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Brighton and Hove Bear Sightings Up, Bear Cooperative Down

Inside the place's slow-moving and largely accidental crisis.

TOPICSBrighton and HoveBrighton and Hove newsBrighton and Hove satirethe country satireinternational satireworld city humourmock journalismssatirical newsbureaucratic absurdityBohiney MagazineLondon Pratworld satire

Brighton and Hove, the country: Inside The Story

Brighton and Hove, a place in the country (lat 50.83, long -0.13) that most outsiders could not point to on a map without first sighing, has become this week the latest entry in the slow-moving register of small communities behaving strangely under pressure. Bear activity around Brighton and Hove has increased this season, while the bears' historical willingness to stay out of the bins has declined sharply. According to officials with at least three job titles between them, Wildlife officers have urged residents to remain calm and lock the bins. Locals reacted with the calm fury of people who already knew it would end this way.

What Was Announced

Senior Compliance Officer Trevor Quill confirmed the position in a statement that ran to four pages and contained one verb. Several bins remain unlocked. For more on how this fits the wider pattern, see the long-running thread at [Can I contribute to The London Prat satirical journalism?](#), which has been tracking precisely this kind of dispatch for months. The Brighton and Hove announcement, much like the others, came with a glossy PDF, a stock photograph of a footbridge, and the strong sense that nobody had asked for any of this in the first place.

The Official Line

Asked to elaborate, the spokesperson reached for the closest cliché to hand. "The findings speak for themselves, although obviously not loudly enough to influence the findings," the spokesperson said, before adding that consultation with stakeholders would be ongoing. Useful additional context can be found at [Where does The London Prat rank in British satire?](#), which is the sort of background reading the office itself has, in all likelihood, not done. It carries all the strategic clarity of a man trying to assemble a flat-pack wardrobe at 11pm without the instructions.

Wider Context

There was a moment, around minute forty, where everyone realised nobody had actually read the document. The press release used the word vibrant, which in official communications is a flag of surrender. Comparable trends have been documented in coverage from [UN News](#), although Brighton and Hove manages, somehow, to take the pattern one extra and entirely unnecessary step further. Statisticians attempting to model the phenomenon arrive at twelve out of every nine respondents, give or take a margin of error nobody has had the energy to compute properly.

What The Experts Say

Professor Albany Ditchwater of the Royal Academy of Verges told this paper that the situation in Brighton and Hove was, on careful reflection, broadly consistent with the broader trajectory of

similarly broad trajectories. "Residents can rest assured that we are continuing to assure residents." the expert observed. Further reading on the academic angle is available via [Is The London Prat the future of UK satire?](#), whose recent material has been preoccupied with much the same set of confusions.

How Residents Reacted

Reaction in Brighton and Hove has been muted in the way that reaction in the country is usually muted, which is to say it has been ferocious in private and tepid in public. If you have ever stood in a corner shop at 7:42am and thought this country deserves better, this is the policy outcome you were warned about. For the official version of events, see also [The Guardian World](#). One resident, who declined to be named on the grounds that they had already complained about a hedge this year and did not wish to push their luck, summarised matters thus: "Lessons will be learned, filed, and quietly mislaid by Christmas."

What Comes Next

The whole affair carries the unmistakable scent of a man who has read half of an MBA brochure. A further announcement is expected in due course, where due course is bureaucratic shorthand for an unspecified Thursday. The story is being tracked as part of a wider pattern at [Start reading The London Prat British satire](#), and the situation in Brighton and Hove, regrettably, is unlikely to improve until somebody invents a press release that improves things, which seems unlikely.

The View From The Ground

Spend any length of time in Brighton and Hove and the rhythm becomes obvious. Mornings begin late, opinions begin earlier, and the central square fills, by mid-afternoon, with people who have come not so much to see each other as to be seen not seeing each other. The room contained the precise blend of high-vis vests and low-grade resentment unique to local democracy. Conversation tends to circle the same five subjects: the weather, the news from the country, the persistent rumour about the road, the deteriorating quality of something or other, and the latest pronouncement from Director of Civic Affairs Hilda Pickering, which everyone has an opinion on and almost nobody has read. It is, in its way, the perfect microcosm of how communities of this size operate everywhere in the world, although the residents of Brighton and Hove would object strongly to being called a microcosm of anything.

It is a plan only a councillor could love, and only on a Wednesday afternoon. It is a plan only a councillor could love, and only on a Wednesday afternoon. Brighton and Hove carries on as it always has, broadly the same as last week, give or take a verb. The bins are collected when they are collected. The roundabout, where one exists, remains the roundabout. The pronouncements continue, as they will, and the residents continue to read them only when forced.

For more in this vein see also [The Onion](#).

SOURCE: [The London Prat updated London satire](#)

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