

Subject: Madeira Arches – Petition for Debate:

Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting held on the 28 March 2019

Date of Meeting: 20 June 2019

Report of: Executive Lead Officer for Strategy, Governance & Law

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Wards Affected: All

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

Action Required of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee
To receive the petition referred from the Council for consideration.

Recommendation: That the petition be considered.

Petition:

“We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to restore the 3 arches nearer to Concorde 2”

Lead petitioner: Derek Wright

Additional Information:

The councils choice of arches are untypical – in fact, they are not generally referred to as the same as the open arches - so their costing per arch will be flawed.

They have not consulted nor shown visuals of the 3 arches chosen to the crowd funding community or wider public.

Building works along Madeira Drive are already having a disastrous effect on trading; having more building works at the Western end of Madeira Terraces will make the outdoors seating that the traders rely on noisy, dirty, dusty & visually unattractive.

Restoring 3 arches near Concorde 2 would not disturb the local business as they are on the beach side, apart from Concorde 2, which is not active in the day time

The area around Concorde 2 will better benefit from having 3 arches being restored because they will create an all year round destination, thus encouraging the visitors & residents to travel along from the pier.

It would lead to more use of the of the Volks railway midway station & workshop gallery.

If E.H.L.F funding is agreed & the restoration of 59 arches can go ahead then the arches around Concorde 2 are in more urgent need as they are already supported.

The repair of the Concorde 2 roof, public toilets & the Madeira Lift are urgent & will give more benefits to traders, residents and visitors around this area than anywhere else along Madeira Terraces.

Having the lift working all year round leads to the possibilities of less parking & less pollution as there are bus stops nearby offering a good local & long trip bus service. This would also benefit families & disabled visitors wanting to access the Barefoot Cafe, Jungle Rumble & Sealanes, all of which have disabled & child friendly pursuits.

The traders could offer combined entrance and bus use admission

It makes better business sense to restore the 3 crowd funded Arches at the Concorde 2 end of Madeira Drive, therefore creating a business plan & releasing the £1m from the i360, ear-marked for the Terraces

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL**COUNCIL****4.30pm 28 MARCH 2019****COUNCIL CHAMBER - BRIGHTON TOWN HALL****MINUTES**

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

PART ONE**89 PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE**

- 89.1 The Mayor stated that where a petition secured 1,250 or more signatures it could be debated at the council meeting. She had been made aware of three such petitions, however since the publication of the agenda she had been notified of the withdrawal of one of the petitions, Item 89 (3) Youth 4 Strike Action for Climate Change. She would therefore take the remaining two petitions in turn.
- 89.2 The Mayor then invited Mr. Wright to come forward to present the petition relating to Madeira Arches.
- 89.3 Mr. Wright thanked the Mayor and stated that 2,908 online signatures had been obtained., along with 210 on paper in only two months, which he believed showed the strength of feeling for this issue. He stated that whilst there had been consultation it appeared that the council was seeking to renovate one of the arches at Madeira Drive that was not typical of those along the Drive. The tenants and business at Madeira Drive all believed that it would be better to restore one of the other arches east of Royal Crescent as it would not affect the others. The tenants had also spoken with the owners of Concorde 2 who were interested in having an arch restored closer to the venue. He therefore asked for further consideration of the options and discussions with tenants before a final decision was taken.
- 89.4 Councillor Robins thanked Mr. Wright for presenting the petition and acknowledged the views that had been made in relation to the renovation of the arches. He noted that there had been a successful lottery bid for the western end and that crowd funding had been sought to support the improvements for the eastern end. He also noted that any restoration to the arches would require enabling work and from a structural perspective it

was felt that this should start at one end. He was happy to ask officers to continue discussions with the tenants the lead petitioners and hoped that they could work together to find an agreed way forward.

- 89.5 Councillor A. Norman thanked Mr. Wright and stated that she believed the issues raised concerned many of those in the chamber and hoped that the necessary repairs could be started and the arches restored to their former status. She felt that if the restoration started at the western end then it was more likely to encourage footfall along the arches as more people would see the improvements being made.
- 89.6 Councillor Druitt stated that the campaign to restore the arches was close to his heart and he fully supported the petition. He had previously raised the issue at the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee and was disappointed to see the proposed three arches that would be restored initially. They were not typical examples of the arches and he hoped this could be reconsidered. He noted that the local traders supported the renovation of the arches and felt their views should be taken into consideration. The crowd funding project had been successful but had been based on the restoration programme that was different to what was being proposed.
- 89.7 Councillor Robins noted the comments and stated that he was keen for the council and traders to work together to find the best way forward for the restoration programme. If the arches near to the Concorde 2 were more typical examples then they could be considered, and he therefore hoped that further information could be brought to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee in June.
- 89.8 The Mayor thanked Mr. Wright for attending the meeting and presenting the petition and put the recommendation listed in the covering report to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 89.9 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee meeting on the 20th June 2019.