition signed by 54 residents concerning speeding traffic.

29 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

28.1 The Mayor reported that one written question had been received from a member of the public and invited Mr. Hawtree to come forward and address the council.

28.2 Mr. Hawtree asked the following question; "Would Councillor Morgan please tell us when the maintenance and repair work will begin at Hove's esteemed, nationally-renowned Carnegie Library, and how long this will take?"

28.3 Councillor Morgan replied; "Maintenance and repair work on Hove Library has taken place every year, and continues as part of the Planned Maintenance Budget expenditure. This year (2016/17) there is a sum of £15,000 allocated to Hove Library within the Planned Maintenance Budget. This relates primarily to investigating cracking within the building and the boundary wall.

28.4 As well as this work, it is intended to undertake a CCTV drainage survey, commence party wall negotiations for repairs to the boundary wall if applicable, instructing specialist stonemasons to survey the building's facade and prepare estimates for repair. Specialist roofing contractors have surveyed the roofs and are preparing a report with budget estimates on a minimum and maximum specification that should be available by the end of October. In addition to the ongoing repairs and maintenance work, this year an investigation into whether the basement void could be developed into usable space was undertaken. The verdict was that it was not suitable.

28.5 Budgets and programmes of work have yet to be set for 2017-18. The 2014 Hove Library condition survey data is being reviewed to provide minimum and maximum options for suggested repairs that, in the absence of budget restrictions, might ideally be undertaken over a 5-year period. In practice, the repairs needed to all council buildings

will be prioritised within the limited available budgets with a focus on making the building envelope wind and water tight, rectifying structural and health and safety concerns.”

- 28.6 Mr. Hawtree asked the following supplementary question; “Thank you for that response Cllr Morgan which makes my supplementary all the more pertinent and it’s one that all the more residents are asking in this volatile constituency as they continue to watch the webcast of the June 9 meeting. You concluded at the end of item 7 in such a way that residents remain fearful for the survival of our Carnegie library so now with this in mind could I ask you to amplify what you meant by those remarks at the end of your speech to item 7 on June 7 because as a result residents are still weary that the preposterous report is extant rather than extinct.”
- 28.7 Councillor Morgan replied; “I’ll go back and look at the webcast and see what I said and get back to you.”
- 28.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Hawtree for his questions and noted that concluded the item.

30 DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 30.1 The Mayor reported that one deputation had been received from members of the public and invited Sir Ron de Witt as the spokesperson for the deputation to come forward and address the council.
- 30.2 Sir Ron de Witt thanked the Mayor and stated that: “Our residents have been experiencing a steep upsurge in levels of street drinking, alcohol related antisocial behaviour and drug crime which are adversely affecting and compromising their quality of life.

Many now describe Norfolk Square as a no go area and in fact recently has been designated as an antisocial behaviour hotspot by the police. Dealing and drug litter are commonly seen in Brunswick Road and Waterloo Street communities. Brunswick and Palmeira Square have also had problems this summer with tented communities and the associated anti-social behaviour. There is a clear and well evidenced relationship between alcohol consumption and antisocial behaviour and crime there is also a clear evidence relationship between alcohol availability and consumption. We also believe there is a direct causal relationship between the disappearance of our PCOs and the upsurge in antisocial behaviour.

We have therefore raised a petition which we will present today but first a few examples. The Co-op on Western Road has expressed the same frustrations with the lack of visible police presence which we generally feel in our area. In August and September the Co-op recorded 40 incidents of theft of alcohol from its premises that also saw this being consumed on the street. The signs of abuse in our area are written all over; just talk to business owners in Western Road, how many times they’ve had to replace smashed windows. This isn’t just about street drinking it is also yobish behaviour and not to forget the death of a young man outside Temple Inn not so long ago.

For a predominantly residential area we have a very high proliferation of licenses. Within a ten minute walk along less than half a mile of Western Road there are 67 on and off sale licensed premises a high number are after midnight on weekdays and after 11pm

on Sundays. Coupling this with the increasing number of students, HMOs, stag and hen houses this is propelling a vibrant night-time economy. Booze and culture of drugs is increasing and spreading from central Brighton along the road to common areas which are residential. This anti-social behaviour may be a low level threat in policing terms but it blights people's lives. Ask Steven a Norfolk Square resident who commutes every day to London but doesn't get to sleep until 3am, ask Olive an elderly Brunswick Road resident who says "I don't feel safe in the area any longer" or Fiona of Brunswick Square who witnessed the event in the Co-op she said "it would have been funny if it hadn't been so violent". Then there was the disappointing article in the press recently saying the Police can't investigate every incident. Our experience is that we don't even see the Police and if they appear at all when contacted it is too late and then they don't get out of their vehicles. Amy called 999 to report a drug dealer in action and was told you shouldn't be ringing 999. John says "I waited 30 minutes for someone to reply to my telephone call, by the time they answered it too late". Recently the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner Katy Bourne was quoted as saying "the front line for neighbourhood policing is moving off the street and into our front rooms", in our opinion this isn't good enough. Police recorded crime in 2015 increased by 4.5% it has now continued to rise until it has reached 11.8% in the first 4 months of 2016. LATs were set up to bring communities and policing together the Police now no longer attend taking the action out of the Local Action Team.

Therefore we would ask the council to give grave concern at the increasing frequency and severity in incident of antisocial behaviour in the Brunswick and Regency areas and take a firmer stance with alcohol related antisocial behaviours, firmly adhere to its statement of licensing policy and undertake to quickly review the licenses of alcohol outlets that breach license conditions and closely monitor and advise premises with the new café licenses. We request a written response to our petition."

- 30.3 Councillor Daniel replied, "Thank for bringing this deputation to full council. I first want to acknowledge the issues that your area has experienced in terms of antisocial behaviour and to talk about the street community which is made up of both rough sleepers and people who are accommodated but due to their alcohol or other substance misuse and often other mental health problems spend time on the streets.

At times behaviour due to substance misuse and mental health complex needs can become frightening to communities and not just the noise and littering issues that you described. The Council and the Police do tackle areas of the city that are particularly impacted by this antisocial behaviour however I recognise that as resources get ever more limited and stretched public bodies cannot always respond as quickly as communities would expect and I recognise that the Police must sometimes prioritise emergency situations as their resources diminish, however we are not decision makers relating to PCSO as you are probably aware and that is the remit of the Police and Crime Commissioner. People should still report issues to 999 or 101 as appropriate and I too have spent over 45 minutes waiting for a response at times.

You can use online reporting if it's not an emergency and if you see someone sleeping rough we would ask you to report them to Street Link which is www.streetlink.org.uk so we can insure an outreach worker finds them and helps keep them safe. Working with a street community to help prevent antisocial behaviour is part of our rough sleeping strategy as well and there are two key actions relating to this that we have agreed. First

ensuring that in priority areas such as yours where there is a large street community that our staff and other staff have clear guidance on how to deal with issues effectively and who's accountable for making those actions happen. Secondly a wider piece of work on communications working to discourage people who are really kind and giving money to beggars but ask them instead to please give that money to charities where they can as that will get people off the streets quicker. We also want to try and make sure all food donated to rough sleepers and the street community not all of whom are rough sleepers is provided inside buildings so people can eat food with dignity and with volunteers who are trained and able to help them off the streets and help them with their alcohol and substance misuse issues if that's what is keeping them there.

On the second point the wider issue of alcohol. As you're probably aware in 2011 the council increased its cumulative impact zone (CIZ) for alcohol licensing to include your area and we now have the largest CIZ in the country. Our 2013 'Sensible on Strength' scheme encouraged off-licenses to voluntarily agree to stop selling cheap super-strength beer and cider all of them in the area except the Sainsbury's have signed up to that scheme and I thank them for that and I'm sure your community does too.

In short I believe we have taken every available step to reduce the impact of alcohol related antisocial behaviour and our officers are constantly monitoring this and those hotspots. I do believe that the parts of our rough sleeper strategy which I highlighted demonstrates that we haven't taken our eye off the ball on this issue and I want to encourage you and residents to continue to report issues to us and to the Police."

30.4 The Mayor thanked Sir Ron de Witt for attending the meeting and speaking on behalf of the deputation. He explained that the points had been noted and the deputation would be referred to the Neighbourhoods, Communities & Equalities Committee for consideration at its next meeting. The persons forming the deputation would be invited to attend the meeting and would be informed subsequently of any action to be taken or proposed in relation to the matter set out in the deputation.

30.5 The Mayor noted that this concluded the item.

31 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

(a) FAMILY HOMES NOT HMOS

31.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. He had been made aware of two such petitions and would therefore take each in turn. He also noted that there was a Notice of Motion listed at Item 39(b) on the agenda which related to HMOs and he was therefore inclined to take it along with the petition in one debate. In addition there were two amendments to the recommendation contained in the covering report to the petition and an amendment to the notice of motion which would also be included before the matter was opened up for general debate.

31.2 The Mayor then invited Mr. Gandey as the lead petitioner to present the petition calling on the Council to prohibit the issuing of any future HMO certificates in the Bevendean/Moulsecoomb Ward.

- 31.3 Mr. Gandey thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition had reached 1,285 signatures which demonstrated the strength of feeling in the area and the need for something to be done to support families who felt their communities were being broken up.
- 31.4 The Mayor thanked Mr. Gandey and called on Councillor Carol Theobald to move the amendment on behalf of the Conservative Group.
- 31.5 Councillor C. Theobald stated that the matter should be considered by the Economic Development & Culture Committee rather than the Housing & New Homes Committee as it related to planning policy. She also stated that it was felt that the extension of the area of restriction from 50 metres to 150 metres would be helpful for when future applications to convert homes into HMOs were to be made, and hoped the committee would agree to review the City Plan Part One.
- 31.6 Councillor Miller formally seconded the amendment and stated that there was a need to do something to address the proliferation of HMOs in certain areas of the city.
- 31.7 Councillor Meadows moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group, calling on the committee to consider extending the current Article 4 Direction area and to better align the planning and licensing functions in relation to HMOs. She also stated that she wished to amend the wording of the amendment to replace the word 'rented' with that of 'HMO' in the final line of 2.2.
- 31.8 Councillor Moonan formally seconded the amendment and stated that it was important to enable planning and licensing functions to work efficiently in relation to their enforcement roles.
- 31.9 Councillor Hill moved the Notice of Motion on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group, concerning HMO landlord licensing and business rates.
- 31.10 Councillor Cattell formally seconded the motion.
- 31.11 Councillor Gibson moved an amendment to the motion on behalf of the Green Group.
- 31.12 Councillor Druitt formally seconded the amendment.
- 31.13 Councillor Robins responded to the petition and stated that challenges around the availability of family homes in the city was one of the key themes that emerged in consultation on the Housing Strategy along with the wider impact of student housing resulting from the growth of the universities. He also offered to send Mr. Gandey a full response on the matter and stated that officers would be working with the universities to address ongoing concerns about the number of HMOs and ways to manage existing and future student accommodation.
- 31.14 The Mayor then opened the matter up for debate and the following Members expressed their views, Councillors Page, Inkpin-Leissner, Wares, Wealls, Marsh, Yates, Hamilton and Druitt.

31.15 In response to the debate Councillor Robins stated that he felt the proposed amendments could be taken forward for consideration at the Economic Development & Culture Committee.

31.16 In response to the debate Councillor Hill stated that she was happy to accept the Green Group's amendment to the notice of motion and hoped that it would be fully supported.

31.17 The Mayor noted that both amendments to the petition report's recommendation were supported by Members and therefore put the amended recommendations to the vote which were carried.

31.18 The Mayor noted that the amendment to the notice of motion had been accepted and put the following motion as amended to the vote,

“This Council resolves:

To request that the Chief Executive writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Chair and Vice-Chairs of the Local Government Association and local MPs to request that councils should be given powers to bring landlords of HMOs, party houses and Air BnB properties within the scope of business rates in the same way as for example hotels and guest houses are within the scope of business rates.”

31.19 The Mayor confirmed that the motion which was carried by 31 votes to 19, with 1 abstention as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
2	Atkinson	✓			Meadows	✓		
3	Barford	✓			Mears		X	
4	Barnett	Not Present			Miller		X	
5	Bell		X		Mitchell	✓		
6	Bennett		X		Moonan	✓		
7	Bewick	Not Present			Morgan	✓		
8	Brown		X		Morris			Ab
9	Cattell	✓			Nemeth		X	
10	Chapman	✓			Norman A		X	
11	Cobb		X		Norman K		X	
12	Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
13	Deane	✓			Page	✓		

14	Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn		X	
15	Gibson	✓			Penn	✓		
16	Gilbey	✓			Phillips	✓		
17	Greenbaum	✓			Robins	✓		
18	Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
19	Hill	✓			Simson		X	
20	Horan	✓			Sykes	✓		
21	Hyde		X		Taylor		X	
22	Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C		X	
23	Janio		X		Theobald G		X	
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares		X	
25	Lewry		X		Wealls		X	
26	Littman	✓			West	✓		
27	Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates	✓		
					Total	31	19	1

31.20 RESOLVED:

- (1) That the petition be noted and referred to the Economic Development & Culture Committee for consideration at its meeting on 17th November 2016;
- (2) That the Committee be requested to consider that the City Plan Part One be reviewed to increase the area of restriction from 50 metres to 150 metres where applications for conversion to HMOs will be rejected if more than 5% of current dwellings are already HMOs;
- (3) That the Committee be requested as a priority to consider the extension of the current Article 4 Direction area and options to further extend the licensing of private rented housing; and
- (4) That the Committee consider whether to better align the Planning and Licensing functions in relation to HMOs and learn from other university towns as to more effective management of student HMOs and to request a report on this matter to its next meeting.

(b) SAVE THE DYKE PUB

31.21 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting, and invited Ms. Sigfrid as the lead petitioner to present

the petition calling on the Council to recognise the Dyke pub as an asset of community value.

- 31.22 Ms. Redfern and Mr. Fardell thanked the Mayor and stated that they would be presenting the petition on behalf of the petitioners and noted that it had reached 1,413 signatures. Ms. Redfern stated that the local community had submitted an application for the pub to be listed as an asset of community value, in order to give them an opportunity to work with interested parties to have the pub restored to its original use. As things stood the current owners had simply closed the pub and reopened it as a furniture shop with no consultation or warning.
- 31.23 The Mayor thanked Ms. Redfern and called on Councillor Cattell to respond to the petition.
- 31.24 Councillor Cattell stated that the change of use was allowed due to the Government's change to permitted development rights last year. She had been advised by officers that the owner of the Dyke Pub followed the correct procedure in carrying out the change of use by writing to the local planning authority, 56 days before, to seek advice as to whether the pub had been nominated as an ACV and as no such nomination was received for the public house before or during the 56 day period, the developer was permitted to change the use of the pub to a shop.
- 31.25 She noted that the council had since received the community's nomination of the former pub as an ACV – and the petition in support of reinstatement of the pub would be noted when considering the nomination. In terms of looking forward the council recognised that pubs are often an important asset to local communities and officers were currently looking into the best approach to tackle the unwanted loss of pubs in the future.
- 31.26 The Mayor then opened the matter up for debate and the following Members expressed their views, Councillors Morris, Littman and G. Theobald.
- 31.27 In response to the debate Councillor Cattell stated that she had recently visited another authority to see how they were attempting to address the use of permitted rights so that similar issues could be prevented.
- 31.28 The Mayor then put the recommendation to refer the petition to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee to vote which was agreed.
- 31.29 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee for consideration at its meeting on 8th December 2016.

32 WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS.

- 32.1 The Mayor reminded Council that written questions from Members and the replies from the appropriate Councillor were taken as read by reference to the list included in the addendum which had been circulated as detailed below:

(a) Councillor Bell

“In light of the recent blunder by the Planning Department which has led to a 12.5 metre mast being erected next to a school and historic site in my Ward of Woodingdean, would the Chair of Planning Committee please explain how such an error has been allowed to happen and how many other known instances there have been if, as it has been reported, there are no checks to ensure that applicants have receipt of their planning decisions within the time period?”

Hollow apologies, from the Administration are a distraction to a systemic failure within the planning department and despite emails and phone calls we still are unable to inform our residents of what action this Administration is going to take to rectify their mistake. I respectfully request urgent action and response to this question.”

Reply from Councillor Cattell – Chair of the Planning Committee

“I am very sorry for the delay that occurred and resulted in the mobile phone mast and cabinets having received deemed approval, even though the Council opposed the proposals. This was due to an administrative error within the Council following a delay in the application being received by the Planning Department. I apologise to the residents of Woodingdean who initially opposed the application and have raised concerns and campaigned against the installation of the equipment following the works starting on site.

I am aware of three other instances in the last 10 years of other mobile phone installations gaining deemed approval in the City. I have raised this issue with senior managers who are carrying out an investigation into the circumstances behind this deemed approval and the Council’s procedures. Senior managers have met with Councillor Simson and community representatives and have contacted the mobile phone company to seek a resolution. The procedures for handling incoming post have now been changed to eliminate, as far as possible, a repeat of this unfortunate situation.”

(b) Councillor Wares

“Recently in the Argus, the Chair of Environment, Transport and Sustainability commented on her sadness at the decline of our parks and open spaces in the wake of £600,000 savings required to Cityparks’ budget over the next 3 years. What is of greater sadness is the misrepresentation of this figure. According to the Council’s budget papers, Citypark’s overall budget for the next 3 years is gross £11,061,000 of which £7,743,000 is for parks and open spaces. The actual overall saving proposed for the 3 years is £430,000. £200,000 saving against the parks budget which is proposed as a cut in service and £230,000 saving against leisure and allotments dealt with by increasing charges and fees. Conservation and arboriculture’s budget are unchanged.

Therefore, over the next 3 years, the parks and open spaces budget reduction is £200,000; nothing like Councillor Mitchell’s £600,000.

Over the same 3 year period, the traveller budget is £1,839,000 of which a saving of £133,000 is proposed. The City has seen a reduction in unauthorised encampments

following the £2.4m traveller site development that was supplemented with £700,000 of Council tax money coupled with the Police now responding swiftly to end them and PSPOs coming into force later this year.

Rather than Councillor Mitchell continuing with her proposed reduction in Cityparks' budget of £430,000, will she now inform us how much she intends to re-allocate from the over-funded traveller budget towards Cityparks, and how much she anticipates this will reduce her sadness and increase our residents' happiness?"

Reply from Councillor Mitchell – Chair of the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee

"I would confirm that there are savings of £600k in the City Parks budget for the three years 2016/17 – 2018/19 inclusive that directly relate to parks and open spaces and are being informed by the 'Big Conversation' consultation. These savings were agreed at budget council in February 2016 and mainly comprise: new service delivery model for parks and open spaces service £200k, reduced contractor budget £38k, achieving self-managed sport and recreation facilities £250k, aligning the retained Ranger Service with the new delivery model to focus on public engagement and statutory functions £102k.

The Traveller Service budget for 2016/17 is £573k. The figure for the three years budget quoted in this question does not take into account the year on year savings being applied. In 2016/17 there was a budget reduction of £41k. Total savings agreed by council for the next three years are £133k. NB This figure may be revised as part of the budget setting process.

The permanent traveller site opened in July 2016 and the transit site opened in August 2016 with 21 pitches. The permanent site development and installation of a suitable drainage system for both sites cost just under £2.4m of which £1.74m was funded by a government grant and £649k funded by the council.

The number of new, unauthorised, encampments has reduced since the opening of both sites as expected, however, we are continuing to review the situation as part of making any recommendations to revise the budget, based on clear evidence, as part of the annual budget process. It should be noted, however, that the Traveller Services budget is held within a directorate separate from City Parks and would not necessarily be used to offset budgets elsewhere."

(c) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Preventing flash floods: Rooftops study

A roof audit study in 2014* found that there was 87 football pitches' worth of new green roof space in the city centre of Brighton and Hove.

The equivalent of up to 100 Olympic swimming pools of water could be held back from the city's roads and drains which could have a significant effect in reducing flooding and the need for infrastructure. Over 2 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity could be saved every year on cooling costs for buildings – via reduced or avoided air conditioning.

Greening roofs would also reduce the so-called 'Urban Heat Island Effect', potentially providing an additional saving in cooling costs in the city of 1.3million kWh per annum, as well as decreased carbon dioxide emissions. New green roofs create new habitats for plant and animal species and help building energy efficiency.

Can the Chair of the Planning Committee advise on what work is being done by the Administration to bring this important study to fruition.

[*https://building-green.org.uk/2015/01/24/huge-potential-for-green-roofs-to-improve-the-centre-of-brighton/](https://building-green.org.uk/2015/01/24/huge-potential-for-green-roofs-to-improve-the-centre-of-brighton/)

Reply from Councillor Cattell – Chair of the Planning Committee

“Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One recognises the importance of green infrastructure and green roofs in enhancing biodiversity, energy efficiency and mitigating climate impacts. These impacts include urban heat island effect and flash floods caused by heavy rainfall events.

There are direct and indirect references to green roofs throughout City Plan Part One which have facilitated and encouraged the inclusion of green roofs within a number of development schemes in the city, especially major developments (e.g. The Keep, Falmer and applications on several schemes in the New England Quarter).

The council will look for opportunities to consolidate this approach in City Plan Part Two Design policies and the forthcoming Urban Design Framework planning guidance.

Opportunities for green roofs are investigated for schemes where the council has involvement in design, for example:

- The Level Cafe

New Homes for Communities Programme, there are green roofs on:

- Robert Lodge, Whitehawk
- Brooke Mead, City Centre
- And a green wall at Kite Place

The council’s Architecture Team also explores opportunities for green roof applications and these have been successfully installed at:

- Downsview Link College
- Balfour Junior School
- Whitehawk Hub”

(d) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Free and accessible water in Brighton and Hove

Single-use plastic bottles expend finite natural resources; they also create transport and waste. As a seaside city, single-use plastic bottles and bottle tops add to sea pollution: 8

million tonnes of plastic waste enter the sea from land each year. Plastic bottled water is also excessively expensive for the consumer.

The public health benefits of water are widely acknowledged; 1.6 litres of water are needed a day to avoid dehydration. The Refill Project established in Bristol in 2015 works by having free and accessible tap water provided in venues across the city centre. Over 200 participating venues such as cafes, bars, restaurants, banks, galleries, museums and other businesses simply promote their participation. The public has access to free tap water.

Can the Chair of the Environment, Transport and Sustainability Committee advise if the Administration will investigate the idea and bring forward a report to committee?

Reply from Councillor Yates – Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board

“As part of Sugar Smart Brighton and Hove the public health team have taken some initial steps to investigate the feasibility of a Refill style model for Brighton and Hove. We are all eating 2-3 times as much sugar as we should and we know that sugary drinks make up to 30-40% of young peoples’ sugar intake. Making drinking water more freely accessible across the city is a sustainable and low cost way to improve our residents’ health and reduce plastic bottle waste. The next stage is to develop a project plan including the identification of potential sources of funding. Progress will be reported through the Health and Wellbeing Board.”

(e) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Can the Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee outline what information housing officers are now legally permitted to routinely collect on tenants?

Reply from Councillor Meadows – Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee

“The types of personal information that Housing staff routinely collect from tenants is that which is deemed relevant and necessary to the relationship which we have with our tenants as their landlord, our legal responsibilities to them, and their contract with us.

As a data controller under the Data Protection Act (DPA), the Council is required to deal with the personal data of its tenants in a way which is compliant with the data protection principles. It has therefore put in place a raft of arrangements to ensure that the personal data of its tenants is processed fairly and lawfully and only to the degree which is compatible with the Data Protection Act.”

(f) Councillor Taylor

“The works to Westdene Library agreed as part of the Libraries Plan are now some 2 months behind schedule. Will Councillor Hamilton please tell me how this will impact on the savings in the Libraries service budget for 2016/17?”

Reply from Councillor Hamilton – Deputy Chair (Finance) of the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee

“The delays were a result of the complexities of implementing a new door access system, new IT systems and carrying out the necessary checks to ensure that everything will work effectively once the library is open. The delay to re-opening Westdene Library will not have any impact on Library Service budget savings for 2016/17. Westdene Library is now expected to re-open in November.”

33 ORAL QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- 33.1 The Mayor noted that eleven oral questions had been received and that 30 minutes were set aside for the duration of the item. He also noted that Councillor Hyde had decided to withdraw her question.
- 33.2 The Mayor then invited Councillor Wealls to put his question to the Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee.
- 33.3 Councillor Wealls asked the following question, “Please can Councillor Chapman assure the council of the administration’s unwavering support for the establishment of the University of Brighton Academies trust free school in the city?”
- 33.4 Councillor Chapman replied, “This administration does absolutely support the University of Brighton’s application. As we know, and as we have been discussing on the cross party working group that Councillor Wealls has been sitting on for the past year, that the new school is needed in the city and we are working hard with the University of Brighton and with officers to try and secure the site for the new school as soon as possible.”
- 33.5 Councillor Wealls asked the following supplementary question, “Given the need for additional secondary school places in the city, which this school is designed to meet, please can you specifically rule out bulge classes or additional forms of entry at any of the city’s existing maintained schools?”
- 33.6 Councillor Chapman replied, “What we will continue to do is work with our family schools across the city to ensure that every child in the city has a place as we are obliged to do. What I will say is that secondary school admissions has been an issue that has rumbled on in this area for years under successive administrations of all colours and we are not going to keep passing the buck we are going to get the basics right. We are going to continue to move towards opening a new school and securing new places for the city’s pupils for generations to come.”
- 33.7 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked, “You’ll now be aware from the very eloquent deputation from my resident of the quantity of antisocial behaviour that has been happening, and if I can be honest I thought it was a rather disappointing response to the deputation. I’ve had dozens of emails and phone calls from worried residents to be fair, Council and Police officers once engaged have worked on solving the problems but obviously current policies and approaches aren’t working. Would Councillor Daniel agree with many of my residents that as antisocial behaviour is now slipping out of control in the city centre that we urgently need the reinstatement of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on our streets at the earliest point, and will she join our calls to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) that we need PCSOs reinstated as soon as possible?”

- 33.8 Councillor Daniel replied, "In brief, especially in regards to PCSOs of course we would support you in your calls for reinstatement of PCSOs. I attend, for this council along with Councillor Wares, the Police and Crime Panel which is scrutinising the PCC, and I have asked her on a number of occasions including the last meeting what measures of success she is going to use around this new model and she has not given me an answer and she has repeatedly not given an answer on what measures of success she's going to use around this new model. My confidence in this new model is therefore very low. This, coupled with the fact that it is so difficult to get through on the 101 number and the PCC's response on the length of time that people wait and in my case I waited 45 minutes, got cut off and then waited a further 45 minutes and got cut off again and never got through which is not now unusual. The PPC's response was that she felt that she might remove any targets around response time because they lead to perverse incentives to give poor customer service which I find absolutely incredible, and how the people of Sussex can have confidence in a model of change which has no measures, a model of change which depends on people phoning a number which they can't get through to, a model of change where PCSOs whose role was around preventing low level crime and low level antisocial behaviour on the basis that they have to go to more harmful, higher risk issues. I don't think that's efficiency because all you're doing is storing up problems and storing up higher cost issues along the way."
- 33.9 Councillor Mac Cafferty asked the following supplementary question, "Would Councillor Daniel and possibly Councillor O'Quinn as the Lead in licensing agree to meet with myself, Councillor Sykes and residents as soon as possible to outline how they will help our area enforce, and revisit as necessary current alcohol licensing arrangements which have done so much to grow antisocial behaviour?"
- 33.10 Councillor Daniel replied, "Of course we will meet with you, thank you for raising this Councillor."
- 33.11 Councillor Janio asked, "According to our world renowned and highly respected local newspaper The Argus, Councillor Mitchell 'the parks boss' has expressed her sadness at the decline in our city's green spaces. Mr Mayor I agree with her so, can Councillor Mitchell please confirm tonight as 'the parks boss' and without droning on about Tory cuts which is frankly getting a bit dull and dreary that she will stop her officer's merry jaunts around the city as they are upsetting the users of our parks and open spaces with their talks about proposed cuts before the consultation has completed and the budget published? Also will she agree to abandon the proposed increase in charges for sports and leisure facilities such as those which have been reported to several councillors from the bowling clubs?"
- 33.12 Councillor Mitchell replied, "I do fully appreciate Councillor Janio's sensitivity around the issue of the £600,000 that are to be taken from the City Parks budget over the next three years. It's a shame that that sensitivity isn't actually been translated into perhaps making firmer representations to his government as to what their measures actually mean 'on the ground'. Councillor Janio seems to be suggesting that we curtail the consultation with people. So far we have received nearly 3000 responses to this consultation on the parks and open spaces across this city that are dearly loved and valued by residents and I would hope that Councillor Janio would appreciate that. In terms of stopping officers from going around the parks and open spaces; no, we want to attract as many views as possible."

- 33.13 Councillor Janio asked the following supplementary question, “Councillor Mitchell is also quoted in the Argus as saying that “it saddens her that many of our residents can still remember city parks staff and gardeners, a time when there was more funding available and a real sense of pride in the city’s parks and are now having to witness this decline”. It’s also good to learn that she thinks it’s the Argus that “has taken an interest in the future of parks and open spaces”. Well I can tell you Mr Mayor I wish she’d taken more of an interest in the parks and open spaces because the Conservatives do and we take it very seriously and we are not going to let this matter rest here. So finally will Councillor Mitchell please confirm tonight that the money saved from other areas of the environment budget, some which are detailed tonight in other written answers, will be used to maintain spending on our parks and open spaces and that any proposed increase in charging for sports and leisure facilities will now be scrapped pending cross-party discussions?”
- 33.14 Councillor Mitchell replied, “What this council administration is doing is to follow through on some of the ‘*advice*’ that we have been receiving from the Conservative group over the years about doing things differently, making services pay for themselves and not only the Conservative group but George Osborne who wanted all council to become financially self-sustaining by 2020. That has not been changed by the present Prime Minister, that is the agenda from this dreadful government which we are working to and this is why, where we can, we are seeking to put services on a more self-sustaining footing. Hence the talks with the bowls clubs and other sports organisations and if fact that it is painful for you Councillor Janio again direct your attention to Westminster.”
- 33.15 Councillor Page asked, “We have 20 mile per hour ones but not right across the city. The Times newspaper reported a couple of weeks ago that 51 councils now have a blanket 20mph speed limit in urban areas, with others considering it and in Scotland it is 95% of transport authorities who favour 20mph as a default speed limit in built up areas. Given that we have higher than average collisions at work on the road rates and the reductions in our killed and seriously injured statistics appear to have stalled, can we consider 20mph as a default urban speed limit across the city and what concrete measures are planned to protect vulnerable road users?”
- 33.16 Councillor Mitchell replied, “Thank you for your question Councillor Page and actually I share your disappointment that the 20mph limits are not being adhered to and of course it was your Green administration prior to the current administration that implemented the 20mph limits in that particular way, not a blanket approach, but road by road following consultation with residents and they were very careful to do that and we are where we are. I’m not sure if a default 20mph limit would be adhered to any more than the 20mph limits are being adhered to now. What we are doing is to incrementally work through, with the very limited budgets that we have, a whole series of road safety measures, not least the safer route to school measure where we are working with schools. Where we have also managed to attract sustainable transport funding to bring about behaviour change, which does include safer urban driving practices in particular, and so we are focusing on the road safety budget being prioritised towards those areas where we know there are the highest number of the killed and seriously injured incidents that are happening.”

- 33.17 Councillor Page asked the following supplementary question, "What can we do to get more enforcement of 20mph limits from the Police given that we know our statistics are not improving and I wonder if we have very little ambition or expectation that we are really going to make the roads safer for vulnerable road users?"
- 33.18 Councillor Mitchell replied, "In addition to my previous comments about focusing our road safety budget on those areas where we know that we have already have problems with accident statistics. I think that we can continue with the Sussex Safer Road Partnership to undertake education campaigns the 'Share the Road' campaign for example, the work that is done especially around Christmas when the mornings and evenings are darker –'be seen, be safe'- that type of campaign. We won't let up on making our roads safer as for the specifics in relation to enforcement that you were talking about that is the responsibility of the Sussex Police and there were some rather mixed messages around when the 20mph limits were introduced as to whether the Police were going to be prepared to enforce that limit or not and I think that is still a grey area."
- 33.19 Councillor Simson asked, "Could Councillor Mitchell tell me if and when the toilets under Hove Town Hall car park will be reopened bearing in mind they were closed on the understanding that visitors could use those in this building before it was redeveloped and as that option is no longer available it means visitors have to walk a long way to the next nearest convenience?"
- 33.20 Councillor Mitchell replied, "It is my understanding that those toilets were part of the savings that were made in the previous year's budget and therefore will not be reopened."
- 33.21 Councillor Simson asked the following supplementary question, "I'm quite upset to hear that as the next nearest convenience is very far away from this building. Can Councillor Mitchell see that the council's website is updated as it still shows both the toilets both at Hove Town Hall and under the car park. Although it's a strange thing because in order to find these you have to enter your address to find the nearest toilet and I'm not sure why you would be looking for a toilet near to where you live. Can I just ask that the website is updated and I would urge that there is some kind of provision for people who visit this building?"
- 33.22 Councillor Mitchell replied, "There is a publicly accessible toilet in this building for the public to use and I will ensure that the website is updated."
- 33.23 Councillor Sykes asked, "As councils around the country are developing budgets we are seeing stories in the news about cuts upon cuts upon cuts and a lot of strong positions from Labour councils on the impact on front line services but I have never seen our Labour Administration here quoted in any of these stories.

What is Councillor Hamilton and his Administration doing on a national stage to fight for local services and a better settlement in the Autumn statement?"

- 33.24 Councillor Hamilton replied, "As you rightly say we are in a very difficult situation, we are continually making representations, certainly through the LGA and through contacts in our fellow Labour Administrations up and down the country. With regards to our budget

development here we have got a situation next month we will have the usual cross-party meetings where we will look at the cuts coming along and make budget proposals and members can come along and decide what they think about those.

Even if all the cuts that were proposed are implemented we still have to find further economies in the budget. After we've had those meetings which I've just referred to we will then of course have another budget review group meeting which of course you are welcome to come to and after that when we get to December we will have a better idea as to what the situation is but as you rightly say at the present time until we get the autumn statement which I believe is coming out in November we won't know where we are. There are various rumours such as local authorities being given the option to increasing the care precept from 2% up to 3% or even 4%.

We do make representation through the LGA, through other councils which are under Labour control; finding out what they are doing to meet the gap and obviously when we come through to the next budget review group meeting I feel we will be in a better position as that will be in after the autumn statement has come out."

- 33.25 Councillor Sykes asked the following supplementary question, "I'm a little disappointed in that response and I'm sure I'm not alone in thinking that it would be great to see a much stronger campaigning position as positions not just as managers from this Labour Administration on the extent to which cuts are killing our services locally.

Public consultation last year was constrained so we couldn't have any public scrutiny or questionnaires. Councillor Hamilton said at the time that he would listen to that and he was alive to the possibilities of changing the consultation and so can I ask him what plans around the budget in a very difficult budget year he has?"

- 33.26 Councillor Hamilton replied, "First of all I have just heard that my colleague Councillor Morgan was this very day at the LGA with regard to looking at the budget situation that authorities are facing and representations were being made there.

As you know we don't usually start the consultation on the budget until a bit later on and in fact we will, at the next budget review group, be deciding on the format of the consultation. It might be useful therefore that if you have some ideas as to how it should be done if you can drop those into Nigel Manvell or James Hengeveld or David Kuenssberg now, then when we come to that next meeting we can use your ideas. I know you expressed some concern about the consultation last year and I have a certain amount of sympathy with that but I think that if we want to improve it and I must just say we don't want ideas that are going to cost us £200,000 or some fantastic amount to do it. But if you would like to put in your ideas for this I would be pleased to receive them and indeed anyone else at all if you have ideas as to the best way of consulting on the budget then by all means let us have them."

- 33.27 Councillor Mears asked, "Can the Chair of Housing confirm that she is totally committed to fully engaged consultation with tenants through Local Area Panels? For those of us that remember stock transfer listening to tenants is very important especially for any administration."

33.28 Councillor Meadows replied, "As you know Housing conducts consultations with its customers in a number of different ways to help us develop policy or strategy and in our own tenancy agreements with our tenants it states that 'we believe it is important that you are involved in housing management decisions that affect you and we will consult with you about any changes to our policy or practice that may substantially change the housing service which we provide to you, your home or your neighbourhood'."

33.29 Councillor Mears asked the following supplementary question, "Can the Chair of Housing now confirm that with the residents' involvement review she will ensure tenants wishes are upheld? They feel that this review has moved away from its original purpose onto satisfaction with housing services endorsed by an officer's report on working together. Tenants have now seen the demise of Housing sub-committee replaced by tenant scrutiny panels which tenants feel has no real impact.

Tenants feel their views are being ignored and they are not happy with the move to get rid of area panels nor are they happy as they feel they are being manipulated, proposed to and even lectured to. They would like to see the review taken to the Housing committee for Member's input from all parties before any decisions are taken, will the Chair of Housing agree to this?"

33.30 Councillor Meadows replied, "As I said we have a statutory consultation service and the Housing Landlord service specifically requires us to consult on monitoring review and performance, consult with tenants if proposing to change their landlord or similar significant change and consult tenants once every three years on the best way of involving them in the governance and scrutiny of the Housing Management service and, as you know, that has prompted us to look at the tenant participation structure because, one of the things we have found is that a number of our tenants want to engage with us in different ways. Some of us want to do it online, some of us want to engage personally and some want to do it as tenant organisations and that's great. What we want is for tenants to engage with us and that is part of this tenant participation structure."

33.31 Councillor Druitt asked, "South Street is a narrow one way street in the old town with double yellow lines one both sides of the road. Since April this year it has become something of a building site with scaffolding, skips, wheelie bins and vans blocking access to the street for residents, visitors and tradespeople almost every day. As the ward councillor I have raised this issue many times on behalf of the residents and traders over the last six months and I glad that a permit for authorised closure has been eventually been applied for. Can Councillor Mitchell tell us why six month of regular unauthorised closures have been tolerated and how much money has the council lost out on in this period?"

33.32 Councillor Mitchell replied, "I am sorry to hear that residents and presumably business have been inconvenienced in that way. I can't answer your question in relation to why it has taken that length of time or the costs involved but I will ensure that you get a detailed response to both of those questions."

33.33 Councillor Druitt asked the following supplementary question, "The wider issue of enforcement, whether in planning, transport or refuse is one that affects residents across the city and one where the council often seems paralysed. What would be your advice to residents who despite appeal to council officers and indeed ward councillors

are still waiting for enforcement action to take place especially where paralysis occurs as a result of uncertainty as to which department is responsible?”

33.34 Councillor Mitchell replied, “In answering that question I would speak to every councillor here who is a ward councillor and who may be faced with those problems and that would be to get in contact with me and I will escalate it senior officers.”

33.35 Councillor Miller asked, “Does Councillor Hamilton believe the council is sweating all of our commercial assets as far as can be done to ensure that the budget gap is as small as it can be or does he think there is potential to sweat them further from the 1.1%-5% annual return we achieve from them in contrast to the 10% in the private sector in order to fill our budget gap going forward?”

33.36 Councillor Hamilton replied, “This council has large assets: our total portfolio is valued at £1.69bn but that includes the 11,000 plus council properties and that would obviously account for a very large amount of that. We’ve also got over 500 non-housing properties and we’ve got 10.5 acres of farm land.

We don’t just do our own work we use Cluttons for all our urban portfolio and Savills for the agricultural land. Both of those firms are recognised as being well established and competent organisations and they do advise us on transactions we make and on various buildings we can sell. We are always selling properties, if you look through the Policy, Resources & Growth agendas you’ll know we sold a property in Little East Street, we sold one near St. Peters Church and at the moment we are in the process of selling King’s House and we have sold various other building that the council owned that were used for offices which are now redundant. A lot of properties which we own are often on reasonably long-term leases and again through Cluttons we go to those businesses when rent reviews come up and get the best returns that we can.

If we are using professional outside people whose work it is to do this kind of thing then I think we are doing the right thing. The assets that we are actually dealing with on a day to day basis are £195 million and they bring in about £10 million a year which is just over 5% which I think is reasonable in this current situation. If you think there are other ideas we can use to improve that then please come forward with them.”

33.37 Councillor Miller asked the following supplementary question, “If Councillor Hamilton does agree with me that there is potential to sweat our assets further and help fill some of our budget gap then member oversight of our portfolio and such a shared aim which could greatly assist in the strategic vision of the city and regeneration in the central parts of the city could be done on a cross party basis and will he consider ways of doing this?”

33.38 Councillor Hamilton replied, “The first part of the question was do I think we are getting the best return we can? There may be ways of getting more and I do not claim to be a professional investor who could answer that particular question. That’s why I say put ideas in. Our investment strategy is in fact greatly advised by the firms which I have already reported to you, I think that was the second part of your question.

You could have a cross party item on this but I think the way to approach that would be first of all to either put in a letter or ask for an item to go on the agenda at the Economic

Development & Culture committee where then that could be discussed and they could decide whether that was the way forward.”

33.39 Councillor Cobb asked, “My question relates to the workshop at the Hollingdean Dustcart Depot. What problems have been encountered during the works and is there a budget overspend?”

33.40 Councillor Mitchell replied, “I am not aware of any problems during the works apart from perhaps usual construction issues, nor am I aware of any budget overspend. The new maintenance workshops are now completed and the move back for our vehicles from Conway Street is now underway. Several businesses are expressing great interest in using the new workshops that will generate income to the council to help us continue to improve services and to help us to protect jobs.”

33.41 Councillor Cobb asked the following supplementary question, “I must point out that new dustcart lifts were purchased in order to lift the dustcarts up to make working underneath all the easier. These had to be removed because the floors were not level and a portacabin is to be used by workshop staff as changing and coffee/ tea facilities. Can you confirm all of that please?”

33.42 Councillor Mitchell replied, “Thank you that information Councillor Cobb, as I said in my previous response, there were probably some construction issues that had to be overcome during the build. As for tea and coffee being served in a portacabin I will certainly take that issue up for you.”

34 CALL OVER FOR REPORTS OF COMMITTEES.

(a) Callover

34.1 The following items on the agenda were reserved for discussion:

- Item 35 - City Employment & Skills Plan 2016-2020
- Item 36 - 4-Year Funding and Efficiency Plan
- Item 37 - Rent Smart
- Item 38 - Single Homeless and Rough Sleeper Accommodation & Support Services Remodelling & Tender

(b) Receipt and/or Approval of Reports

34.2 The Head of Democratic Services confirmed that Items 35 to 38 had been reserved for discussion;

(c) Oral Questions from Members

34.3 The Mayor noted that there were no oral questions as all the reports had been called.

35 CITY EMPLOYMENT & SKILLS PLAN 2016 - 2020

35.1 Councillor Robins introduced the report which detailed the City Employment & Skills Plan 2016-2020 and was put before the council for adoption. He noted that the

Economic Development & Culture and Children, Young People & Skills Committees had endorsed the plan. The plan was jointly owned by stakeholders and recognised the important economic role in the city and the region and he hoped that all Members would full support the objectives.

- 35.2 Councillor Taylor welcomed the report and stated that there was a need to see an improvement in the labour market and any help to enable young people to develop careers had to be supported.
- 35.3 Councillor DrUITT welcomed the plan and commented on the excellent consultation exercise that had been undertaken, which he felt should be recognised as an example of good practice. He felt that it would have been helpful to have involved more young people in the workshops and hoped that this would be given consideration in future consultation exercises.
- 35.4 Councillor Wealls noted that more work was needed to help young people with special educational needs to get into the labour market as there was a large gap currently. He hoped that this would be taken into consideration as the plan was implemented.
- 35.5 The Mayor noted that the plan had been moved and put the recommendation for the City Employment & Skills Plan 2016-2020 to be adopted to the vote, which was carried.
- 35.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Brighton & Hove City Employment & Skills Plan 2016-2020 be adopted by the Council.

36 4 YEAR FUNDING SETTLEMENT AND EFFICIENCY PLAN

- 36.1 Councillor Hamilton introduced the report which detailed the option for the Council to take up a 4-year funding settlement for 2016/17 to 2019/20, as part of the Government's Spending Review. The benefit of taking up the option was that it provided the council with a guaranteed minimum figure for each financial year based on the efficiency plan that it submitted to the Government. He noted that it had been accepted at the Policy Resources & Growth Committee at its meeting on the 13th October and recommended it to the council.
- 36.2 Councillor Sykes stated that he could not accept the idea of having to produce an efficiency plan or signing up to a 4-year settlement and believed that local authorities should challenge the government and defend public services.
- 36.3 Councillor Wealls welcomed the report and supported the plan, which he felt gave the council a degree of flexibility in regard to the use of capital receipts. He noted that all councillors were mindful of the challenges ahead and difficult questions that had to be faced.
- 36.4 Councillor Hamilton noted the comments and stated that most authorities had taken this option as a way forward and would continue to use official channels such as the LGA to put pressure on the Government.

36.5 The Mayor noted that the recommendation from the Policy, Resources & Growth Committee to agree to submit the Efficiency Plan had been moved and put it to the vote which was carried.

36.6 **RESOLVED:** That the Efficiency Plan as detailed in appendix 1 to the report be agreed and submitted to satisfy the conditions of acceptance for the government's 4-year funding settlement for the period 2016/17 to 2019/20.

37 RENT SMART

37.1 Councillor Hill introduced the report which she had asked to be referred to council for information and noted that all councillors were invited to the Rent Smart Partnership event on the 22nd November. The Partnership had evolved as a result of the Scrutiny Panel recommendations in 2015 and was developing a web site which she hoped would prove to be a beneficial resource.

37.2 Councillor Gibson welcomed the report and the initiative and acknowledged the work of Councillor Hill in taking the matter forward. He would be attending the launch and fully supported the partnership.

37.3 Councillor Meadows stated that she fully supported the work to date that Councillor Hill had taken forward in bringing all the partners together. It was a good example of how the council was an enabler and hoped that it would continue to play an important role in this area.

37.4 The Mayor stated that he also wished to acknowledge the focussed and valuable contribution made by Councillor Hill in this area and thanked her for her efforts to date. He then stated that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted, which was carried.

37.5 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

38 SINGLE HOMELESS AND ROUGH SLEEPER ACCOMMODATION & SUPPORT SERVICES REMODELLING & TENDER

38.1 Councillor Meadows introduced the report which had been referred for information and detailed the proposed remodelling and retendering of services to meet the changing needs of homeless people in the city. She stated that a new more flexible referral service to support rough sleepers would be introduced with the aim to remove all rough sleeping by 2020.

38.2 Councillor Mears welcomed the report and stated that it was an excellent policy document. She stated that the target of 2020 was a high one and queried whether there would be enough bed space to meet the demand. She had asked on a number of occasions for a report on adult care, including St Mungo's to come to the Housing & New Homes Committee, as a number of questions remained unanswered.

38.3 Councillor Moonan stated that the report had been fully discussed at committee and the team involved had worked extremely hard to bring this forward. It would provide best practice and value for the homeless in the city with services tailored to needs and

assessments made quickly and easily. She agreed that it was disappointing to have fewer beds available but by meeting the needs of those coming into need, people would be able to move forward.

- 38.4 Councillor Gibson stated that he had referred the report to the council to highlight the positive aspects of the report and noted the benefits of expanding Housing First. He believed that the joined up approach would result in a better delivery of services and achieve savings.
- 38.5 Councillor Druitt stated that he supported the ambition of 2020, but felt that the situation was getting worse and was not convinced that reducing funding would help. He hoped that the development of Housing First would be supported by the council and questioned what would be done for those without beds.
- 38.6 Councillor Barford noted that the report had been to the Housing & New Homes Committee and stated that she was happy to meet with Councillor Mears to discuss the provision for adult care. The tendering process was designed to encourage providers to say how they would meet the needs in the future and to modernise the accommodation service, as the provision of a roof was not the only solution required. She believed the city was fortunate to have specialist providers already and hoped that they would be able to meet the needs.
- 38.7 Councillor Meadows noted the comments and stated that she had asked for a report to a future meeting of the Housing & New Homes Committee in relation to Housing First and where savings could be made.
- 38.8 The Mayor stated that the report had been referred for information and moved that it be noted, which was agreed.
- 38.9 **RESOLVED:** That the report be noted.

39 THE FOLLOWING NOTICES OF MOTION HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS FOR CONSIDERATION:

(a) PROTECT REFUGEE CHILDREN

- 39.1 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Daniel on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative and Green Groups and seconded by Councillor Littman.
- 39.2 Councillor Daniel noted that since the notice of motion had been submitted, the government had taken action to identify aspects of the Dubs amendment that could be taken forward. She also wished to pay tribute to all councillors who had supported the duty to help refugees and citizens who had provided accommodation and help, including the voluntary sector and hoped that the motion could be supported.
- 39.3 Councillor Simson stated that she fully supported the motion and noted that the government was taking action to meet the Dubs amendment and had announced a new scheme to help those in similar need around the world.

- 39.4 Councillor Russell-Moyle stated that he was aware of the role played by residents of Brighton & Hove in the past in accommodating child refugees and refugees in the city. Families had made sacrifices to take in refugees and whilst the government action was welcome there was a need to do more. He hoped that everyone would take this on board and welcome refugees into the city.
- 39.5 The Mayor congratulated Councillor Russell-Moyle on his maiden speech on behalf of the council.
- 39.6 Councillor Littman stated that the country was facing a crisis which was the tip of the iceberg, people were fleeing homes for safety across the world, with many being victims of circumstances. They were being met with hostility and indifference and it was time to push back against this and provide help and assurance. There would be a cost to the government but he hoped the motion could be supported by all councillors.
- 39.7 The Mayor then put the following motion as listed to the vote:

“This Council welcomes the Government’s commitment to create a resettlement scheme to bring unaccompanied refugee children in Europe to safety in the UK. We recognise and support the vital role that local councils can and should play in caring for children seeking sanctuary.

As such this Council pledges its support to the Dubs scheme and urges central government to provide funding to build the essential regional infrastructure necessary to secure the placement and support of children across the country and help build them a brighter, safer future.”

- 39.8 The Mayor noted that the motion was **carried** unanimously.

(b) HMO LICENSING AND BUSINESS RATES

- 39.9 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was considered as part of Item 31(a) on the agenda and is detailed under that item in the minutes.

(c) DIVERSITY OF SCHOOLS

- 39.10 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Brown on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor Wealls.
- 39.11 Councillor Chapman moved an amendment on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group which was seconded by Councillor Russell-Moyle.
- 39.12 The Mayor noted that the Labour & Co-operative Group’s amendment had not been accepted and put it to the vote which was **carried** by 22 votes to 18 with 11 abstentions as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
2	Atkinson	✓			Meadows	✓		
3	Barford	✓			Mears		X	
4	Barnett	Not Present			Miller		X	
5	Bell		X		Mitchell	✓		
6	Bennett		X		Moonan	✓		
7	Bewick	Not Present			Morgan	✓		
8	Brown		X		Morris	✓		
9	Cattell	✓			Nemeth		X	
10	Chapman	✓			Norman A		X	
11	Cobb		X		Norman K		X	
12	Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
13	Deane			Ab	Page			Ab
14	Druitt			Ab	Peltzer Dunn		X	
15	Gibson			Ab	Penn	✓		
16	Gilbey	✓			Phillips			Ab
17	Greenbaum			Ab	Robins	✓		
18	Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
19	Hill	✓			Simson		X	
20	Horan	✓			Sykes			Ab
21	Hyde		X		Taylor		X	
22	Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C		X	
23	Janio		X		Theobald G		X	
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares		X	
25	Lewry		X		Wealls		X	
26	Littman			Ab	West			Ab
27	Mac Cafferty			Ab	Yates	✓		
					Total	22	18	11

39.13 The Mayor then put the following motion as amended to the vote:

“This Council

- a) Requests the Chair of the Children, Young People & Skills Committee to write to the Head Teachers’ of all the city’s excellent Maintained Schools, Academies, Free Schools and Faith Schools reassuring them and requesting that they remain a key part of the city’s diverse “family of schools” into the future in their existing structures; and
- b) Asks the Leader of the Council to write to Secretary of State for Education explaining the vital role that our schools play, in their existing structures, working together as a “family of schools”, in helping all the city’s children and young people to achieve their goals and ambitions and that promoting selection in education will not reduce educational inequality.”

39.14 The Mayor confirmed that the motion was carried by 22 votes to 19 with 10 abstentions as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
2	Atkinson	✓			Meadows	✓		
3	Barford	✓			Mears		X	
4	Barnett	Not Present			Miller		X	
5	Bell		X		Mitchell	✓		
6	Bennett		X		Moonan	✓		
7	Bewick	Not Present			Morgan	✓		
8	Brown		X		Morris	✓		
9	Cattell	✓			Nemeth		X	
10	Chapman	✓			Norman A		X	
11	Cobb		X		Norman K		X	
12	Daniel	✓			O’Quinn	✓		
13	Deane			Ab	Page			Ab
14	Druitt			Ab	Peltzer Dunn		X	
15	Gibson			Ab	Penn	✓		
16	Gilbey	✓			Phillips			Ab
17	Greenbaum			Ab	Robins	✓		
18	Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		

19	Hill	✓			Simson		X	
20	Horan	✓			Sykes			Ab
21	Hyde		X		Taylor		X	
22	Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C		X	
23	Janio		X		Theobald G		X	
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares		X	
25	Lewry		X		Wealls		X	
26	Littman			Ab	West			Ab
27	Mac Cafferty			Ab	Yates	✓		
					Total	22	19	10

39.15 The motion was **carried**.

Closure Motion

39.16 The Mayor noted that the meeting had been in session for 4 hours and in accordance with council procedure rules had to move a motion to terminate the meeting. He therefore put the motion to the vote which was **lost** by 22 votes to 29.

(d) CHRISTMAS PARKING AND ROAD WORKS SUSPENSION

39.17 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Bell on behalf of the Conservative Group and seconded by Councillor Wares.

39.18 The Mayor then put the following motion as listed to the vote:

“This Council resolves to:

1. Request that officers bring a report to the appropriate Committee which, if agreed, would introduce free parking at Norton Road, London Road, Regency Square, High Street and Trafalgar Street car parks on Small Business Saturday (3rd December) and the 3 Sundays before Christmas (4th, 11th and 18th December); and
2. Request that the Chief Executive seeks the suspension of all non-urgent roadworks in the city centre during December.”

39.19 The Mayor noted that motion had been lost by 19 votes to 32 with no abstentions as listed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen		X		Marsh		X	
2	Atkinson		X		Meadows		X	
3	Barford		X		Mears	✓		
4	Barnett	Not Present			Miller	✓		
5	Bell	✓			Mitchell		X	
6	Bennett	✓			Moonan		X	
7	Bewick	Not Present			Morgan		X	
8	Brown	✓			Morris		X	
9	Cattell		X		Nemeth	✓		
10	Chapman		X		Norman A	✓		
11	Cobb	✓			Norman K	✓		
12	Daniel		X		O'Quinn		X	
13	Deane		X		Page		X	
14	Druitt		X		Peltzer Dunn	✓		
15	Gibson		X		Penn		X	
16	Gilbey		X		Phillips		X	
17	Greenbaum		X		Robins		X	
18	Hamilton		X		Russell-Moyle		X	
19	Hill		X		Simson	✓		
20	Horan		X		Sykes		X	
21	Hyde	✓			Taylor	✓		
22	Inkpin-Leissner		X		Theobald C	✓		
23	Janio	✓			Theobald G	✓		
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares	✓		
25	Lewry	✓			Wealls	✓		
26	Littman		X		West		X	
27	Mac Cafferty		X		Yates		X	
					Total	19	32	

39.20 The motion was **lost**.

(e) THE FAST TRACK CITIES INITIATIVE 90:90:90

39.21 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Yates on behalf of the Labour & Co-operative Group and seconded by Councillor Daniel.

39.22 Councillor Phillips moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group, which was seconded by Councillor Mac Cafferty.

39.23 The Mayor noted that the Green Group's amendment had not been accepted and put it to the vote, which was **carried** by 29 votes to 22 as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen		X		Marsh		X	
2	Atkinson		X		Meadows		X	
3	Barford		X		Mears	✓		
4	Barnett	Not Present			Miller	✓		
5	Bell	✓			Mitchell		X	
6	Bennett	✓			Moonan		X	
7	Bewick	Not Present			Morgan		X	
8	Brown	✓			Morris		X	
9	Cattell		X		Nemeth	✓		
10	Chapman		X		Norman A	✓		
11	Cobb	✓			Norman K	✓		
12	Daniel		X		O'Quinn		X	
13	Deane	✓			Page	✓		
14	Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn	✓		
15	Gibson	✓			Penn		X	
16	Gilbey		X		Phillips	✓		
17	Greenbaum	✓			Robins		X	
18	Hamilton		X		Russell-Moyle		X	
19	Hill		X		Simson	✓		
20	Horan		X		Sykes	✓		
21	Hyde	✓			Taylor	✓		
22	Inkpin-Leissner		X		Theobald C	✓		

23	Janio	✓			Theobald G	✓		
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares	✓		
25	Lewry	✓			Wealls	✓		
26	Littman	✓			West	✓		
27	Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates		X	
					Total	29	22	

39.24 The Mayor then put the following motion as amended to the vote:

“The Council supports the aims of the Fast Track Cities initiative and requests that the Health & Wellbeing Board:

- Agrees the Paris Declaration of 1st November 2014 and commits the Council, with the support of health partners, to the 90:90:90 target of 90 % of people living with HIV being aware of their status; 90% of them being on antiretroviral treatment and 90% of those having undetectable viral loads;
- Agrees to Brighton & Hove becoming the first city in the UK to become a fast track city and through sustained efforts work towards the ambition of the Martin Fisher Foundation strategy “Towards Zero, HIV Prevention Strategy: Working together towards Zero new HIV infections, zero HIV related deaths and zero HIV stigma in Brighton & Hove”.
- Agrees to work to end any stigma associated with living with HIV infection.
- Agrees to put a plan in place to achieve this work, including a broad and thorough public engagement campaign, working closely with HIV community organisations in our city.
- Agrees to investigate how the cut of 20% in HIV support services, agreed through budget council, will affect both people living with HIV and people at risk of HIV in the city.”

39.25 The Mayor confirmed that the motion as amended had been carried by unanimously as detailed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
2	Atkinson	✓			Meadows	✓		
3	Barford	✓			Mears	✓		
4	Barnett	Not Present			Miller	✓		
5	Bell	✓			Mitchell	✓		
6	Bennett	✓			Moonan	✓		

7	Bewick	Not Present			Morgan	✓		
8	Brown	✓			Morris	✓		
9	Cattell	✓			Nemeth	✓		
10	Chapman	✓			Norman A	✓		
11	Cobb	✓			Norman K	✓		
12	Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
13	Deane	✓			Page	✓		
14	Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn	✓		
15	Gibson	✓			Penn	✓		
16	Gilbey	✓			Phillips	✓		
17	Greenbaum	✓			Robins	✓		
18	Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
19	Hill	✓			Simson	✓		
20	Horan	✓			Sykes	✓		
21	Hyde	✓			Taylor	✓		
22	Inkpin-Leissner	✓			Theobald C	✓		
23	Janio	✓			Theobald G	✓		
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares	✓		
25	Lewry	✓			Wealls	✓		
26	Littman	✓			West	✓		
27	Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates	✓		
					Total	51		

39.26 The motion was **carried**.

(f) COMMUNITY PHARMACY SUPPORT

39.27 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Page on behalf of the Green and Labour & Co-operative Groups and seconded by Councillor Yates.

39.28 The Mayor then put the following motion as listed to the vote:

“This Council believes that the Government's plans to reduce funding for community pharmacies threaten patient access to pharmacies and pharmacy services in Brighton and Hove.

Our local pharmacies are at risk of closure or being forced to cut services such as free delivery of prescription drugs, family planning advice and advice on medicines.

This will put more pressure on GPs and hospitals and impact social services and is at odds with the local Clinical Commissioning Group's desire to increase the use of pharmacists to ease pressure on GPs.

We therefore call on the Government to abandon these cuts and maintain a fully-funded community pharmacy service and request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Health, NHS England and Brighton and Hove Clinical Commissioning Group expressing this view.”

39.29 The Mayor confirmed that the motion had been **carried** by 30 votes to none against, with twenty-one abstentions as listed below:

		For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
1	Allen	✓			Marsh	✓		
2	Atkinson	✓			Meadows	✓		
3	Barford	✓			Mears			Ab
4	Barnett	Not Present			Miller			Ab
5	Bell			Ab	Mitchell	✓		
6	Bennett			Ab	Moonan	✓		
7	Bewick	Not Present			Morgan	✓		
8	Brown			Ab	Morris	✓		
9	Cattell	✓			Nemeth			Ab
10	Chapman	✓			Norman A			Ab
11	Cobb			Ab	Norman K			Ab
12	Daniel	✓			O'Quinn	✓		
13	Deane	✓			Page	✓		
14	Druitt	✓			Peltzer Dunn			Ab
15	Gibson	✓			Penn	✓		
16	Gilbey	✓			Phillips	✓		
17	Greenbaum	✓			Robins	✓		
18	Hamilton	✓			Russell-Moyle	✓		
19	Hill	✓			Simson			Ab

20	Horan	✓			Sykes	✓		
21	Hyde			Ab	Taylor			Ab
22	Inkpin-Leissner			Ab	Theobald C			Ab
23	Janio			Ab	Theobald G			Ab
24	Knight	Not Present			Wares			Ab
25	Lewry			Ab	Wealls			Ab
26	Littman	✓			West			Ab
27	Mac Cafferty	✓			Yates	✓		
					Total	30	0	21

39.30 The motion was **carried**.

(g) REPLACING TRULY AFFORDABLE RENTED HOUSING

39.31 The Notice of Motion as listed in the agenda was proposed by Councillor Gibson on behalf of the Green Group and seconded by Councillor Druitt.

39.32 The Mayor then put the following motion as listed to the vote:

“This Council requests:

(a) That the Chief Executive writes to Government calling for:

- 1) An end to the borrowing cap on HRA borrowing to enable new homes to be built through prudential borrowing; and
- 2) A commitment to allow councils to retain sufficient income from the sale of higher value homes to fund its replacement with a socially rented council house.

b) A press release is issued publicising these calls.”

39.33 The Mayor noted that the motion was carried unanimously.

39.34 The motion was **carried**.

40 CLOSE OF MEETING

40.1 The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and closed meeting.

The meeting concluded at 11.05pm

Signed

Chair

Dated this

day of

2016