

### EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 16 DECEMBER 2010

#### BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

4.30pm 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
COUNCIL CHAMBER, BRIGHTON TOWN HALL

#### DRAFT MINUTES

**Present:** Councillors: Wells (Chairman), A. Norman (Deputy Chairman), Alford, Allen, Barnett, Brown, Carden, Caulfield, Cobb, Davey, Davis, Deane, Duncan, Elgood, Fallon-Khan, Fryer, Hamilton, Harmer-Strange, Hawkes, Hyde, Janio, Kemble, Kennedy, Kitcat, Lepper, Marsh, McCaffery, Meadows, Mears, Mitchell, Morgan, K. Norman, Older, Oxley, Peltzer Dunn, Phillips, Randall, Rufus, Simpson, Simson, Smith, Steedman, C. Theobald, G. Theobald, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, Watkins, West, Wrighton and Young.

#### PART ONE

#### 49. PETITIONS FOR COUNCIL DEBATE

#### 49. (b) Eco-Friendly Lights for St Ann's Wells Gardens

49.26 The Mayor noted that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained more than 1,250 signatures it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of the petition concerning eco-friendly lights in St Ann's Well Gardens.

49.27 The Mayor invited Councillor Davis to present her petition.

49.28 Councillor Davis stated that a total of 1,476 people had signed either the paper or e-petition version which read as follows:

"We the undersigned petition the council to provide financial support and help to install wildlife-friendly lighting along the main paths and entrance of St Ann's Well Gardens similar to that of Hove Park. This will make the park safer at night for everyone who uses it.

St Ann's Well Gardens is a very well used local park, many events are held there, the cafe is always busy and it is also used as a cut through by people walking to work, home and school. There is need for the paths to be safer and better lit, and for that lighting to be wild life friendly."

- 49.29 Councillor Davis stated that local residents felt very strongly about the need for lighting to improve the safety of the area and enable people to make use of the only open space in the vicinity. The request for eco-friendly lights was based on the desire to preserve the balance of remarkable wildlife that existed in the park. The petition was supported by both the Local Action Team and the local police. She therefore hoped that the Cabinet Member would give an assurance that the funding set aside as part of the Section 106 Agreement would be used to provide the lights requested.
- 49.30 Councillor Theobald noted the request and referred to a letter from a Dr. Snell which he believed had been copied to all councillors and which he felt outlined a case for using the available funding to improve the park itself rather than provide lighting. He suggested that in having regard to the current economic climate and the fact that the council had put a lot of investment into its green spaces, the use of the funding needed careful consideration. He therefore questioned whether there was a need for such lighting.
- 49.31 Councillor Davis suggested that the Section 106 Agreement had been made on the basis of providing eco-friendly lighting and therefore queried whether it would be implemented.
- 49.32 Councillor Theobald stated that he was not sure if it would prove to be the best use of the funding and that a choice would have to be made.
- 49.33 Councillor Davis stated that she wished to move an amendment to the recommendation of the report to include an additional recommendation as follows:
- “That the Cabinet Member be requested to ensure that the £10,000 already allocated to St Ann’s Well Gardens from the S106 funding attached to the Southdown House, Somerhill Avenue development will be spent on these eco-friendly lights similar to those in Hove Park). This would ensure safe night time use of the Garden’s main entrance and main paths by local residents and parents of the nearby schools.”
- 49.34 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the amendment and stated that she believed it was clear that the Section 106 Agreement had been made on the premise that the funding would be used to provide eco-friendly lighting in St Ann’s Well Gardens.
- 49.35 Councillor Fallon-Khan stated that he understood the petition’s objective but felt that there was a need to consider the best use of the available funding to improve the area.
- 49.36 Councillor Phillips noted that there was a difference of opinion and whilst she recognised the need to improve the safety of the area, she was unsure as to the quality and sustainability of the lighting that was being sought.
- 49.37 Councillor Theobald stated that he felt there was need to give full consideration to the best use of the funding and therefore suggested that the petition be noted and the matter looked into further with a view to utilising the funding to improve the area for the benefit of all users.
- 49.38 The Mayor noted that an amendment to the report’s recommendation had been moved by Councillor Davis on behalf of the Labour Group and put it to the vote which was carried.

49.39 The Mayor then put the substantive recommendations as amended to the vote which was carried.

49.40 **RESOLVED:**

- (1) That the petition be referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration; and
- (2) That the Cabinet Member for Environment be requested to ensure that the £10,000 already allocated to St Ann's Well Gardens from the S106 funding attached to the Southdown House, Somerhill Avenue development will be spent on these eco-friendly lights similar to those in Hove Park). This would ensure safe night time use of the Garden's main entrance and main paths by local residents and parents of the nearby schools.

