

MEETING OF BRIGHTON & HOVE'S WILDLIFE FORUM

Tuesday 29th October 2013. 7.00pm at Booth Museum.

AGENDA

1. Welcome, introduction of group reps & apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of last meeting (11-6-13) & matters arising not on agenda.
Choosing the best wildlife sites in Brighton and Hove - update.

Change to '**Local Wildlife Sites in Brighton and Hove**'
3. The Food Partnership – '**Aims: site requirements and mapping**'
4. BHCC representative at BHWF meetings.
5. Choosing the best wildlife sites in Brighton and Hove - update

See #2 Change to '**Local Wildlife Sites in Brighton and Hove**'
6. **Reviewing the Conservation Agenda**
7. Local Groups – updates - concerns & successes.
8. CSP.
9. Planning – Dorothy Stringer application

– Marina Buildings
10. Any other business.

Big Garden bird watch in January 2014

'Paying for Ecosystem Services - Best Practice Guide' – on BHWF Discussion Board:
search for 'Green Economics does not value nature adequately'
11. Date of next 2014 meeting - 11th February, 22nd April

'Green Spaces Network' - Thursday 10th October 2013, Bowls Pavilion, Preston Park.

Duncan Blinkhorn (chair), Dave Bell, me + 4 others

Travellers / Horsdean permanent traveller site: plans for the permanent traveller site at Horsdean, close to and just north-east of the A27/A23 inter-change. The plans include 12

new permanent pitches alongside 21 retained transit pitches, accommodating 33 dwellings in all. See 'Appendix' below:

CVSF to restructure with Launch event in November 2013. Other services will be developed during 2014.

APPENDIX: Plans for permanent Traveller site at Horsdean

Brighton & Hove City Council has submitted a planning application for a permanent Traveller site to the South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA). The proposed new permanent Traveller site is next to the recently re-opened transit site at Horsdean.

SDNPA say that a final decision is expected by 31 December 2013.

Consultation

South Downs National Park Authority is now consulting with the public about the proposal. The consultation is open until Tuesday 29 October 2013.

View the full details of the planning application and give your feedback on the SDNPA website.

Information about the proposal will also be on display in public libraries.

Information about our plans

The plans include 12 new permanent pitches alongside 21 retained transit pitches. Each permanent pitch will consist of space for a static caravan and other vehicles, plus a kitchen, bathroom and dayroom in an amenity block.

The permanent site will provide long term secure residential pitches for either caravans or mobile homes. The transit sites provide short term pitches for Travellers to stop for up to three months.

The provision of a permanent site in Brighton & Hove would free up blocked transit pitches for those visiting the city. This should increase the council's capacity to deal with unauthorised encampments, although the permanent Traveller site will not provide a complete solution.

Tenants will have to sign a lease that will, like all social housing, ensure that any anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated. Like all other council tenants, all residents will be responsible for rent, bills and council tax

The proposals also include a management building for the Traveller Liaison Team, to ensure closer and better working with the community and to reduce management costs.

Landscape

We have worked with landscape advisors who are specialists in the national park to prepare a scheme that minimises the visual appearance of the new site through using the location at the bottom of the valley and by screening with new planting. The planting also reduces the visual impact of the existing transit site, so offering benefits to the national park setting.

