

**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 following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the spokesperson for the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of four Deputations has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**(1) Deputation concerning Mental Health Pledge****Spokesperson Talia Fogelman**

Supported by:  
Frida Gustafsson  
John Lewry  
Olivia Canham  
Caroline Davis  
Martin Poole

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Moonan, Chair of the Health & Wellbeing Board will reply.

**(2) Deputation concerning the need for affordable housing is NO EXCUSE to devastate wildlife on the 'urban fringe.'****Spokesperson Becky Hobbs**

Supported by:  
Denise Friend,  
Philip Baker,  
Maria Krassowska,  
Rachel Murphy  
Will Baker

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Robins, Chair of the Tourism, Development & Culture Committee will reply.

**(3) Deputation concerning the provision of a Night Shelter**

**Spokesperson Jim Deans**

Supported by:

Abi Kolliari

Kevin Woodhams

Archbishop Jerome Lloyd

Richard High

Alex Cadogan

Dale Hanbury

Tom Duddek

John Beard

Ann Hallam

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Brennan, Deputy Chair of the Housing & New Homes Committee will reply.

**(4) Deputation concerning Youth Strike Action**

**Spokesperson Uma Krieger**

Supported by:

Roseanne Steffen,

Annapurna Marley,

Mary-Jane Farrell,

Aisling Murray,

Joe Evershed

**Ward affected: All**

Councillor Platts, Leader of the Council will reply.

**(1) Deputation concerning Mental Health Pledge**

Our deputation is a request to Council to commit to collaborating with us to create a pledge to young people in Brighton and Hove, that will outline the experience they can expect when engaging with Mental Health Services in our city.

We are asking for this issue to be referred to the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board, which would allow us to start a working relationship with the relevant health organisations that would allow us to create this pledge.

*What should the Pledge look like?*

The pledge will be a document of accountability of Mental Health Services in our city. It will aim to ensure a consistent and person-centered approach is offered to young people at every point of access and set a minimum standard to be adhered to when engaging with young people around mental health.

The pledge will be Young Person Centred and designed by listening to the voices of young people of Brighton and Hove, and written in conjunction with the CCG, Primary Care Trust, local mental health charities and other relevant health authorities.

*How will the Pledge be created?*

The pledge will be created in partnership with service providers and lead by the young people of our city. This will involve focus group sessions with schools, youth groups, after school clubs and the universities. In working in conjunction with health organisations and the young people of our city we can ensure that the pledge is practical, informed by real lived experiences and can be implemented by relevant health services.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Spokesperson**

Talia Fogelman, Student at Sussex University

## Supporting Information



10% of children and young people in the UK have a clinically diagnosable mental health problem, yet 70% of children and adolescents who experience mental health problems have not had appropriate interventions at a sufficiently early age. Imagine if you had a health problem and it took years to get the help you needed. You would think it was unacceptable, and that something had to change. And you'd be right.

Brighton and Hove Citizens is an independent membership alliance of civil society institutions acting together for the common good of our city. Our membership organisations reach over 25,000 of Brighton and Hove's citizens - pupils, teachers, parents, students and workers of all faiths and none.

In the spring of 2019 our membership organisations held listening campaigns across our city to understand what key issues affect people living in Brighton and Hove. Speaking to the young people of our city the message was loud and clear: we need better, consistent and early access to support for mental health needs.

In April 2019 we held an Assembly with over 200 members of our community and the three leaders of the Labour, Conservative and Green groups in Brighton and Hove Council. At this assembly a young person and a parent spoke about their personal experience manoeuvring the mental health services in Brighton and Hove, and their fight to access the support they needed.

The leaders of Labour, Conservative and Green groups at the assembly all agreed to work with us to tackle this and improve the support for young people in our city. We now ask Council to begin working with us to tackle this issue and create a mental health pledge that sets out what young people can expect when in need of support.

This work will be comprehensive and inclusive and involve relevant mental health services and charities across our city. Crucially, the work will be led by young people from across Brighton and Hove. As an alliance we build and support people in our city to change issues that matter. In creating this pledge, we will support the young people of our city to lead the change and improvement of mental health services.

<https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/statistics/mental-health-statistics-children-and-young-people>

**(2) Deputation concerning the need for affordable housing is NO EXCUSE to devastate wildlife on the 'urban fringe.'****Spokesperson – Becky Hobbs**

The balance between nature and humans envisioned in city plan part 1 is not being adhered to in the list of housing allocations in city plan part 2 as it currently stands. Yes, the Conservative government says we must build but we can choose where is sensible for Brighton. There is no need to build on wildlife in order to make affordable homes, we can make affordable homes elsewhere on already concreted areas and converting empty buildings and brownfield sites, etc, and that is why it is completely unacceptable to build on the green 'urban fringe.' Moreover 'mitigation measures' very often do not work in practice, so do not think they make new buildings less damaging to wildlife! The decision by planning committee members on 10th July to approve seven storey blocks of 242 flats obliterating Coldean Wildlife, was not about whether or not to build affordable homes, but whether or not to needlessly devastate essential wildlife habitat and local green space and make money for Hyde. There are alternative, already concreted sites within the city's boundaries where the Joint Venture Partnership could build instead, such as at Brighton General Hospital, where they could build 800 flats!

Please take steps to ensure Coldean wildlife to the east of Coldean Lane is not built on and /or revoke the planning decision to devastate precious wildlife and local green space at Coldean. Moreover please see petition text in the supplementary pages of this deputation, signed by over 965 people (even though it was only started a short time ago) which asks the council to remove this Coldean site from the list of allocated sites in the Urban Fringe allocations in the City Plan Part 2, and instead designate it a Local Nature Reserve and Local Green Space (the land fulfils the criteria for the latter, as described in the National Planning Policy Framework 2019, page 29) as soon as possible, so it remains protected wildlife habitat, now and for future generations. The wonderful land at Coldean should never have been put on a list of allocated housing. This is part of a number of wildlife habitats and green spaces which have needlessly and wrongly ended up on the list of housing allocation sites on city plan part 2. City plan part 2 is now in the soundness stage where it can be changed with evidence. There is abundant evidence why wildlife habitat and green spaces should be removed from the list of housing allocations in city plan part 2 and instead the council can look again, more creatively and wilfully, at making affordable housing within the city's boundaries on already concreted areas, empty/derelict buildings and brownfield sites. We will be providing evidence. Please, Save Coldean Wildlife, and also save **all** the other wildlife and green spaces on the 'urban fringe' by removing them from the list of allocated housing, and instead think more creatively how to add to the list already concreted sites and empty buildings within the city's boundaries. Please see (in the supplementary pages of this deputation) the list so far (still in early stages, will be added to) of potential alternative sites where the council could build affordable housing *without* building on wildlife habitat and local green spaces. There are lots, which could easily cover more than enough of the affordable homes the council has been told it must build. Let's take off the green spaces and wildlife from City Plan Part 2 and instead make the needed affordable housing by focusing more, and more creatively, on the many potentially suitable sites within the city's boundaries. then the council can ask the government to re-approve it, so we would still have an approved city plan and could therefore, hold any developers to account for any proposed developments, and retain control.

We do NOT have to choose between wildlife and affordable housing! We must take care of both! The council thankfully listened to the local community who opposed the plan to build housing on Whitehawk Hill Nature Reserve; do the right thing for Coldean Wildlife too!

## Supporting Information:

List of alternative potential sites to make affordable homes without devastating wildlife on the 'urban fringe':

-at Brighton General Hospital, space for 800 flats.

- 4000 empty homes in Brighton (<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/16373633.more-than-4000-brighton-homes-are-empty-despite-housing-crisis/>)

-the old Argus building by Asda in hollingbury; the old gas works in Kemptown (although this may take time as the land may be contaminated) and next to that a site which the council are using as a dumping ground for old iron bits from Madeira drive and the sea front); -site to the west of Portland Street (near North Street, in Brighton centre); a site next to Preston Park, London road, on the left as you go out of Brighton, which has been empty for years, and Hyde housing years ago seemed to be going to do something with it but nothing has happened.

-Lots of empty homes on top of shops around Brighton;

-building up, i.e. many more houses on the same amount of land, so long as this will not put birds at risk of crashing into the buildings.

-there are areas of expansive and privileged housing in several areas of Brighton and Hove which are really spread, out with a lot of space, low number of inhabitants compared to the number of bedrooms, and lots of private garden space and lots of shared communal spaces between houses. The council could buy some of the private property in this area from those that are willing, intensify use of the space, and turn it into very many more council houses (there are precedents for this, e.g. <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/burchills-move-stirs-up-the-neighbours-217180970.html>),

### Petition text

Petition to council: Please protect wildlife at Coldean!

We object to the approval of the planning application for buildings which would devastate wildlife at Coldean, and we wish to safeguard this essential wildlife habitat and local green space at Coldean, now and for future generations.

We the undersigned petition Brighton and Hove City Council to remove the Coldean site from the list of allocated sites in the Urban Fringe allocations in the City Plan Part 2, and instead designate it a Local Nature Reserve and Local Green Space (as described in the National Planning Policy Framework) as soon as possible, so it remains protected wildlife habitat, now and for future generations.

There are alternative large empty buildings around Brighton (e.g. at Brighton General Hospital) which the council could turn into affordable homes (800 in the case of Brighton General Hospital) therefore it's clear that to make affordable homes it is completely unnecessary to build on the green space and wildlife. The land was notified as a Local Wildlife Site in 2017 in recognition of its woodland and grassland habitats. The proposal would mean destroying woodland and felling trees to build a new entrance road which would split the strip of woodland that runs parallel to Coldean Lane in two, with devastating effects on the wildlife. It would also mean building on the field, obliterating lots of wildlife, their homes and foraging ground. The woodland and field include many plant species and are essential habitat for wildlife sandwiched between Varley Halls and very busy, fast roads, many of whom are legally and policy protected species, such as bats, hedgehogs, lizards, slow worms, badgers, foxes, rabbits, butterflies, lots of invertebrates who massively contribute to the environment, and many different birds, including owls, and others. Some of the birds breed and make nests in the trees and on the ground, and 3 (song thrush, tawny owl and dunnock) are listed as having severe red and amber conservation status. The woodland is Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland and provides critical habitat for wildlife. Splitting the woodland in two would cut vital connectivity and put the wildlife at very high, frequent risk of road traffic accidents.

Localised areas of the field (about 1 hectare of it) have an affinity with Calcareous Grassland, and there is 'good potential to create new areas of native species rich calcareous grassland where chalk substrates can be exposed and seeded' (Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, PJC, 2018). Lowland Calcareous Grassland is a Habitat of Principal Importance and classified as Priority Sussex Habitat. Within Sussex, this type of habitat is mostly found within the South Downs; it has reduced rapidly in recent years and is now only an estimated 3% of the South Downs. The Sussex Biodiversity Partnership aims to maintain and expand the range of Lowland Calcareous Grassland in Sussex. Moreover 'there is an area of lowland calcareous grassland immediately north of the site' and 'any development of this site would also likely result in adverse impacts on any areas of lowland calcareous grassland habitat adjacent to the site, e.g. through increased surface run-off and increased disturbance/trampling/littering from potential increases in recreational use of the area' (PJC, 2018). So, the proposed development would destroy not only Priority Habitat Deciduous Woodland but also be likely to negatively impact the Lowland Calcareous Grassland (i.e. Habitat of Principal Importance and a Sussex Priority Habitat) on next door land.

Increased vehicle movement and parking on local roads would be expected, and traffic on Coldean Lane would get substantially more clogged up, polluting the air even more and putting human residents, especially school children, at risk. It is well documented that green space is vital for people's physical and mental health. The visual impact of the proposed buildings would be unpleasant as they would replace a green view of nature with high blocks of flats and concrete.

Today, wildlife in this very densely urbanised area of the U.K. are increasingly endangered by destruction of their habitats. Globally, land mammal mass is made up of 96% humans and the farmed animals (Attenborough, 2019), and insects and ecosystems who we rely on are massively threatened by climate change, so we must stand up for wildlife now or there will be none left. If we do not, soon it may be many human lives in the UK imperilled due to climate change and because we have not protected wildlife there will no longer be an ecosystem left that can support us. At present, the land provides precious sanctuary for wildlife - this is a space to cherish, protect and stand by.





**(3) Deputation concerning the provision of a Night Shelter  
Spokesperson Jim Deans**

On 26 January 2017 Councillor Tom Druit put a motion to full council, all councillors voted 100% to give the community an empty council building to run as a night shelter this was in response to John Hadman's petition and huge support from public. a number of buildings were found empty in the two years but on every occasion some excuse was given to fob off the public. Another recently was suggested, and we were told it's not suitable. No building arrives suitable for a night shelter it is made suitable then inspected and any changes made to comply with health and safety. This has to happen, and councillors need to support this deputation fully this time and see this through. The total sum spent by council using the Brighton Centre which is Council Owned is in excess of £250,000 this could have been avoided had council engaged with public. I now ask for a vote of confidence and support taking this forward.

Charities, organisations and individuals joined together creating Brighton & Hove Housing Coalition with clear plans to help solve the homeless crisis they have produced a Homeless Bill of Rights as you will hear today Charities like the one I represent Sussex Homeless Support and others have stepped up to deliver a lifesaving service at a time with many dying in the streets and even more in Emergency accommodation. Whatever it takes to turn the tide on this homeless crisis we are prepared to do but we need the support of our councillors, many believe they voted you into a position to lead us, some believe to represent us, but I and even many more want you to fight for us, we will support you regardless of political party and hopefully together work towards a solution. I therefore ask again to support the original motion and allow Homeless Charities access to empty buildings.



**(4) Deputation concerning Youth Strike Action  
Spokesperson Uma Krieger – Youth Strike Climate Change**

Youth Strike would like to do this to raise awareness of the strikes and ask for the council to support the demands of the youth strikers and students.

These are our demands...

DEMAND 1 - SAVE THE FUTURE- The Government declare a climate emergency and implement a Green New Deal to achieve Climate Justice.

DEMAND 2 - TEACH THE FUTURE- The national curriculum is reformed to address the ecological crisis as an educational priority

DEMAND 3 - TELL THE FUTURE- The Government communicate the severity of the ecological crisis and the necessity to act now to the general public.

DEMAND 4 - EMPOWER THE FUTURE- The Government recognise that young people have the biggest stake in our future, by incorporating youth views into policy making and bringing the voting age down to 16.

