

From: Brunswick Town Association [REDACTED]
Sent: 08 April 2022 09:32
To: reviews
Subject: LGBCE - Brighton and Hove City Council Review

Categories: Submissions [REDACTED]

From The Brunswick Town Association
Brunswick and Adelaide Ward
Brighton and Hove City Council

The Brunswick Town Association is fully constituted and represents Residents Associations and other groups within Brunswick & Adelaide Ward.

The Association wishes to register the following comments on the Boundary Commission draft proposals, and formally **OBJECT** to the merging of Brunswick & Adelaide with Regency.

From the LGBCE Draft Summary, there are three key objectives of the review:

- Electoral equality
- Community Identity
- Effective and convenient local government

Electoral equality.

- The population of B&A is currently 11,367, giving a density of 21,488/sqk. This appears to be the most densely populated ward in the city, 50% denser than its neighbours to east and west.
- The population of Regency is currently 12,288, a little more than B&A but with a density of 13,897/sqk, a third less than B&A.
- The population of Central Hove is currently 9,974, much less than B&A and with a density of 13,089/sqk, also a third less than B&A.
- Part of the existing Regency is lost in the proposal, mainly the residential area north of Upper North Street, so difficult to predict what the population of the new Regency with B&A would be but say 21,000. This is much the same as B&A with Central Hove so the numbers are the same whichever B&A is combined with.

Community identity.

- B&A is now and always has been historically a self contained community with its own essential character and identity. It was constructed as such in the 1820s as the West Brighton Estate with a highly organised layout and distinctive architectural design. The architect to the Estate, Charles Busby, laid out a "town with all services and activities", with its own town hall, fire and police stations, covered market and riding school, all still clearly visible. That layout and architecture survives to this day and is visually unmistakeable. All the historic buildings within this ward are Listed Grades 1, 2 or 2*
- Being originally on the Hove side of the western boundary of Brighton, the change in the seafront on the old municipal boundary line at the Peace Statue is a major and most important factor. This change from a traditional pleasure ground English seafront to wide sweeping lawns and a commerce-free promenade has always been regarded as one of the major urban set pieces of the south coast. The fact that B&A and Central Hove both face and enjoy this unique setting gives them a unity of interest and needs.

- The fact that the Brunswick Town Conservation Area, established in 1977, follows almost exactly the ward boundary supports the unique character of this relatively small area. Such a unique character has been recognised by the Commission in its statement about Kemp Town and the ward boundary there.
- There is a vibrant village atmosphere throughout B&A which adds to the essential character. Residents tend to feel a special allegiance to B&A which would be unlikely in south Regency. Community maintenance of the formerly private, now public gardens, flourishes with year on year prizes.
- B&A is proud to have an excellent community facility in the Cornerstone Centre, formerly part of St John's Church on the western edge of the ward. Due to its location the Centre serves both B&A and Central Hove wards, but is too far from Regency to be convenient.
- The recently published draft Brunswick Town Conservation Area Character Statement supports these important features of the Ward.

Effective and convenient local government.

- Both B&A and Central Hove are similar residential areas with similar character and needs, quite unlike Regency. We believe it is more logical to combine B&A with Central Hove, **if it is really necessary to eliminate B&A as a separate entity, which we doubt**. The current proposal leaves Central Hove alone with a population of under 10,000 whilst creating a new Regency of over 20,000. How can that be logical or promote more effective representation?

Sir Ronald de Witt
Chair of The Brunswick Town Association
8th April 2022