

## **Events Community Engagement Meeting**

**Brighton & Hove Jewish Community Centre, 31 New Church Road, Hove**

**Tuesday 10 March 2026, 5-6.30pm**

Chair: Cllr Birgit Miller, Cabinet member for Culture, Heritage and Tourism

Notes: Lizzie Esson, Outdoor Events Assistant BHCC & Ruth Allsop, Projects Officer BHCC

Attendees:

Cllr Maureen Winder, Cllr Ollie Sykes, Cllr Ivan Lyons, Cllr Joy Robinson, Cllr Jackir O'Quinn. Cllr Sam Parrott, Ian Baird, Outdoor Events Development Manager, BHCC, Ruth Allsop, Events Project Officer, BHCC.

### **1. Review of Previous Actions**

1.1 Ian Baird (IB): The Events Team is looking to improve noise management with Big Purple Funfest, if this event goes ahead. This is in-line with noise management protocols documented in the new events strategy. The team has been working with Environmental Health & Licensing - who have now published a new document with clear guidance on noise limits, should make monitoring and managing noise much easier.

1.2 IB: The city is a popular choice for running events, having one of the country's most well attended runs at Hove Promenade and one of the least attended events at Bevendean. The Events Team has flagged the parkrun events with comms as a potential news story, and it has been added to their forward planning grid to cover, when time allows.

1.3 IB: The Events Team will ensure organisers of the Brunswick Festival are reminded that dogs are not permitted in Brunswick Square and that they must have sufficient staffing to enforce this. Protocols on allowing dogs in Brunswick Square are currently being reviewed.

1.4.1 IB: The Events Team will continue to provide support to BARCO, including looking for improved marketing options for their events. BARCO is considering having a fundraising event at the Brighton Centre to raise funds for the next BARCO Bash in St Anns Well Gardens.

1.5 IB: To mitigate noise issues that have been reported, the Events Team will revert to the original license terms for the Glorious Days/Could it Be Real events at Hove Lawns. The organisers have advised they are changing their audio supplier to mitigate noise management issues and will implement improvements, such as repositioning speakers.

1.6 IB: As part of a review of safety and supervision at the Bounce event, the Events team has asked the organisers to improve their risk assessment.

1.7.1 Councillor Lyons (IL): It would be good to have more publicity around the Classic Car Show ahead of the next one.

### **2. Review of Previous Events**

No comments

### **3. Overview of Upcoming Events**

1 Brighton Marathon:

IL: Event participants had reported significant traffic congestion near the stadium last year.

IB: Works along A23 had likely compounded the problem, but this has been flagged with the highways team and improvements to this year's traffic management plan are being looked at.

A particular focus for the events team this year is improving communications around bus movements and re-routing during events.

Letters about changes in areas affected by events are sent to all properties on the route. These will also be posted on the council's online platform Your Voice in future.

Roads in the north of the city are the first to reopen and usually this happens by around midday.

Councillor Robinson (JR): When the next Valley Gardens Phase 3 roadworks are beginning and whether they will impact the Marathon?

IB: Will check with Highways/ Cllr Trevor Muten: **ACTION**

IB: Due to an increase in the number of runners, access to Preston Park will be reserved for participants only at the next event.

There will be a new fan zone at St Peter's Square, potentially with a big screen and family-friendly attractions, where spectators and supporters can gather.

2 Glorious Days/ Could it Be Real:

Councillor Sykes (OS): Reported several complaints he'd received from a resident:

- Excessive noise had caused disturbance, and waste had been left in Zone Ex (the 'external' zone directly outside the event footprint).

IB: Clearing up is a joint responsibility between the council and event organisers.

As part of budget proposals, Environmental Services will apply additional revenue to events that require extra resources.

- Ongoing frustration about permitted (change of use) limits being exceeded. Why do we not consider build/break days as part of the event?

IB: We have not exceeded limits (28days) and build/break days are included in-line with the Brockwell Park Ruling. Where sites exceed 28 days, planning permission is sought.

- Reports of dancing on grade II listed walls at Adelaide Crescent. Why can't we put fencing around this to protect it? Can stewards deter people from dancing on listed walls which may be damaged?

IB: Fencing would draw different complaints, for example from residents who would then feel shut out of events on their doorstep.

Private Security has no power outside the event footprint, but they could be briefed to ask people not to dance on walls.

Councillor Miller (BM): Possible that those dancing on walls could also be locals.

IB: Will ask event organisers to have two stewards where the wall is vulnerable, to deter dancing on it:

**ACTION**

- Damage to grass had been caused by chemical toilet spills.

IB asked for the location of the damage as this should have been addressed.

OS: Will provide details: **ACTION**

IB: Volume of complaints regarding Hove Lawns mainly come from residents of Brunswick Square. If we get the noise levels right, there will be less impetus to gather in external areas.

There is a delicate balance as some attendees are residents coming out to enjoy the event as well as those coming from out of town.

IL: Could events be better advertised, as often residents were not aware they were taking place until the build starts? For example, could the billboard in front of Hove Park be used?

IB: This isn't a council owned resource, but the team could connect the owner, Stace Outdoor Ltd, with event organisers.

Outdoor events team will flag opportunities with both parties: **ACTION**

JR: Whereabouts on Hove Lawns will Circus Zyair be this year?

Outdoor Events team will follow-up with JR to confirm location: **ACTION**

### 3 BARCO Bash

IB: Barco Bash is very popular and we're not aware of any complaints.

JR: Events that end earlier tend to be better received by residents.

BM: Complaints around noise, including drumming practice prior to the event, had been received in previous years but this hasn't happened more recently.

IB: Coles Funfair will take place in Hove Park in August.

## 4. New Outdoor Events Strategy

BM: Councillor Maureen Wider will be leading on the policy to ringfence a proportion of funds from events to directly benefit the area in which they take place. The spend is not for the wider ward but for the specific area affected, e.g. if an event took place on Hove Lawns, money would only be spent there.

IB: A key priority for the events team is to support more homegrown events and those that reflect what the community wants. There will be a focus on finding out what residents want and supporting community groups to host events where possible.

While we don't have the resource to produce events, we can aim to curate a more community-led programme by encouraging and facilitating local organisers to put on their own events.

We are trying to build networks, for example we know of several retired, experienced events professionals in Kemp Town who have expressed an interest in helping create homegrown events.

## **AOB**

BM: There will be a sculpture installation on Hove Lawns, mainly on the prom, throughout May as part of Brighton Festival.

IB: Requested councillors ask residents who are interested in hosting events to get in touch with the outdoor events team.

Councillor O'Quinn (JO): Street parties are a great way to bring people together and there are many successful organisers in Hove who may be good conduits for helping grow local events.

IB: Requested contact details be shared with him if possible. Play Streets are another good example of locally led events, popular with families.

IB: We are interested in encouraging residents to host 'Pride street parties, so they may have their own smaller celebrations without needing to go to the main events.

JR: Agreed, the city's older LGBTQ+ demographic may not necessarily want to go to the larger, mainstream events hosted by Pride CIC.

IB: Residents' meetings in Hove will continue. The events team is hoping to bring more events to the west of the city, potentially in Hove Park.

IB: Requested that councillors encourage more residents to attend the meetings and please bring at least two people along with them next time!

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## **ACTIONS:**

- IB to respond to JR re when the next Valley Gardens Phase 3 roadworks are beginning and whether they will impact the Marathon.
- Events team will connect event organisers with Stace Outdoor re using their boards to advertise events in Hove Park.
- IB will ask Glorious Days/Could it Be Real to have two stewards at the wall near Adelaide Crescent to deter dancing on it.
- OS to let IB know whereabouts damage to grass from chemical spills happened.
- Kelly Martin, outdoor events team, to respond to JR re confirmed positioning of Circus Zyair.