

- 46.16 Councillor Turton presented a petition signed by 85 residents concerning Whitehawk and Rottingdean Libraries.
- 46.17 Councillor Mrs Brown presented a petition signed by 130 residents concerning the proposed Park House development.
- 46.18 Councillor Hawkes presented a petition signed by 98 residents concerning the state of children's equipment in Bates Estate.
- 46.19 Councillor Elgood presented a petition signed by 200 residents concerning the recent changes in the network rail time-table.
- 46.20 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by 28 residents concerning parking restrictions in Bennett Avenue.
- 46.21 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by 28 residents concerning Hyde Flats.
- 46.22 Councillor Bennett presented a petition signed by 49 residents concerning library opening hours.
- 46.23 Councillor Wells presented a petition signed by 88 residents concerning libraries.
- 46.24 Councillor Barnett presented a petition signed by 1,104 residents concerning Hangleton Junior swimming pool.
- 46.25 Councillor Randall presented a petition on behalf of Councillor Taylor signed by 92 residents concerning libraries.

47. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

- 47.1 The Mayor reported that five written questions had been received from members of the public and invited Mr Hawtree to come forward and address the council.
- 47.2 Mr. Hawtree asked the following question:
- "With the emerging Library Plan in mind, could Councillor Smith please tell us what steps he will be taking to ensure that all teenage pupils in this authority's schools are introduced to the library service and encouraged to make full use of it?"
- 47.3 Councillor Smith stated that "All reception age school children (4-5 year olds) and all new year 7 intake, (11+ year olds) are being automatically joined up to the public library through our easy joining arrangements, and their membership cards sent out directly to their homes. Library staff are working closely with schools to encourage children and teenagers to read and use our libraries, through new projects, events and activities around reading and writing. For instance, a creative writing programme has begun in partnership with three local secondary schools, and we are planning new online book groups for teenagers. This will build on the existing reading group for 7-11 year olds called 'Chatterbooks' which meets fortnightly. Brainwaves, a study support group for teenagers is running in Jubilee Library, and a new 'Manga' Group has been set up in

partnership with Varndean School for teenagers to draw graphic novel type stories. Libraries are also working in partnership with the Children & Young People's Trust, to develop a City-wide Reading Strategy to encourage reading and improve literacy levels across the city."

47.4 Mr Hawtree asked the following supplementary question:

"I am irresistibly reminded of John Lennon and his scriptures on local government. Perhaps you will remember, Councillor Smith, in December 1966 he discovered that there were 4,000 holes in Blackburn, Lancashire and, in fact, I think he would be shocked to find that the situation here is rather worse. In the Jubilee Library there are 256, I had to count them all the other day. These are the sockets for the wiring above shelves which are still non-existent. As it is if the city's teenagers were all inspired by your various plans to borrow just one book, there would be no books left on the ground floor. At a time when the council has found other building work difficult to carry out, could we have these long expected shelves built and well filled so that teenagers and all other readers can explore books that in these times above all can make such a difference to the course of life?"

In America recently with the recession the use of libraries has gone up considerably."

47.5 Councillor Smith responded, "We do our best in the city under our resources and he knows it very well and I think any Member of this chamber does, that we do the best we can for the citizens of our city."

47.6 The Mayor thanked Mr Hawtree for his questions and invited Ms Offer to come forward and address the council. The Mayor noted that Ms Offer was not present at the meeting and therefore a written response would be given by Councillor Theobald.

47.7 The Mayor then invited Mr Unwin to come forward and address the council. The Mayor noted that Mr Unwin was not present at the meeting and therefore a written response would be given by Councillor Theobald.

47.8 The Mayor then invited Mr Savvides to come forward and address the council.

47.9 Mr Savvides asked the following question:

"The area east of the railway bridge was a designated Air Quality Management Area. In 2007 when discussing this area, and the effect the dump would have on the air quality, council environment officers said that air quality would deteriorate as a result of the heavier traffic caused by the dump. In addition the council representatives suggested that they would consult the local population in order to find a solution to this problem. I would like to know what steps the council has taken to monitor the air quality in the residential areas around the dump, what happened to the consultation and what they propose to do to improve the air quality? I would also like to ask that if any monitoring of the facility is carried out can that be by an independent body, rather than Veolia, and that the results of this monitoring be made public?"

47.10 Councillor Theobald stated "Thank you for your question. The council is discussing with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) the next steps for the

monitoring arrangements for our Air Quality Management Area and Air Quality Action Plan. We have a local Air Quality Strategy that applies to the entire city and I would recommend that residents look at our City Airwatch Website which has excellent up to date information on air quality across Brighton & Hove."

47.11 Mr Savvides asked the following supplementary question:

"I am also monitoring the quality of the air that is being filtered from the Waste Transfer Station because, as I understood it, the filters needed to be changed on a weekly basis in order to make sure that the air being driven out from there is safe for us to breathe in the locality."

47.12 Councillor Theobald responded "We are constantly monitoring air quality right the way across the city and regular inspections are made of what you term 'the dump' but what we refer to as the Waste Transfer Station and that has regular inspections to ensure that all is well."

47.13 The Mayor thanked Mr Savvides for his questions and invited Ms Deller to come forward and address the council. The Mayor noted that Ms Deller was not present at the meeting and therefore a written response would be given by Councillor Theobald.]

48. DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC.

48.1 The Mayor reported that two Deputations had been received and invited Ms Summers as the spokesperson for the first deputation to come forward and address the council.

48.2 Ms Summers thanked the Mayor and stated that:

"As you will know proposals by developers, St James's Investments, for London Road publicised in the summer of last year include a 3-storey Tesco Superstore incorporating a hundred thousand square foot of food and non-food retail space, a car park of at least 950 spaces and other retail, commercial and residential development. The developers' own consultation never asked the community whether or not they would like a Tesco store or car park.

Another London Road, a voluntary group of local residents and stakeholders, however, continually consult with the public using hand delivered leaflets, street stalls, one line feedback and comments on Facebook and to their email address and hosted a drop-in meeting in July last year, which alone attracted 150 people in just two hours. We ask what people like and dislike about London Road and what they want and don't want in the future. The vision that emerges is of a vibrant, diverse shopping street with interest and character, less traffic and more pedestrianisation and greenery, a thriving open market, arts and community facilities and a secure base for creative, local businesses. Many say that with its four existing supermarkets London Road does not need a fifth.

Another London Road has today, as you know, submitted a petition signed by 1,067 people. We can also report that our Facebook group has 536 members and our on-line mailing list has 270.

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YouTube - Cllr Jason Kitcat asks Cllr Theobald about locating communal bins - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Brighton an

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Cllr Jason Kitcat asks Cllr Theobald about locating communal bins



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Cllr Jason Kitcat (Green) asks Cllr Geoffrey Theobald (Conservative), Cabinet Member for Environment, about any plans for an adjudication system for those who don't want communal bins outside their home. With a supplementary question by Cllr Rachel Fryer (Green) on planned changes to recycling rounds. Brighton & Hove City Council meeting 4th December 2008, Brighton Town Hall.

Category: News & Politics
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