

**DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC**

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the committee for the hearing of deputations from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which the Chair, may speak in response and open the matter for debate.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(1) Deputation concerning Valley Gardens  
Spokesperson Adrian Hart**

Supported by:

Jan Norrisl

Alicia Mackie

Julia Basnett

Amelia Le Bon

Sarah Gillson

**Ward affected: All**



**(1) Deputation concerning Valley Gardens**

I speak on behalf of a number of members of Amex Area Neighbourhood Forum. Several of us are now a part of the Valley Gardens Forum (VGF) campaign to have the council pause and reflect on a raft of serious criticisms of plans for Phase 3 of the council's Valley Gardens project (VG3).

I'd like this committee to respond to the following three resident concerns:

First is our surprise that relevant officers have (as of July 17th) continued to flagrantly ignore the VGF's formal information requests dating back to December even though officers (and council lawyer) confirmed on July 2nd (at mediation) this information will now be supplied forthwith. It is extraordinary that "mediation" would be regarded in such a lax and disrespectful manner. We trust that this committee will ensure these 12 questions are dealt with immediately.

Second, myself and residents in our group have approached local ward councillors with serious concerns on VG3. My own, most recent approach was an emailed letter to all three dated 15th July. Although Cllr Evans and Cllr Rainy have diligently attended gatherings/resident one-to-ones and listened attentively to concerns on VG3 they seem obligated to their party-line rather than to their constituents. Many of my group members voted for these Labour and Green party councillors and are dismayed that so many approaches and so much evidence of disquiet (we all contributed to the 1,340 petition for example) would not merit some fierce advocacy on their part. Shocking too that it would fall solely to a few Conservative councillors elsewhere in the city to actually act on Kemptown and East Brighton resident concerns and ask the hard questions.

We'd ask that you note: the demand to simply pause the VG3 process and listen to concerns is an extraordinarily mild and reasonable one. This is especially so given that resident concerns focus on air quality and the need for a full environmental impact assessment. That Labour and Green Party councillors (including those on ETSC) would act like rabbits in the headlights and turn their backs on resident concerns/requests for data is truly baffling – it is as if they'd handed this entire matter over to senior officers upon whom there seems no requirement other than to issue vague assurances. At the last ETS committee a senior officer assured that he "wouldn't want the committee to think that we would be hiding anything..." and yet it was clear that members attending this and past meetings have not been supplied the true facts they needed in order to make proper decisions on VG3.

The question of 'assurances' is the last of the three concerns requiring, we feel, a response from this committee. Through The Argus (11th July) Cllr Platts communicates a conciliatory message when she says she wants all concerns on the table with a view to making adjustments to phase 3, her statement 'People are concerned about pollution but I'm assured that the pollution will disperse in this area' is troubling. This not only runs counter to the science on dominant wind direction and longshore drift but also – if its only assurances rather than information, data and hard facts that we are to be given this runs counter to the statutory instrument Environmental Information Regulation (2004).

**Spokesperson**

Adrian Hart

