Brighton & Hove City Council

Council Agenda Item 59

Subject: **Petition for Debate**

Date of meeting: **26 November 2026**

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

Contact Officer: **Name: Raymond Bruce-Cathline**
Tel: 01273 291354
Email: raymond.bruce-cathline@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: **All**

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That the petition is noted.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

3.1 To receive the following petition signed by 1330 people:

Save Woodingdean Cottages

We, the undersigned residents, users and supporters of the Woodingdean community, recognise and support the need for more affordable and social housing in Brighton & Hove.

However, we believe that the proposed redevelopment of the Woodingdean Cottages and swimming pool site, involving the demolition of the two cottages and the incorporation of the swimming pool site into a development of approximately 42 flats, is not the right location for such a major development.

The two cottages are an established and much-loved part of our community. They currently accommodate important local community uses, including a children's nursery and the football club. Demolishing the cottages would displace these valued facilities and remove community uses that are already serving local families and residents.

The proposed development would also have a significant impact on the surrounding area. The site is immediately close to two schools, the Youth Centre and a dental practice, as well as neighbouring homes and community facilities. A development of this scale would inevitably increase pressure on local roads, traffic, parking and pedestrian movement.

There are also numerous mature trees on and around the site, including trees protected by Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs). We are concerned that the development would result in the loss of important trees and established greenery, permanently changing the character and appearance of this part of Woodingdean.

The proposal would also require changes to the existing road and access arrangements, further altering the way this established community area functions.

Most importantly, we believe the scale, height, massing and visual impact of the proposed development would be out of keeping with the surrounding area. A substantial development of 42 flats would be visually overpowering and would fundamentally change the character of this part of Woodingdean.

We are not against new housing. We are asking the Council to build the homes that the city needs in the right places -without destroying an important part of Woodingdean's history, community facilities and established character.

We the undersigned call on Brighton & Hove City Council to:

- Protect Woodingdean Cottages from demolition;
- Recognise the historic and community value of the cottages and their contribution to Woodingdean;
- Protect the nursery, football club and other established community uses from displacement;
- Protect mature and TPO-protected trees on the site;
- And find a more suitable location for new housing that does not require the loss of these important community assets and historic buildings.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

(i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the petition and confirm the number of signatures;

(ii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors for period of 15 minutes and will first call on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the petition and move a proposed response. The Mayor will then call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to speak in

the matter, before calling on the relevant Cabinet Member to respond to the debate;

(iii) An amendment to the recommendation in paragraph 2.1 of the report or to add additional recommendations should be submitted by 10.00am on the day before the meeting; otherwise it will be subject to the Mayor's discretion as to being appropriate. Any such amendment will need to be formally moved and seconded at the meeting;

(iv) After the 15 minutes set aside for the debate, the Mayor will then formally put:

(v) (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and

(b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).