

EXTRACT FROM THE DRAFT PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 24 MARCH 2011

BRIGHTON & HOVE CITY COUNCIL

4.30pm 24th MARCH 2011
COUNCIL CHAMBER, HOVE TOWN HALL

DRAFT MINUTES

Present: Councillors: Wells (Chairman), A. Norman (Deputy Chairman), Alford, Allen, Barnett, Bennett, Brown, Carden, Caulfield, Cobb, Davey, Davis, Deane, Drake, 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, Pidgeon, Randall, Rufus, Simpson, Simson, Smith, Steedman, C. Theobald, G. Theobald, Turton, Wakefield-Jarrett, Watkins, West, Wrighton and Young.

PART ONE

84(C). SAVE THE DRIVE CYCLE LANES, HOVE

84. Save the Drive Cycle Lanes, Hove

84.39 The Mayor stated that under the Council's petition scheme, if a petition contained 1,250 or more signatures, it could be debated by the Full Council and such a request had been made in respect of an e-petition concerning the Drive cycle lanes in Hove.

84.40 The Mayor invited Councillor Davey to present his petition.

84.41 Councillor Davey thanked the Mayor and stated that a total of 3,543 people had signed the e-petition which read as follows:

"We the undersigned, call on the Conservative administration running Brighton & Hove City Council to withdraw its proposals to improve vehicular access to the seafront and Shoreham Harbour by spending £1.1m removing the cycle lanes on The Drive and grand Avenue in Hove.

The increased traffic levels, particularly the likely greater use by heavy goods vehicles, will increase the risk to other road users particularly pedestrians and cyclists.

These cycle lanes were installed by the same Conservative administration in 2008 at a cost of over £600,000. To spend nearly twice as much removing them now would be an irresponsible waste of public money. This money would be much better spent constructively elsewhere.

Please stop this before it's too late.”

- 84.42 Councillor Davey stated that he hoped that having secured the cycle lane at the previous Budget Council meeting in light of the significant level of support for it, that it would now remain in situ and any necessary improvements made.
- 84.43 Councillor Theobald noted the petition and stated that very good reasons for the proposed removal of the lane had been outlined as part of the budget process. With regard to the saving achieved by retaining the cycle lane, he noted that the funding had been allocated to other areas and therefore he could not confirm whether resources were available for other safety measures to be put in place.
- 84.44 Councillor Davis stated that she supported the petition and noted that the cycle lane had been installed under the supervision of the National Cycling Group. She also stated that she wished to move a Labour Group amendment to the report's recommendation, to ensure that cycling was supported by the council.
- 84.45 Councillor Mitchell formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.46 Councillor Davey moved an amendment on behalf of the Green Group to the report's recommendation and stated that there was a need to improve cycling facilities and to address any safety issues.
- 84.47 Councillor Phillips formally seconded the amendment.
- 84.48 Councillor Mears stated that concerns had been raised over the safety of the lane and these had been highlighted in Safety Audit reports. She noted that both the amendments referred to the issue of safety, which had been the primary concern for the Administration's proposal to remove the lane in the first instance.
- 84.49 Councillor Young stated that she had asked the local MP to look into the safety issue and noted that taxi drivers had also expressed concerns over safety and the ability to come out of properties along Grand Avenue.
- 84.50 Councillor Elgood stated that he had contacted Norman Baker MP as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Transport Secretary, who he had confirmed that had the council attempted to remove the cycle lane, the government would have taken legal advice on whether the previous funding towards the cost of installation could be reclaimed. He was happy to provide copies of the reply and stated that he believed the proposal to remove the lane had been irresponsible and that the aim should be to make it work and encourage cycling not deter it.
- 84.51 Councillor West stated that there was a need for the cycle lane and the amendment at the budget council meeting had prevented a waste of public money.
- 84.52 Councillor Kemble stated that as a taxi driver he had experienced the difficulty in getting out of drives along Grand Avenue and suggested that other Members should try it for themselves to see the danger that existed.

- 84.53 Councillor Hamilton stated that the previous funding of £1.1m saved by not removing the cycle lane had been taken from the Revenue Budget and not the Capital Budget and therefore suggested that resources were available for improvement works.
- 84.54 Councillor Theobald noted the comments and stated that he believed the overall budget of £4.3m had been reduced by £1.1m and that had then be set aside to fund other services. With regard to the previous funding contributed by a Quango which had now been dissolved, he questioned whether there was an avenue by which that funding could be reclaimed. He had received a number of emails on the issue all asking for the cycle lane to be removed and he questioned just how many of the 3,000 plus petitioners actually use the cycle lane.
- 84.55 The Mayor noted that two amendments had been moved along with the recommendation to refer the petition to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting and stated that he would put each one to the vote.
- 84.56 The Mayor then put the Labour Group's amendment followed by the Green Group's amendment to the vote, each of which was carried.
- 84.57 The Mayor then put the substantive recommendations as amended to the vote which were carried.
- 84.58 **RESOLVED:**
- (1) That the petition is referred to the Environment Cabinet Member Meeting for consideration;
 - (2) That the Cabinet Member is requested to seek to ensure that the council actively promotes cycling as a sustainable form of travel and continues to invest in safe cycling facilities across the city;
 - (3) That the Cabinet Member is requested to:
 - thank the public for their strong expression of interest and tremendous level of support for retaining and improving the cycle lanes;
 - acknowledge that there is clear public support for the retention of these lanes;
 - place all safety audits that have been undertaken on The Drive into the public domain; and
 - (4) That the Cabinet Member is requested to:
 - instruct officers to identify immediate measures that can be taken to address safety concerns; and
 - instruct officers to identify measures both in the immediate and longer term which may increase usage such as completing links to the north of the city and developing routes to the east and west.

