

Penny Thompson – Chief Executive
Brighton & Hove City Council
Grand Avenue
Hove

28 January 2015

Dear Penny

Portslade Old Police Station Heritage Centre

I am submitting the following letter under Council Procedure Rule 23.3 to be included on the agenda for the Policy & Resources Committee meeting of 12th February 2015.

I am writing to ask that Policy & Resources Committee gives serious consideration to the proposal put forward by the Brighton & Hove Heritage Commission to convert the Old Police Station building in St Andrews Road into a community and heritage centre. Their proposal is attached to this letter.

I believe that the proposed Heritage Centre has the potential to be a fantastic community asset for Portslade and would contribute to the much-needed regeneration of the area. This is in stark contrast to the Council's approved plan to convert the building into a maisonette for disposal on the open market.

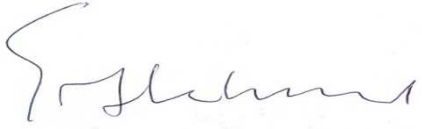
More specifically, the Heritage Commission's proposal, which I fully support, asks the Council to give them a six month window in order to put together a fully-costed and funded plan for a Heritage Centre. This would involve working with the Council to:

- Secure the building against theft and vandalism
- Set up a Friends of Portslade Heritage Centre
- Carry out a full neighbourhood consultation on terms of reference of the Trust
- Appoint a steering committee for the project
- Agree a constitution and elect Trustees
- Carry out full structural survey and carry out immediate necessary repairs
- Commission project team to put together detailed plans for building restoration
- Commence promotional works

There is considerable public support for the proposed community centre as well as across the political spectrum and amongst local experts, as evidenced in the Heritage Commission's proposal document.

I ask that the Committee agrees to a 6 month hiatus to enable plans for a Heritage community centre to be fully worked up.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoffrey Theobald', written in a cursive style.

Cllr. Geoffrey Theobald