

Subject:	Petitions		
Date of Meeting:	13 November 2014		
Report of:	Head of Legal & Democratic Services		
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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) Enforcement of Article 4 Direction

3.1 We call on Brighton and Hove Council to fully implement and enforce the Article 4, Direction, and complete the licensing of HMOs.

There is a high concentration of Houses in Multiple Occupation in our area. This has caused a significant deterioration of the quality of life for long term residents. We now experience more noise, rubbish on the street, lack of concern for the upkeep of properties and for the local environment. Community cohesion is seriously adversely affected.

The Council does not have sufficient staff, or interest in dealing with these issues. Action was promised but is not evident. Please support our petition to the Council to remedy this.”

(45 signatures)

(ii) Community Value of Pubs

- 3.2 “We the undersigned petition Brighton & Hove Council to - develop planning policies to better protect local public houses based on the principles of the pub protection policies developed by Lewisham Council and Cambridge City Council; - under the Sustainable Communities Act, submit a proposal to Government to "protect community pubs in England by ensuring that planning permission and community consultation are required before community pubs are allowed to be converted to betting shops, supermarkets and pay-day loan stores or other uses, or are allowed to be demolished." - help facilitate community groups to nominate pubs as Assets of Community Value; - write to the Secretary of State at the Department of Business Innovation & Skills supporting plans to introduce a Statutory Code to ensure tied publicans are treated fairly.”

Justification

- for many people community public houses are important amenities that support positive interactions between people from different backgrounds and enhance community cohesion;
- the New National Planning Policy Framework makes specific reference to the need to safeguard public houses;
- high residential property values in Brighton & Hove are endangering the future of valued public houses and that effective local planning rules allow public houses to be demolished or converted into betting shops, pay-day loan stores, supermarket metro stores and other uses without planning permission;
- the Assets of Community Value scheme introduced in the Localism Act 2011 allows local communities to secure a degree of additional protection for local community assets;
- in some cases, excessively high rents and tied product prices contribute to the failure of otherwise profitable pub.

This petition is submitted on behalf of the Brighton & South Downs branch of CAMRA. CAMRA, the Campaign for Real Ale is an independent, voluntary organisation campaigning for real ale, community pubs and consumer rights. In the present day, CAMRA has 161,672 members and has been described as the most successful consumer campaign in Europe. The Brighton & South Downs branch has 1,759 members

(45signatures)

(iii) 50m Pool 4 Hove

Referred from the meeting of Council held on 23 October 2014

- 3.3 “We the undersigned back calls from Mike Weatherley MP, Shiverers Swimming Club and the Amateur Swimming Association to replace outdated swimming facilities at the King Alfred with a new more flexible 50m pool that includes leisure and diving facilities for the benefit of all Brighton and Hove residents.

(1,154 signatures)

(iv) Concorde Lift

“I live opposite the Concorde lift and through the years I have come to notice what an important service it provides for those in wheelchairs and for families using buggies and for the elderly and small children who are not able to manage the steps. It would be wonderful to have it working all throughout the year during weekends even if at reduced hours. Winter is also a beautiful time for sea front strolls and to go down for a snack in the local cafés.”

(24 signatures at going to print – will be updated at the meeting)