

Mr Alan McCarthy
Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council

26 January 2009

Dear Mr McCarthy,

'Mosquito' noise machines used as a teenage deterrent.

I would like this letter to be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of the Cabinet and to be able to speak to it.

I would ask that the Cabinet notes the increasing use of mosquito noise machines to disperse teenagers from open spaces and buildings and that these machines will soon become more readily available via cheaper imports sold in high street shops directly to householders.

Mosquito noise deterrent machines are largely used in a negative way, actively discouraging all young people from visiting areas of towns and cities.

There is no evidence supporting the effectiveness or benefits to a community of this method of group dispersal but evidence is coming to light that they can adversely affect those suffering from conditions such as tinnitus and autism.

There is no information on the long term effects of exposure to this high frequency noise and that the noise is not truly restricted to teenagers alone. Significant numbers of people in their 20s to early 30s have reported being able to hear the high frequency noise.

I would ask the Cabinet to;

- Consider ruling out the use of mosquito noise deterrent machines on all council owned buildings and land.
- Consider writing to the Home Secretary asking her to review the sale and use of these devices as a matter of urgency and to consider legislation to ban them.
- Consider a specific programme to raise awareness amongst businesses and residents of alternative methods for tackling anti-social behaviour by working alongside existing services provided by the government and the council such as Local Action Teams, neighbourhood police teams, schools and community groups.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Gill Mitchell
Leader of the Labour Group

