

Subject:	Petitions		
Date of Meeting:	23 January 2014		
Report of:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Penny Jennings	Tel: 29-1065
	E-mail:	Penny.jennings@brighton-hove.gov.uk	
Ward Affected	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

(i) Save the Hippodrome for Live Performance

"We the undersigned petition the council to use its best endeavours and take every opportunity to bring the Hippodrome in Middle Street back into use as a versatile space for live performance in accordance with aspirations expressed in the CP5 Culture and Tourism section of the proposed City Plan (February 2013).

Justification

As a Grade II* listed building with an interior of national historical importance, the Hippodrome is the only surviving space of its kind and size in the city. It is top of the Theatre Trust's list of English theatre buildings at risk.

In seeking to promote cultural tourism, the City Council should be aware of the need for a larger theatre capable of attracting top-class theatrical, musical and dance productions. The Hippodrome could be used in a variety of modes; as a proscenium theatre, as a theatre-in-the-round or with a thrust or open stage, for 'circus' type of performances similar to the Roundhouse in Camden, London.

Such a venue would significantly enhance the city's appeal to visitors, attracting audiences from across a wide area, including London, helping to make Brighton the principal cultural hub of the south-east region. It should be recognised that converting the space into a multi-screen cinema would not contribute anything to this aspiration. Indeed, over-provision of cinemas, leading to unsustainable competition, could lead to a net loss of venues.

3. **Save Brighton Speed Trials**

"We the undersigned petition the council to accept the application by the Brighton and Hove Motor Club to run the 2014 Brighton Speed Trials on Madeira Drive.

Justification:

The Speed Trials is part of Brighton's heritage having run in the area since 1905. Thousands of people come down to the seafront for an entertaining fun-packed day out for the whole family to watch race cars and motor bikes compete along Madeira Drive.

The event has grown over the years and now even enjoys international acclaim. It has the full support and backing of the Motorsport Association and adheres to their strict rules of safety.

The end of the Speed Trials will be the end of an era for Brighton. It will have a major negative financial impact on tourism and trade in the area and mean the loss of one of the highlights on Brighton's seafront entertainment calendar.

Please sign the petition and help keep the Speed Trials going.

A decision will be made by the council's Economic Development and Culture Committee at a meeting on 23 January 2014."