Brighton & Hove City Council

Council Agenda Item 56

Subject: **Petitions**

Date of meeting: **26 November 2026**

Report of: **Director of Governance & Law**

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Ward(s) affected: **All**

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 To receive any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That Council notes the petition(s).

3. Context and background information

3.1 To receive the following petition signed by 32 people:

Manage Dangerous Grass Seeds While Supporting Nature Recovery

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to take urgent action to reduce the spread of hazardous grass seed species, particularly wall barley (Hordeum murinum), in public parks, verges and green spaces.

Whilst we support rewilding and increasing biodiversity. We recognise the importance of allowing native wildflowers and grasses to flourish for insects, birds and other wildlife. However, this should not come at the expense of the safety and welfare of pets, wildlife and people.

Every year there is a noticeable increase in the amount of wall barley growing across Brighton & Hove and this year it is at very dangerous levels. Once the grass dries, its barbed seeds can become embedded in the paws, ears, eyes and noses of dogs and other animals, often requiring urgent veterinary treatment. Local veterinary practices are reporting large numbers of cases during the grass seed season.

We are asking the Council to:

- Identify areas where wall barley and other hazardous grass species are growing in high-use public spaces.
- Remove or cut these grasses before they produce dangerous seed heads.

Ensuring seeds are taken away.

- Encourage the growth of native wildflowers and less hazardous grasses in their place, supporting biodiversity while reducing unnecessary risk.
- Maintain safe walking routes through parks and along pavements and verges.
- Provide seasonal warning signs where hazardous grass cannot immediately be removed.

This petition is not opposed to rewilding. We support thoughtful, evidence-based management that protects biodiversity while ensuring public spaces remain safe for pets, wildlife and residents.

We respectfully ask Brighton & Hove City Council to review its grass management policy and work with ecologists, veterinary professionals and local residents to develop a safer approach.

3.2 To receive the following petition signed by 6 people:

To add ground anchor to all solo motorbikes parking spots to help prevent theft

We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to add ground anchors to the solo motorbike parking spots giving biker something to actually lock there bike to will help prevent most theft of motorbikes by stopping the thefts from snapping the steering lock and wheeling the bike off or lifting it in to a van a driving off with as many bikes as there are around Brighton and the amount getting stolen only increasing the council need to do more to help prevent this