

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The following questions have been received from Councillors and will be taken as read along with the written answer which will be included in an addendum that will be circulated prior to the meeting:

(a) Councillor Nemeth

Marlborough House

“What actions have been carried out by Brighton & Hove City Council to enforce a series of planning breaches (recent or otherwise) at Marlborough House on the Old Steine in Brighton?”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(b) Councillor Nemeth

King Alfred

“In his capacity of head of major projects for Brighton & Hove, and given that Crest Nicholson was supposed to sign the King Alfred project contract in 2016, will the Chair make clear how long he is willing to wait before calling an end to the working relationship?”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(c) Councillor Nemeth

Running participation

“What plans does the Chair have to increase participation in running locally?”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(d) Councillor Nemeth

Effects of graffiti on tourism

“What representations has the Chairman made to colleagues (prior to the submission of this question) on the effects on tourism of the huge increases in graffiti around the city centre that we have seen over the past two years?”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(e) Councillor Nemeth

Planning Department

“What is the predicted date for the completion of the transformation of Brighton & Hove City Council’s Planning Department?”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(f) Councillor Nemeth

Sculpture trail

“What progress has been made by Brighton & Hove City Council over the past year in working with Hove Civic Society and other interested parties since the initial meeting with the Chair to establish a sculpture trail for the city?”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(g) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Commercial estate agent boards

A Regulation 7 Direction is currently in place to restrict residential ‘for sale’ and ‘to let’ boards within most of the conservation areas in the city centre. The effect is that no residential sale or letting boards may be displayed on the street frontages of properties without express consent.

Although there is planning policy in place which regulates some of the aspects of advertisements, further to the growth of commercial estate agent boards along some of the busiest roads in a number of the conservation areas, I wonder if the Chair would consider:

- In the first place, discussing a voluntary agreement that could be reached between the council and the estate agents in the city on what can be done to limit the impact of commercial boards in the most sensitive historic areas or for promotion to be carried out in other ways;
- Seeking to trial the idea of a selected area where a more robust approach is taken with regard to commercial estate agent boards;
- Such a trial could be used to begin a broader discussion about potentially extending the current Regulation 7 to include commercial boards as well as residential estate agent boards in conservation areas. Any further commitment on this would obviously require a public consultation process and consent from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government.

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(h) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Seafront radios.

“On several occasions over the summer months I witnessed with considerable concern that lifeguards were appearing to struggle to hear and transmit clear messages on their walkie-talkies on the seafront. I am assuming this had something to do with reception for their devices on the beach. Can I ask the Chair that this is investigated and for assurances that something will be done to improve this?”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

(i) Councillor Mac Cafferty

Cheaper train fares from London Victoria

“With regard to tickets bought in person at the station on the day of travel, many of us will know that there are often good offers on train fares from Brighton to London Victoria but there are currently no such similar offers on journeys from London Victoria to Brighton. We may never know but I wonder how much this has impacted on day visitors who buy a ticket in person at Victoria Station. If we are to keep pushing to maintain our place as one of the nation’s favourite seaside resorts, we need to unlock as many of these blockages to visitors. Can the Chair please indicate if he would be willing to approach the rail companies to ask for their cooperation in promoting cheaper day returns for in person, on the day of travel offers in good time for the start of the tourist season in 2018? Such offers could be done in coordination with Visit Brighton and partners in the tourist attractions and hotel and restaurant trade in the city.”

Reply from Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism Development & Culture Committee.

