

Geoff Raw – Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council

15th September 2019

Dear Geoff

I am submitting this letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Tourism, Equalities, Community and Culture Committee meeting of 26th September 2019.

I fully support the deputation request submitted by residents of Court Close and am sure there are many others in the City who would like greater controls introduced. The issue is not about the ad-hoc renting of homes per se. It is about the wholesale conversion of a family home to a full-time guesthouse that can accommodate large groups of individuals. In this case a four-bedroom home being used to sleep 18 guests.

In addition, we need a far greater joined-up approach by the council and other authorities to deal with these hugely disruptive changes of use. This is the second time I have experienced a situation whereby an issue at one property has had an enormous impact on everybody else in the vicinity. Last time we were told that in future, these sorts of community impact problems would be dealt with by field officers who would act as the single point of contact. It was also advised that Community Protection Notices could be used.

Regretfully we seem to have not learnt the lesson. Residents and I are having to work out who to speak to, do the chasing up and making sure everybody is talking with each other.

I would be grateful therefore if this Committee would investigate and act on the request in the deputation. Please could the council also provide residents with a single point of contact on the specific matter of Court Close who will, inter alia, check progress on enforcement and regularisation by the council and others and regularly communicate to residents.

Yours sincerely

Cllrs. Lee Wares

