

Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Forum

4th December 2019

Katharine Pearce, City Regeneration Programme Manager
City Development & Regeneration
Brighton & Hove City Council
Hove Town Hall,
Norton Road, Hove BN3 3BQ

By email to Katharine.Pearce@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Katharine

Re: Black Rock Site Rejuvenation Proposals.

I was pleased to attend the drop-in session last week presenting the rejuvenation proposals for Black Rock, together with colleagues from the Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Forum Steering Committee.

We have long been concerned that the approach to the Marina on foot or by bicycle along Madeira Drive is completely unsatisfactory. In particular the unoccupied Black Rock site presents an off-putting prospect to visitors and is not at all what we want as a welcoming approach to the Marina.

We were therefore very pleased to see the proposals for rejuvenation of this site, which would be a considerable improvement on the current condition and put the area in an acceptable condition pending any future development.

One of the objectives of our Forum Vision Statement is for the Marina to be connected to the City and we therefore wish to emphasise the importance of the links from Black Rock into the Marina. We encourage you to work with the various land owners at the Marina to ensure that these pedestrian and cycle routes are completed. The Marina contributes significantly to the economy of the City and improving the connections between the Marina and the rest of the City will benefit us all.

Three points of detail were raised by the Steering Committee members on viewing the proposals and we ask that these be taken into account in the preparation of the planning application.

Firstly, the importance of lighting for the new pedestrian and cycle routes. The current lack of lighting means that many people just do not use this route after dark and those who use the route do not currently feel safe doing so. It was not clear from the presentation whether lighting was included; it is important that it is.

Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Forum

Secondly, the area has suffered with unlawful activity in the past, in particular unauthorised caravan encampments and 'car cruise' events, which have created nuisance and intimidated those crossing the area. The designs should be careful to incorporate means of preventing unauthorised vehicle access.

Finally, the presentation referred to a 'pedestrian and cycle boardwalk' along the beach, although verbally we were advised that cyclists would stay on the road. We urge that the latter should be the case and cyclists and pedestrians separated. These two groups do not mix well and we envisage conflicts and accidents should they be given a shared space.

We trust that these comments are helpful and wish you every success in bringing this project to fruition.

Yours sincerely



Andrew Knight
Chair, Brighton Marina Neighbourhood Forum Steering Committee,
on behalf of the Steering Committee.