

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& CULTURE COMMITTEE**

Agenda Item 5 (c)

Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:	Deputations		
Date of Meeting:	19 June 2014		
Report of:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Penny Jennings	Tel: 29-1065
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Ward Affected	Hove Park		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 To receive any deputations presented at Council, any petitions submitted directly to Democratic Services or brought directly to the Committee. One Deputation has been notified and this is set out below:

Deputations

(i) Hove Park Neighbourhood Forum

Mr Hancox – Chair of the proposed Hove Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum:

- 1.2 “I am informed that the committee intends to consider applications for the establishment of both the Hove Station and Hove Park Ward Neighbourhood Forums and Areas at the Economic and Culture Committee in June.

We will be asking the committee to reject the application of the proposed Hove station Area as it includes part of the Proposed Hove Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum and Area for the following reasons:

- i) The Hove Station and Hove Park Ward areas are wholly different in that the Station Area comprises a densely developed Victorian and Edwardian city-centre neighbourhood whereas the Hove Park Ward Area is a mainly low density inter-war and post-war suburban neighbourhood. They also have differing demographics in terms of age and geographical mobility.
- ii) The two neighbourhoods are geographically separated by the railway: presumably the reason why the Boundary Commission fixed the boundary on this alignment.
- iii) At the Hove Station Forum public meeting of 17 January 2014, a substantial number of Hove Park Ward residents attending emphasised that they did not wish to be included in the Hove Station Forum Area and were establishing a forum for their area.
- iv) The Hove Station Forum has a membership from approximately 62 properties, whereas the Hove Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum already has over 300 members from all areas of the Hove Park Ward. For the Hove Station Neighbourhood Forum

to include a substantial part of the Hove Park Ward within their proposed area is contrary to the spirit of the Localism Act 2011 which seeks to promote direct neighbourhood representation on the local forum.

Consideration has been given to the Station Forum's "Next Steps" document produced after they became aware of our application. There are several significant matters raised with which we are unable to agree. From the outset, the Hove Station forum's principal concern has been the Development Area 6, partly situated in both proposed forum areas, and they consider this justifies including part of the Hove Park Ward within their area in view of DA6 having a "major impact" on the area north of the Shoreham Road. This assertion is refuted.

The Station Forum's documents also refer to the development potential of other areas within the Hove Park Ward, such as the strategic Greyhound Stadium site, as a further reason for extending their area north of the railway. This view is also rejected. Hove Park Ward Forum residents will have views as to the planning future of areas of concern to them elsewhere in the city, such as George Street or Churchill Square, but acknowledge that this would not justify extending the Forum Area to include them for planning purposes.

The Hove Park Forum's view is that a forum should represent a community with a distinct identity and that it should review planning issues through a Neighbourhood perspective and it should not be based on a historical grouping of residents from several neighbourhoods addressing a particular planning proposal.

Furthermore, it is considered that the proposed Station Forum area would be too large in population terms to comprise an identifiably distinct neighbourhood. It would be remarkable if residents of the different neighbourhoods south of the railway would consistently view planning issues with the same priorities and perspective as those of residents of the Hove Park Ward to the north.

The Hove Park Ward Forum is prepared to liaise and discuss planning issues with all neighbouring forums.

Yours sincerely

Colin Hancox,
Chair of the proposed Hove Park Ward Neighbourhood Forum

Deputation Supporters:

Colin Hancox
Alex Salva
Cathy Smith
Maggie Sladen
David Nissen
Sarah Rankin

RESPONSE GIVEN BY COUNCILLOR JASON KITCAT

"We fully support the formation of neighbourhood forums and absolutely encourage interested parties to make use of the provisions and localism act which help them to enhance and protect and take care of their neighbourhood areas. But it is sad to see

Hove-arians fighting over boundaries, I must say. You've all got an interest in your local area and clearly you're united by your passion for it and I hope we don't see people falling out over what is a line on the map. Of course wars were fought over that in past centuries but we are beyond that now.

I think the fact is the emerging and abutting Hove forums, those issues are well known to the ward members, I see nod's ward members and I know officers are well aware of this and we would all like to encourage, as you have suggested, conversations and discussions to continue. This can be the only way through which this can be productively resolved. There are ambitions for a number of neighbourhood forums and I hope we can find a way of delineating them in a supportive way which recognises true neighbourhoods and communities. Defying a neighbourhood is an interesting thing for PHD thesis one day. The decision as you have rightly note falls to the Economic and Culture committee sometime in the Summer and I hope that the concerns you have highlighted in your deputation can be ironed out by that point but the view is that even if some words remain, the boundaries don't necessarily need to be completely black and white, there could be some flexibility and I hope that if it wasn't all resolved by then, discussions could still continue. As a Council, I think our role is to be mindful of those different aims and priorities of adjoining communities and to try and mitigate against disagreements and I fully attend this to be our role as a council from a member and an officer point of view and I'm hopeful the benefits will outweigh whatever difficulties there are in the road to getting there and I wish you every success.