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| Subject: | Petition Triggering Full Debate: Elm Tree at Seven Dials | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 28 March 2013 | | |
| Report of: | Monitoring Officer | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Mark Wall | Tel: 29-1006 |
| | E-mail: | mark.wall@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Wards Affected: | Regency | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

- 1.1 Under the Council's Petition Scheme if a petition contains more than 1,250 signatures and is not a petition requesting officer evidence, it will be debated by the Full Council.
- 1.2 A combined paper and e-petition has resulted in triggering a debate at the council meeting, having exceeded the threshold with a total of 3,237 signatures confirmed at the time of printing the report.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That the petition is referred to the Transport Committee for consideration.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION / CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:**3.1 The Petition**

"There is an ancient tree at 7 Dials at the corner of Vernon Terrace. There is a plan to cut the tree. Why? The planners say that they want to replace the traffic lights in Vernon Terrace by a zebra crossing. If that happens then according to them, the elm tree which has been there for more than 100 years, may obstruct visibility when people are waiting at the kerb for traffic to stop. The planners have decided to chop down the tree to open visibility. This action was not part of the consultation process for 7 Dials and therefore was not considered by residents who in any case find both zebra crossings and the removal of the tree unacceptable. It is better for the survival of this tree (and many users of the crossing at Vernon Terrace) to keep the traffic lights in Vernon terrace and scrap the zebra crossing."

Lead Petitioner – Millie Ferguson

3.2 The options open to the council are:

- To note the petition and take no action for reasons put forward in the debate;
or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee Meeting; or
- To refer the petition to the relevant Committee Meeting with recommendations.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The petition will be debated at the Council meeting in accordance with the agreed protocol:

- (i) The Lead petitioner will be invited by the Mayor to present the petition and will have up to 3 minutes in which to outline the prayer of the petition and confirm the number of signatures;
- (ii) The Mayor will then call on the relevant Committee Chair to respond to the petition and move a proposed response;
- (iii) The Mayor will then open the matter up for debate by councillors and call on those councillors who have indicated a desire to move an amendment or additional recommendation(s) to the recommendation listed in paragraph 2.1 of the report;
- (iv) Any councillor may move an amendment or recommendation, having regard to the recommendation in 2.1 above and any such proposal will need to be formally seconded;
- (v) After a period of 15 minutes, the Mayor will then call an end to the debate and ask the relevant Cabinet Member to reply to the points raised;
- (vi) The Mayor will then formally put:
 - (a) Any amendments in the order in which they are moved, and
 - (b) The substantive recommendation(s) as amended (if amended).