

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

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

Deputations received:

(i) Deputation: Beach Hut Licence consultation

Why we are here

This concerns the Council's consultation on modernising its licence with beach hut owners. The Association has responded on behalf of its membership of beach hut owners.

Who we are:

We are a new association; we started around five months ago and now have over 100 members, all Beach Hut Owners. This is already a significant proportion of the 459 beach hut owners in Hove and we expect our numbers to grow.

It hopefully goes without saying that beach huts – seen as Hove's most iconic feature – provide a huge public benefit to the City. They provide amenity space for thousands of hut users and all of the mental health benefits that this brings. They are the gardens that many owners do not have. They are a place for families to play and bond. They are a symbol of our tourist industry that is seen world-wide.

Beach hut owners, their families and friends, are in many ways 'guardians' of our seafront'. Since ownership responsibilities for beach huts transferred from the Council to beach owners decades ago we have played our part in keeping our seafront attractive, safe and clean. We have worked in partnership with the local authority, we have looked after, cared for, repaired - and depending on the weather, replaced - our beach huts. Our members do this willingly and everyone benefits.

What we ask you to do please

No beach hut owner in HBHA sees a need to change the existing licensing arrangement which has worked well since the huts were sold in 1982. As such, whilst we have responded in detail to the Council's consultation, we ultimately propose that no changes are made at this time. Most changes are unnecessary and many are legally challengeable.

The establishment of HBHA provides a new voice for the previously silent beach hut owners; it offers plenty of scope for hut owners to assist the Council in a similar manner to the way in which Brighton & Hove Allotment Federation operates. Our

members want to continue the long and fruitful partnership of local authority and hut owners that protects, promotes and enhances our seafront as a safe and attractive destination for residents and visitors alike. We hope that the licence change proposal is dropped but that positive discussions very much continue.

Signed by:

Cathy Biggs (Lead Spokesperson)

Peter Revell

Gerard Phillips

Peter Reeves

Christopher Bidwell

Marten Matthews