

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item
22(a)

Brighton & Hove City
Council

Subject:	Petition(s)		
Date of Meeting:	20 September 2012		
Report of:	Interim Lead Officer, Communications		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Penny Jennings	Tel: 29-1065
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Key Decision:	No		
Wards Affected:	Central Hove, All, Rottingdean Coastal		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 To receive any petitions presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or any e-Petition submitted via the council's website.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.2 That the Committee responds to the petition either by noting it or writing to the petition organiser setting out the Council's views, or where it is considered more appropriate, calls for an officer report on the matter which may give consideration to a range of options, including the following:

- taking the action requested in the petition
- considering the petition at a council meeting
- holding an inquiry into the matter
- undertaking research into the matter
- holding a public meeting
- holding a consultation
- holding a meeting with petitioners
- referring the petition for consideration by the council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- calling a referendum

3. PETITIONS

Governing Party Conventions

3. (i) To receive the following e-Petition submitted via the council's website by Valerie Painter. The final number of signatures obtained will be advised at the meeting.

We the undersigned petition the council to Urgently produce a Planning Brief for Medina House. Planning Brief ground rules, over and above existing council policy documents and the Local Plan, are needed for any further Medina House planning applications as a matter of some

urgency and in order to help bring the present stalemate situation with its owners to an end. We ask that BHCC considers (a) Giving first preference to restoration/redevelopment that brings the existing, historically important, building back into use, and if for housing, that it be confined to the present envelope, and car-free. (b) Considers non-housing use-class designation for the site in order to provide public facilities and/or employment opportunities for this section of Hove's seafront area, and (c) Restricts redevelopment at Medina House to the existing height level in order to protect tiny, historic, Sussex Road and Victoria Cottages dwellings (which abut the back wall of Medina House) from unacceptable overshadowing and light loss.

Justification:

Medina House was built as a saltwater bathhouse in 1893. The Royal Doulton tiling of the main pool area was distinctive and remains of importance historically and socially. At the time of Hove Borough Council's sale of the building in the late 1990's, it was tenanted by a firm of diamond cutters.

The very small cottages of Sussex Road and Victoria Cottages shelter behind and abut the rear wall of Medina House with about a metre clearance only. These, with Medina House are all that is left of the original seafront development along the King's Esplanade apart from Marrocco and St. Aubyns Mansions. Together they are a significant, single, unified historic remnant area within the Hove back-story.

Low-rise planning consent for demolition and redevelopment was obtained by the new owners soon after purchase but never used. The the pool area was, however, infilled with concrete and some of the Royal Doulton tiling removed. Several proposals, failed planning applications and Appeals later, only use by squatters and two s215 Enforcement orders to restore external appearance and clean up the pool area have been 'achieved' by the owners of this important site.

The future remains a problem as the owners continue to aim for demolition of a highly valued historic building that is still in good structural condition and to believe planning consent for a tall building on the site is achievable. We believe a Planning Brief is now an urgent imperative.

The e-petition and accompanying paper version will be presented to the Economic Development and Culture Committee on the 20 September 2012.

Bowls Clubs

- 3.(ii) The Committee is also asked to consider and respond to a petition in respect of the above which was referred to this Committee from full Council at its meeting held on 19 July 2012 (a copy of the extract from

that meeting is attached for your information). The petition contains 1,627 signatures.

The petition reads as follows:

“We the undersigned call on Brighton & Hove City Council presently governed by the Green Party, to debate their intention to reduce by £100,000 the subsidy to City Parks/Bowling Clubs throughout the City.

We call on the Council to debate this issue at their Council Meeting in July 2012.

City Parks are in discussion with each Bowling Club, individually, in Brighton and Hove over how each club can operate with reduced subsidy. If the proposed reduction is implemented it could mean Clubs would have to increase their charges by 200% or face possible closure.”

At the meeting of Council held on 19 July the following was resolved:

- (1) That the petition be referred to the Economic Development & Culture Committee Meeting on the 20th September, 2012 for consideration;
- (2) That a report be requested for presentation to the Economic Development & Culture Committee at its meeting on 20th September setting out options for the future support to Bowls Clubs for consideration in advance of council budget setting; and
- (3) That the Chief Executive be requested to ensure a representative of the city’s Bowls Clubs is invited to attend and address the Economic Development & Culture Committee at the meeting on the 20th September to set out their key concerns.

Note: The report referred to at (2) above may be found at Item --- on this agenda.

Regenerate Black Rock

- 3(iii) The Committee is also asked to consider and respond to the following e petition:

“We the undersigned petition the council to take all necessary steps possible and work with prospective interested parties to reinvigorate Black Rock. After 40 years of lying derelict, Brighton’s beautiful Black Rock site needs a new lease of life for the benefit of the local community!

We are two local GP's working with a team and Department of health backing, to build a community-run wellbeing centre at Black Rock. This project, called Futurhealth, will create an iconic building for Brighton. This will serve 2 main functions: The first will be a range of health services - both NHS and complementary therapies. We will have space for yoga studios and will work with health related community groups. The second will be a busy café/restaurant along side art platforms and science stations for kids and adults and sea front gardens and play areas.

For the last six years a commercial developer, Brighton International Arena, has had an agreement with the council develop Black Rock, but they have not done anything and the site remains derelict. We would like a chance to compete with them as we are offering a genuinely innovative solution which will reposition the Black Rock site as a Brighton destination.” (120 signatures)