



14th January 2019

Ms Jo Player
Head of Safer Communities
Brighton & Hove City Council
2nd Floor Bartholomew House
Bartholomew Square
Brighton
BN1 1JP

Dear Ms Player

Thank you for inviting Sussex Police to comment as part of the Pride Village Party (PVP) review. We remain committed to supporting a safe and enjoyable Brighton Pride every year but we also need to consider seriously any concerns raised by communities within the city. This includes those expressed by the Kingscliffe Society and Saint James' Street Local Action Team, prompting this particular consultation coming before Committee on the 7th of March 2019.

The current PVP event area is the subject of specific police operational plan overseen by a nominated police commander. The event has grown exponentially year-on-year including levels of crime and anti-social behaviour, resulting in police and others encouraging a more managed and contained, and ticketed event since 2013. Since that time the number of issues police are required to attend has fallen and we will endeavour to provide detailed data in relation to this. We will continue to do all we can to support the organisers in minimising the impact on residents in that area.

We are aware a request has been made to consider Madeira Drive as an alternative location for the PVP. We are unable to support this proposal for the following reasons:

1. As mentioned above, the current event model has supported lower levels of crime and disorder.
2. A big screen event is already taking place on the beach adjacent to Madeira Drive with a different audience profile which may conflict with those attending the PVP.
3. We believe large crowds would continue to gather in the St James' Street area creating a larger event footprint for the police to manage with others.
4. The licensing teams will have a greater challenge in considering TENs applications compared to what is currently considered to be a fair and simple policy within the current area.

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If the event were to be moved to Madeira Drive it is highly unlikely that we would be able to assign additional police resources due to the number of policed events during that weekend this year whilst ensuring the continuity of local policing across Sussex. For that reason the event location would require a capable self-contained private security operation.

I reiterate our commitment to supporting a safe and enjoyable event for all within the current PVP area and I have agreed to an additional Chief Inspector during the Saturday evening to provide the best possible police command oversight of what I expect our police teams to do.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Honnor', written over a horizontal line.

Neil Honnor
Chief Superintendent
Head of Joint Operations