

# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & CULTURE COMMITTEE

Agenda Item  
50(a)

Brighton & Hove City  
Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Petition(s)		
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	10 January 2013		
<b>Report of:</b>	Strategic Director, Resources		
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Name:</b>	Penny Jennings	<b>Tel:</b> 29-1065
	<b>E-mail:</b>	<a href="mailto:penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk">penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk</a>	
<b>Key Decision:</b>	<b>No</b>	Interim Chief, Executive Services	
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All		

## 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

#### 3A. Protect Artists and Makers Studios in the City

"We the undersigned petition the council to ensure that: 1. In urban redevelopments, artists and makers workspaces are not sacrificed, 2. Urban redevelopments provide adequate allocation of long-term, genuinely affordable, artist's and maker's studio/workshop space, 3.

During redevelopments, displaced artists and makers are provided with appropriate space to continue working, 4. They make explicit to developers their responsibilities to comply with the requirements detailed in the Local Development Framework.

Brighton & Hove is a regional cultural 'city by the sea' famous for its vibrant, cosmopolitan lifestyle with a strong commitment to the arts and thriving creative industries and digital media sector which attracts tourism and new businesses"(1).

Artists and makers play a vital part in our city's personality - they are the driving force behind many visual arts festivals, events and independent exhibitions. Most of these are produced on a shoestring budget, at little or no cost to the public purse, and are free to attend. Creative producers make an invaluable contribution to what makes Brighton a successful city.

As Brighton & Hove grows, redevelopments in the city have resulted in artists and makers losing their workspaces. Creative producers cannot afford rents at levels commercial businesses and large companies can pay and they are therefore priced out of the market. This does not just affect artists and makers, many other small traders and companies suffer also.

Unless substantially changed, another instance of this will be Matsim property developers' plans for the Hove Station Area site. This involves the demolition of the Industrial House building in Conway Street, currently home to several creative businesses including APEC artists' studios. Matsim's proposal: 'Hove Square' announced October 2012 (2) includes no provision of long-term, affordable artists' or makers' workspaces, and Matsim's current proposal, as it stands, will result in the eviction of all of these businesses.

While we, the artists working at APEC, are concerned about the fate of all the businesses in Industrial House, our campaign for recognition of the need for affordable workspace for artists and makers in Brighton & Hove must go further. Many creative producers in the city will face similar problems unless their needs are more widely recognised, and we can prevent further loss of affordable workspaces.

Brighton & Hove City Council states in their local development framework document, the 'Brighton and Hove Draft City Plan Part 1, May 2012' that redevelopment of the (DA6) Hove Station Area should ensure that "workshops, office space, studios, storage and other premises remain affordable, appropriate and available for use"(3). The Draft City Plan notes the importance of creative practices in several other places, yet Matsim's Hove Square proposal does not address these objectives. All developers must be made aware their plans

should not just focus on profit but also on the needs of those they may displace, and the communities they impact on.

Redevelopment can achieve all these aims. ACME Studios in London have, for many years, worked with local authorities and developers to include artists' studios in redevelopments. This not only supports artists and makers but also offers real advantages for local economies and developers. We believe the city would benefit from this more inclusive form of urban redevelopment."

(330 signatures)

### **3B Say No to Pop Festivals in Stanmer Nature Reserve**

"The recent Shakedown Festival caused havoc to wildlife, grassland, walkers and villagers in Stanmer.

The Park was unusable for a full week, and large muddy areas remain which cannot be re-turfed until Spring 2013. There is a strong possibility that Shakedown will apply for a three day festival next year, and this will set a precedent for using the Park for this purpose.

We say yes to Pop Festivals, but not in Nature Reserves. Brighton has other suitable venues, e.g. the AMEX Community Stadium. When this was built, the Village was told there would be no further festivals in the Park.

*Stanmer Preservation Society* needs your help to protect our beautiful park."

(453 signatures paper petition)

257 signatures e petition) (Total 710)

