Brighton & Hove City Council

# Council Agenda Item 58

**Subject:** **Deputations from members of the public.**

**Date of meeting:** **26 November 2026**

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 that five deputations have been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

**1**. **Save Our Cottages**

Supported by:

Dee Simson(lead spokesperson)
Michael Hagland
Helen Jones
Caroline Reilly
Elaine Tolhurst
Authur Johnson
Nicola Johnson
Sandra Streeter
Stephen Roke

Summary of Deputation:

The deputation will address residents' concerns about the Council's proposals to demolish Ash and Oak Cottages in Warren Road, Woodingdean, as part of a proposed development of approximately 42 flats.

It will demonstrate the strength of feeling within the local community, with attached photographs providing visual evidence of the widespread concern and opposition to the proposed demolition.

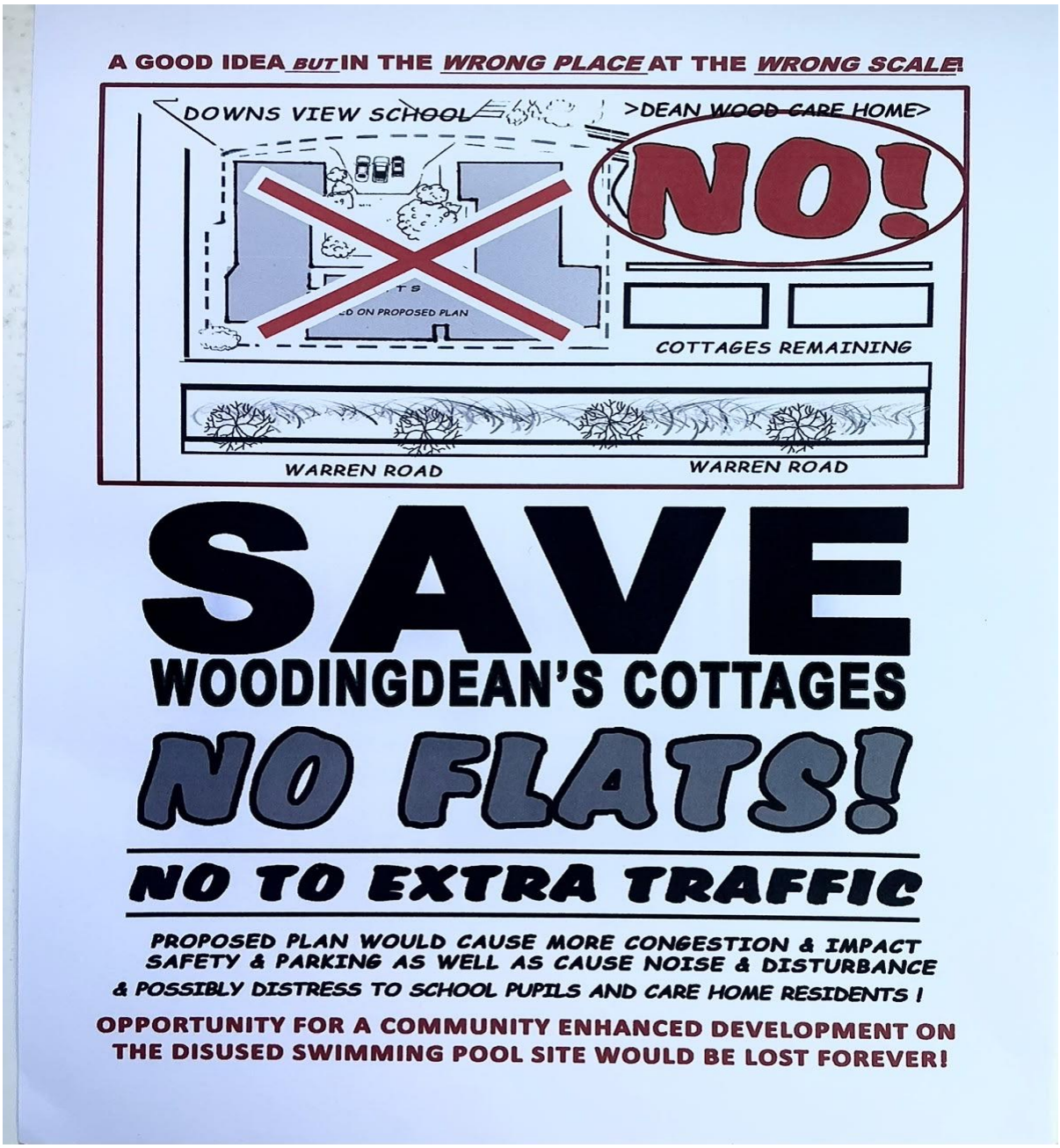
It will highlight the historical and heritage importance of the cottages and the loss of valued community facilities currently operating from the buildings.

It will also raise concerns about the wider impact of the proposed development on local infrastructure, schools, road safety, protected trees and the character of the village.

The deputation will call on the Council to withdraw the proposals to demolish the cottages, properly recognise their heritage value, protect established community facilities and ensure meaningful consultation with residents.

The campaign is not opposed to council housing, but believes that the provision of affordable homes should not come at the expense of Woodingdean's heritage and existing community.

Supporting Information



**2**. **Improving the quality of streetworks and public realm across Brighton & Hove**

Supported by:
Richard James (lead spokesperson)
Simon Jardin
Robert Brown
Ben Thomas
Kim Leyland-Walker
Charles McCadden
Duncan Hill,
Paul Chandler

Summary of Deputation:

Improving the quality of streetworks and public realm across Brighton & Hove Deputation to Brighton & Hove City Council, Full Council Richard James Brighton & Hove has a widespread and persistent problem with the quality of its streetwork. Standards of workmanship, material selection, consistency and attention to detail are frequently poor, cumulatively degrading the appearance and character of our streets. The following examples illustrate a much broader problem and are not exhaustive.

Three important considerations make this a matter of concern

• Public money: The council spends millions of pounds of taxpayers' money on highways and public realm. Residents are entitled to expect this expenditure to deliver work undertaken with due care and skill, using appropriate materials and high standards of workmanship. Too often, these expectations are not met.

• The city's ambitions: The council has committed to improving the look and feel of the city. This must extend beyond major public realm schemes to everyday street maintenance, repairs and alterations, with consistent, well-considered choices of materials, colours, finishes and detailing across the city.

• Statutory responsibilities: Section 72 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 places a statutory duty on the council, when exercising relevant planning functions, to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of conservation areas.

Examples of poor practice

• Kerbs: Established wide kerbstones are being replaced with narrow concrete strips, sometimes over short stretches, creating a disjointed appearance. This has occurred on Marine Parade and across several recent junction

improvements. Kerbs should have appropriate widths and profiles for their location.

• Road markings: Messy application, overlapping elements and inconsistent shades of yellow paint and thickness of yellow lines are commonplace, some reinstated markings do not meet current technical standards. One pale shade of yellow, such as deep cream, and consistent thin 50mm single and double yellow lines, already used in some locations, would improve the appearance of streets. On Dyke Road Avenue, markings were poorly reinstated following resurfacing; cycle lanes are too narrow to meet current technical standards, and blacked-out errors remain visible, particularly in wet and dark conditions.

• Historic materials: Heritage cobble setts have been removed from Marine Parade, with some lost and others differently reinstated. On New Steine, purple concrete paving has replaced traditional red clay, compromising the street's historic integrity.

• Street furniture and metalwork: Traffic signal poles, signposts and sign backs have inconsistent finishes, ranging from black and grey to unpainted. Black should be the default, with considered local exceptions, such as teal on the seafront. Their placement should also minimise clutter.

Questions to the council

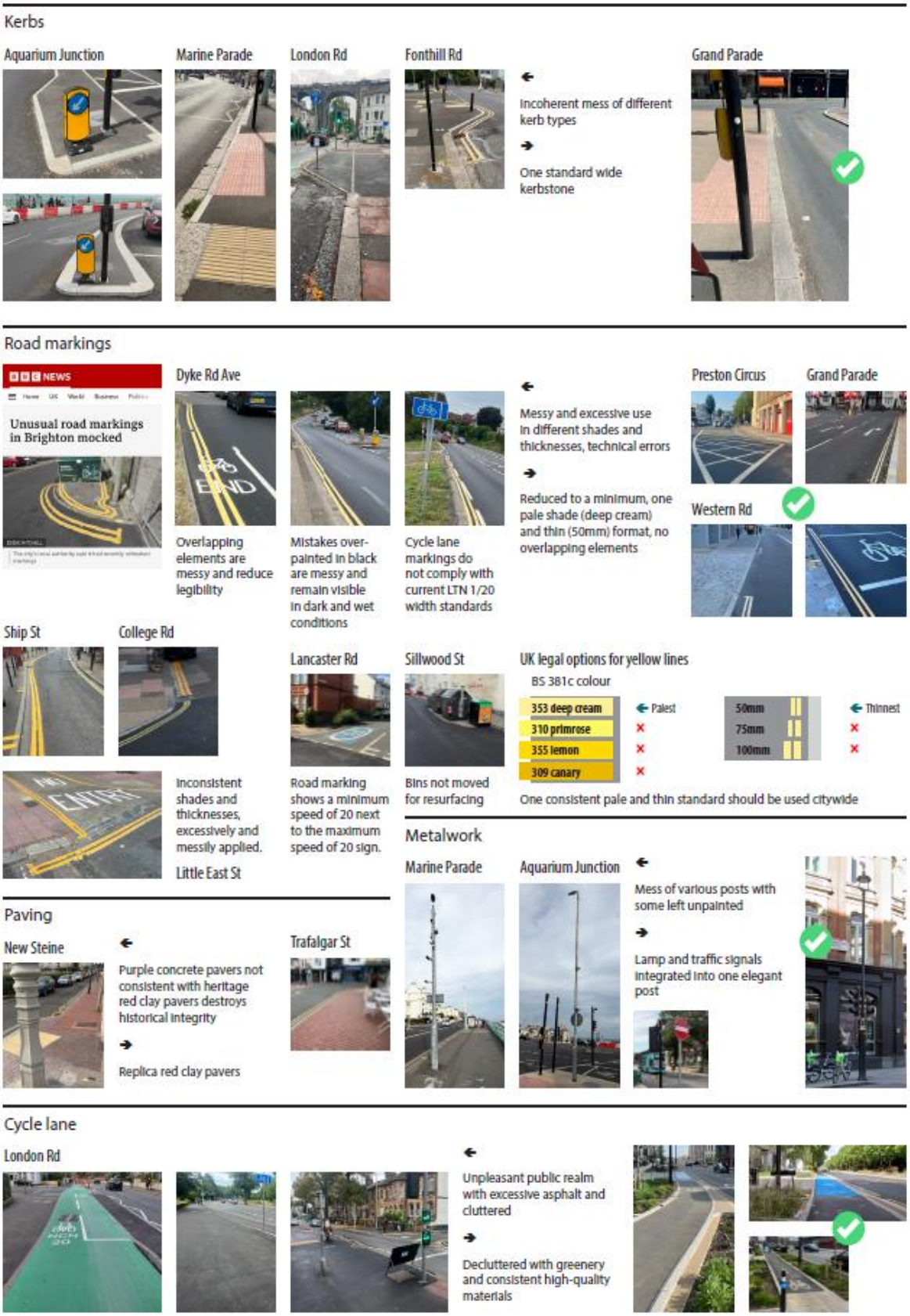
• What is the council doing to address the widespread poor quality and inconsistency of streetwork across Brighton & Hove?

• How is it ensuring highways and public realm works are undertaken with due care and skill, supported by effective quality control? • How is its commitment to improving the city's look and feel being translated into higher standards of everyday streetwork?

• How is it ensuring work in conservation areas meets its statutory responsibilities to preserve or enhance their character and appearance? Who will bear the cost of remedying failures on Marine Parade and elsewhere?

• What tangible improvements can residents expect, and how will the council ensure consistent delivery across the city?

Supporting Information



**3**. **Redressing an urgent climate mistake**

Supported by:
Lynne Angel-Kerr (lead spokesperson)
J.Angel
G Angel
Alastair Kerr
Natalia Angel
George Kerr

Summary of Deputation:

I want to ask all council members for their support in redressing an urgent climate mistake, In 2018 the council declared a climate emergency but did not notice that we should have defended our green spaces such as front gardens which; clean the air, prevent flooding, slow down flash flooding, provide food, shelter and water for scores of small mammals and birds, they are habitat for millions of insects and pollinators and are really helpful for mental wellbeing. in the last two decades the UK has lost 7million front gardens to paving, approximately 400 million square meters the size of Barbados! We have overlooked the protection of front gardens and need to reverse this oversight immediately!!

I have created a CIC Brighton Climate Force to enable the community and council to initiate some useful and inspiring actions, all carrot and no sticks! such as planting saplings on bare verges with a pet plaque scheme to cover costs. Run garden competitions with various categories. Allow as many homeowners with front gardens as possible to apply for a protected front garden space outside their house in recognition that they are helping the community's climate, they will pay for the signage and will still have to pay for a permit in restricted areas. Residents can apply and pay for a green plaque which will have B&H council approved wording in recognition of their efforts to protect the climate. I want to have a volunteer scheme inviting young NEETs to help with digital imaging to show residents a greener possibility and other re-greening tasks. In January, I plan to meet up with garden groups and elders and anyone who would be able to offer their help to organise this but it wont work without the council's blessing. Brighton will be the first city to recognise and redress but they won't be the last. We can be the first to show compassion to the wildlife counting on our kindness.

**4**. **The Holden Court Whine**

Supported by:
Dominic Furlong (lead spokesperson)
Michael Doyle
Antoni Emchowicz
Dominic Furlong
Lucy Gale
Sam Gale
Kathy Gemmell
Annie McCabe
Jane Power
Ted Power
Steve Rimington
Robert AJ Stephenson
Mike Unwin

Summary of Deputation:

In January 2025, residents of D'Aubigny Road began hearing a distinct, disturbing whine from the rooftop air-source heat pumps at Holden Court, the student accommodation block on Hollingdean Road. For around 22 months, they heard it day and night, affecting their enjoyment of gardens and rooms facing Holden Court. Residents recorded sound levels up to 4 dBA above background noise in one garden around 80 metres from the heat pumps. When the rooftop plant was switched off in November 2026, the quiet came as a real relief.

We first contacted Planning Enforcement in February 2025. After repeated follow-ups, officers told us on 5 October 2026 that the rooftop plant did not appear to be covered by planning permission BH2019/03700. On 9 November, they confirmed that they had identified no later permission specifically authorising it and had asked the owners to submit a retrospective application.

In response to our question about condition 4, officers said the evidence supplied on behalf of the owners indicated compliance with daytime noise limits. On 9 November, Planning Enforcement confirmed that Environmental Health was still seeking evidence on representative night-time operation. Prestige Student Living says it has carried out work to reduce the noise. Residents are still waiting to hear what was done and how its effectiveness was checked.

Residents are also concerned that the rooftop plant could raise the background noise level used to assess future developments nearby. How will the council account for noise from Holden Court when establishing that baseline?

We ask the council to address three points.

1. **Explain how the case was handled and set out the planning timetable.** Has a retrospective planning application now been submitted? If so, when does the council expect to decide it? If it is still outstanding, what deadline has the council set, and what enforcement action will it consider if that deadline is missed? What steps did officers take to investigate the noise and establish the planning status of the rooftop plant before requesting an application, and what contributed to the time this took? Please review any application as a priority and explain how the owners propose to address the whine.

2. **Assess the whine while the rooftop plant is running.** Have the owners supplied the night-time noise evidence the council requested? If so, what has the council concluded? How and when will officers assess the whine at affected homes and gardens during representative daytime and night-time operation?

3. **Explain what has been done and what happens next.** What interim steps can the council take to reduce the whine while the planning case is open? Please tell residents what noise reduction work has been carried out and how its effectiveness was checked. How will the council verify that any further measures work and ensure they are maintained? When can residents expect an update?

**5**. **Brighton Says Yes**

Supported by:
Jacob Berkson (lead spokesperson)
Giampaolo Boldrini
Zahra Mohammed
Sabrina Nguyen
Esme Young

Summary of Deputation:

Brighton Says Yes is a campaign supported by over 30 community groups including trade unions, Black and anti-racist groups, and organisations supporting refugees and migrants. We came together because the Home Office was shutting the hotel housing single women and families seeking asylum, and "dispersing" people to unknown locations across the UK.
This hotel accommodation was far from decent. But residents want to stay in Brighton & Hove. This is where they have support networks, where they volunteer, where they have made friends, and even had children. Some have been here as long as four years.

And this is where they feel safe. In the last few months, in towns across the UK, racist gangs have attacked buildings housing refugees. But not here in Brighton. Here we come together to protect our neighbours.
The hotel is expected to close on 16 November. But our campaign has successfully found housing for all the former residents who decided to stay in Brighton. Both from hosts offering spare rooms, and through raising over £30,000 from over 230 donors to pay re. This is what our community looks like.

The problem is: the Home Office drags out asylum applications often for years. So even with that community support, we can't guarantee more than temporary hosting. This is why we wrote the Brighton Community Plan. It's a simple idea. We, the community networks, can find the hosts. We just need the Council to formally oversee the scheme, as with Homes for Ukraine. And the Home Office to release the long-term funding.

Our plan would save money. The government spends £5,170 per person per month on hotel accommodation for refugees. It spends £4,535 per person per month on camps like Crowborough. And £821 on HMO housing procured through layers of profiteering contractors. (NAO figures). Our plan would cost £682 per person per month.

This plan is fair, it is humane, it has strong support from our community, it is in line with the values of our city. And it is affordable too.

To make one point clear. The Greens are submitting a motion to support our plan. But this is not a Green plan, or any political party's plan. It is the Brighton community's plan. It comes from our network of over 30 community

groups, and from the hundreds of Brighton & Hove residents who have backed our campaign.

While Labour has not yet formally supported it, leader Bella Sankey has previously written to the Home Secretary on similar lines. So we hope Labour and independent councillors will agree to give this community initiative their full backing too.

What we are asking for is cross-party support, so that we can work together as a city to make this happen. Please vote to publicly back the Brighton Community Plan.