

Subject:	Ban Circus Animals in Brighton Petition: Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 6 April 2017		
Date of Meeting:	22 June 2017		
Report of:	Executive Lead for Strategy, Governance & Law		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Economic Development & Culture Committee

To receive the item referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendations:

That the petition be considered by the Committee.

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30PM 6 APRIL 2017****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, Knight, 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.

89 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE**(d) BAN ANIMAL CIRCUSES IN BRIGHTON**

89.33 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 five such petitions and would therefore take each in turn.

89.34 The Mayor then invited Ms. Friend as one of the lead petitioners to present the petition calling on the Council to ban animal circuses in Brighton.

89.35 Ms. Friend thanked the Mayor and stated that the petition had reached over 1,500 signatures and sought the banning of circuses with performing animals, being both wild and domestic. She stated that 219 councils across the country had chosen to take such action and she hoped that as a progressive and innovative city, Brighton & Hove would follow them. She noted that the council had adopted an Animal Welfare Charter in 2002 which needed to be reviewed as it covered horses, dogs and birds but meant that it created an ambiguity in relation to other animals. She therefore called on the council to take a clear stance and ban all animal circuses.

89.36 The Mayor thanked Ms. Friend and called on Councillor Robins to respond to the petition.

89.37 Councillor Robins thanked the petitioner and stated that it was a complex and emotive subject. He was therefore keen to ensure that the legal position was fully understood and accepted that there was a need to review the Animal Welfare Charter. He would therefore request officers to bring a report to the next meeting of the Economic

Development & Culture Committee to review the Charter and enable Members to consider it in conjunction with the petition.

- 89.38 Councillor Peltzer Dunn noted that the petition sought to ban animal performances in Brighton but questioned whether it should be aimed at council owned land as the council would have no jurisdiction over privately owned land. He had previously attended circuses but felt that society had changed over the last 25 years and the welfare and dignity of animals should now be given full consideration and circuses with animals prohibited from council owned land.
- 89.39 Councillor Greenbaum welcomed the petition and stated that it was the right time to ban animals in circuses. Today's circuses had great acrobats and they did not need to use animals as part of their acts, it was therefore time to make that change.
- 89.40 The Mayor noted that Councillor Robins did not wish to respond to the debate and that it was recommended to note and refer the petition to the Economic Development & Culture Committee for consideration and put it to the vote which was **carried** unanimously.
- 89.41 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Economic Development & Culture Committee for consideration at its meeting on the 22nd June 2017.

