

**Subject:** Valley Gardens Phase 3 – Petition for Debate:  
Extract from the proceedings of the Council Meeting  
held on the 28 March 2019

**Date of Meeting:** 25 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 Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee***  
To receive the petition referred from the Council for consideration.

**Recommendation:** That the petition be considered.

**Petition:**

“We the undersigned petition Brighton and Hove City Council to pause design work on the Old Steine road plans (VGP3) and enter into full open consultation with all interested parties to seek a solution that is beneficial to all.”

Lead petitioner: James Noble

**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**

**(2) VALLEY GARDENS PHASE 3**

- 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.
- 89.10 The Mayor then invited Mr. Noble to come forward to present the petition relating to Valley Gardens Phase 3.
- 89.11 Mr. Noble thanked the Mayor and stated that 1,426 people had signed the petition and noted that residents and local businesses wanted to have a say in how Valley Gardens was developed. The area was likely to change for ever and everyone wanted to see investment in the Old Steine area, but it was felt that the current plan failed to deliver. He stated that the consultation to date had been inefficient and had not involved those directly affected. There was a clear need for more open dialogue and to enable all interested parties to engage in the development of a design plan for Valley Gardens Phase 3. He believed that there was no reason not to engage with everyone and for the plans to be delayed until a full consultation had been undertaken.
- 89.12 Councillor Mitchell thanked Mr. Noble for presenting the petition and noted that a full and open consultation had been held the previous Spring. There had been no preconceived view on the plan for Valley Gardens and options were taken forward with over 800 responses and a preferred design developed. There was further consultation on the preferred design and this was then reported to committee and refined before being submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The design was then

approved to go forward to the next stage and she did not see the need to pause the work or put the £6m government funding at risk. The council would continue to involve stake-holder groups and have discussions with event organisers. The plan put people first and balanced transport, public and economic benefits.

- 89.13 Councillor Wares welcomed the petition and noted that there were a number of groups and people who had an interest in the project and the majority had taken action to get their views heard. However, the council was not listening to stake-holders which was clear from the petition and at the last committee meeting. If the project went ahead based on the current design, it was likely to harm the economic prosperity of the area.
- 89.14 Councillor Littman thanked the petitioner for attending the meeting and noted that the proposals were not universally welcomed, but he believed positive amendments had been achieved and the work should not be delayed.
- 89.15 Councillor Mitchell stated that the revised preferred design had been democratically agreed at the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee and there was a clear commitment to continue with consultations going forward to the design stage. She wished to thank everyone who had contributed to the project to date and hoped that it would be taken forward.
- 89.16 The Mayor thanked Mr. Noble for attending the meeting and presenting the petition and put the recommendation listed in the covering report to the vote which was carried unanimously.
- 89.17 **RESOLVED:** That the petition be noted and referred to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

