

DEPUTATIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

A period of not more than fifteen minutes shall be allowed at each ordinary meeting of the Council for the hearing of depositions from members of the public. Each deputation may be heard for a maximum of five minutes following which one Member of the Council, nominated by the Mayor, may speak in response. It shall then be moved by the Mayor and voted on without discussion that the deputation be thanked for attending and its subject matter noted.

Notification of one Deputation has been received. The spokesperson is entitled to speak for 5 minutes.

(a) Deputation concerning the proposed inclusion of Toads Hole Valley (THV) in City Plan.**(Spokesperson) – Mr N Sladen**

1. One of the last remaining green open spaces within our city boundaries is under threat and needs to be treated with respect. It would be criminal to destroy THV with over development when there are already so many offices, industrial units, shops, business premises and the like standing empty across our city. The opportunities to create housing units where people really want to live are there.
2. THV serves many uses to residents in the Goldstone Valley, Hangleton and communities close by. It provides green space, a green lung and a barrier to the bypass. It is home to protected wildlife species, flora and fauna - all of which will be lost should the scheme go ahead. Do we want that legacy for future generations?
3. Brown field sites should be the priority now within the city providing immediate solutions to the need for enterprise, jobs and economic regeneration and homes. These can be delivered now to the people of Brighton and Hove – not in some far off distant time. Action is required now to meet immediate needs. I am aware there are some moves elsewhere in this respect but to destroy THV on a whim is totally unacceptable.
4. Clearly in the rush to include THV in the plan, no thought has been expended on the impact to the road network should King George VI Avenue be taken out of the equation. Many residents are very worried about traffic flows in Woodland Drive, Goldstone Crescent, Nevill Road and surrounding residential roads being used as rat runs. As car parking is not considered a priority in the plans before us – where do we imagine the vehicles in the future will be parked? Not all users of any development (well over 700 housing units) will be so keen to use public transport and or even ride bicycles to access THV. Parking would seriously affect those living in the Goldstone Valley.

5. I call upon all councillors here today to take a step back and realise that to proceed with including THV in the City Plan would be a grave mistake. The wanton destruction of one of the remaining green areas would be a disaster. Remember that previous planning applications for THV – a football stadium and a business park – were both rejected.

Councillor J. Kitcat, Leader of the Council will respond.

Note: In accordance with the agreed protocol for the consideration of the City Plan, the deputation will be taken into account by Members during the debate on the item listed at Item No. 80 on the Council agenda. A written response will also be provided to the spokesperson following the meeting.