

Brighton and Hove City Council

Personal Details:

Name: Juliette Hunting

E-mail:

Postcode:

Organisation Name: Lansdowne Area Residents Association

Comment text:

This is a joint response from Friends of Brunswick Square & Terrace, Lansdowne Area Residents Association and Friends of Palmeira & Adelaide - the three residents associations of the Brunswick & Adelaide ward in Brighton & Hove.

Uploaded Documents:

[Download \(https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1649342633_LGBC+response.pdf\)](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/download_document?file=draft%2F1649342633_LGBC+response.pdf)

We are responding to the draft recommendations from the Local Government Boundary Commission for 'New electoral arrangements for Brighton & Hove City Council' dated February 2022.

This is a combined response from the **Friends of Brunswick Square & Terrace (FBST)**, the **Lansdowne Area Residents Association (LARA)** and the **Friends of Palmeira & Adelaide (FOPA)**. We are the Residents' Associations for the vast majority of residents and separate communities within the Brunswick & Adelaide ward of Brighton & Hove City Council. As such, we are responding, in the main, to the proposal, within the draft recommendations, to join the Brunswick & Adelaide ward with a reconfigured (from current size) Regency ward under the name of 'Regency'.

In the first instance, we are dismayed that these proposals are based on a 'virtual tour' of Brighton & Hove and that no physical visit has been made to the City to ascertain and assess the issues that will affect, and be affected by, the proposed boundary changes. We cannot accept that a virtual tour, no matter how detailed, could relay the nature of the various communities within the City and the differing nature of the needs and interests of those communities within the current electoral wards.

For background purposes, the Brunswick area of Hove is, historically, the original buildings built outside of Brighton to the west, which eventually became Hove. As such the area of Brunswick & Adelaide has a significant part in the history of the Hove part of the City – both in its origin and its architecture.

As part of the proposal to incorporate Brunswick & Adelaide into a 'Regency' ward, the historic boundary that separates Hove from Brighton is completely ignored. This boundary is marked by the Peace statue on the seafront is acknowledged by all residents as where you move from Brighton to Hove or vice versa. No virtual tour can relay the depth of feeling amongst residents about whether they are resident within Brighton or Hove. Any ward that encompasses such a large and historic part of central Hove with such a large and central part of 'tourist' Brighton is **not meeting one of your three statutory criteria - 'reflecting community interests and identities'**.

The main thrust of your reasoning behind opting for the Conservative Group's proposals with regard to the Brunswick & Adelaide ward is seemingly condensed into one paragraph in the Commission's proposals – paragraph 109. It states that the Conservative Group's proposals 'provided for the best balance of our three statutory criteria' and that on your virtual tour of the area you 'observed strong similarities between properties on Western Road and have been persuaded by arguments related to their shared use of local amenities and the area's centrality to local tourism'.

Even if one accepts the statement that there is a strong similarity of properties along Western Road – which we do not – then to suggest we have anything in common with the current part of the Regency ward, that you intend to merge us with, is completely at odds with the facts and your statutory criteria. The major part of the current Regency ward is a tourist area consisting of the conference centre, the biggest cinema, the main shopping centre, most of the nightclubs, seafront restaurants and bars frequented by the majority of day-trippers. It is an area with the highest concentration of police activity and is for the most part the commercial centre of Brighton.

By contrast, the Brunswick & Adelaide ward is a quiet, residential area where families and children live. It is an area consisting of residential squares, terraces, streets and crescents of Grade 1 & 2 listed Regency and early Victorian properties and incorporates a large conservation area. The only real commercial activity is along Western Road where the businesses are far more independent and community focused than the large brand names and chains that occupy Western Road in the current Regency ward. The Brunswick & Adelaide ward therefore has little or no 'shared use of local amenities' with Regency ward and is in no way 'central to local tourism'. It is a concern that your

virtual tour did not seemingly take you off Western Road into the area south of it. If it had, then you would have clearly seen the marked change between the areas south of Western Road in the two wards as they currently exist.

Additionally, the strength and depth of community within the existing Brunswick & Adelaide ward clearly did not come across in your virtual tour. The fact that we have three large and thriving residential associations, within our ward, with high levels of activity and engagement from residents, is a demonstration of community interest and identity. This is something that is clearly lacking in that part of the Regency ward you intend to maintain. Primarily because, as stated, this is mostly a commercial area where many of the property owners are not resident. Their businesses (large and small) operate from there but they do not live there.

In short, the Brunswick & Adelaide area has absolutely nothing in common with that part of the Regency ward you propose to merge it with. In fact, it could barely have less in common. Your proposals in respect of the Brunswick & Adelaide ward have been massaged to meet your equality of representation criteria and have completely failed to reflect community interest or identity. In that respect, they also do not provide for 'effective and convenient local government'.

In our view, the Commission has paid far too much heed to one particular political group's proposals and the consequent political motivations that may lie behind them. It is difficult to understand why the Conservative Group would make such a ridiculous proposal otherwise.

Our counter proposal is as follows. In order not to have a domino effect on all your other proposed changes, we suggest that the Brunswick & Adelaide ward remains unchanged (except for the addition of Kingsway Court) and keeps its current number of councillors. The Regency ward, in its reduced capacity, is a unique part of the City containing the largest commercial activity and buildings. As such, it has special interests, needs and problems – none of which coincide with Brunswick & Adelaide – and as such could easily justify two councillors on its own or, with its reduced residential numbers, maybe only one councillor.

In conclusion, the combined Residents' Associations strongly reject these proposed boundary changes to the Brunswick & Adelaide ward. In particular, we are completely opposed to the removal of the Hove/Brighton boundary and are convinced your proposal, in respect of our ward, will be of great detriment to the communities and residents who live here, whilst failing to meet two of your own statutory criteria.

We respectfully request that the proposed changes to the Brunswick & Adelaide ward are rejected.

§ See review of the Brunswick Town Conservation Area Character Statement. Commissioned by Brighton and Hove Council, Tim Jefferies IHBC | Planning Team Leader – Heritage & Projects | Policy, Projects & Heritage Team 2022 This document gives an excellent summary of the area and is open for consultation now. It indicates the importance of the Brunswick area. <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2022-03/Brunswick%20Town%20Conservation%20Area%20Character%20Statement%20Rev%2002%20Low%20Res.pdf>

Further reading:

Brighton and Hove, Nicholas Antram and Richard Morrice, Pevsner Architectural Guide, Yale University Press 2008

A History of Hove, Judy Middleton, Phillimore Press, Chichester

Gillespie, Matthew

From: juliette [REDACTED] >
Sent: 10 April 2022 21:15
To: reviews
Cc: Juliette Hunting
Subject: ADDENDUM to Lara, Lansdowne Area Residents' Association joint submission to the LGBReview have your say Brunswick and Adelaide

Categories: Submissions, Matt

This is an Addendum to The Lansdowne Area Residents' Association joint submission to the LGBCE acknowledged on 7 April 200.

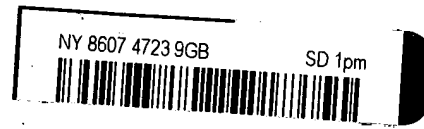
The Association organised a petition in which 189 objected to the proposals to remove Brunswick and Adelaide. Faced with Covid, sickness and severe weather, our resources were limited, but we obtained these signatures.

While collecting these, some in co-operation with local businesses, the initial reaction was an ignorance of the proposals. In fact many signatures involved a discussion of about 10 minutes, explaining the situation, a task of communication which should have been undertaken by the commission, with wider dissemination of the intentions.

Please acknowledge this. For information these petition signatures are filed securely with the Associations' Records and will be shredded at the end of the exercise. If you wish for further information please telephone me as below,

Juliette Hunting
Chair, LARA Lansdowne Area Residents' Association [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Lansdowne Area Residents' Association, LARA

Addendum to submission

Enclosed are the original petition signatures collected in the Area by residents. I do not have any copies. Please acknowledge their safe arrival.

Thankyou

Yours sincerely

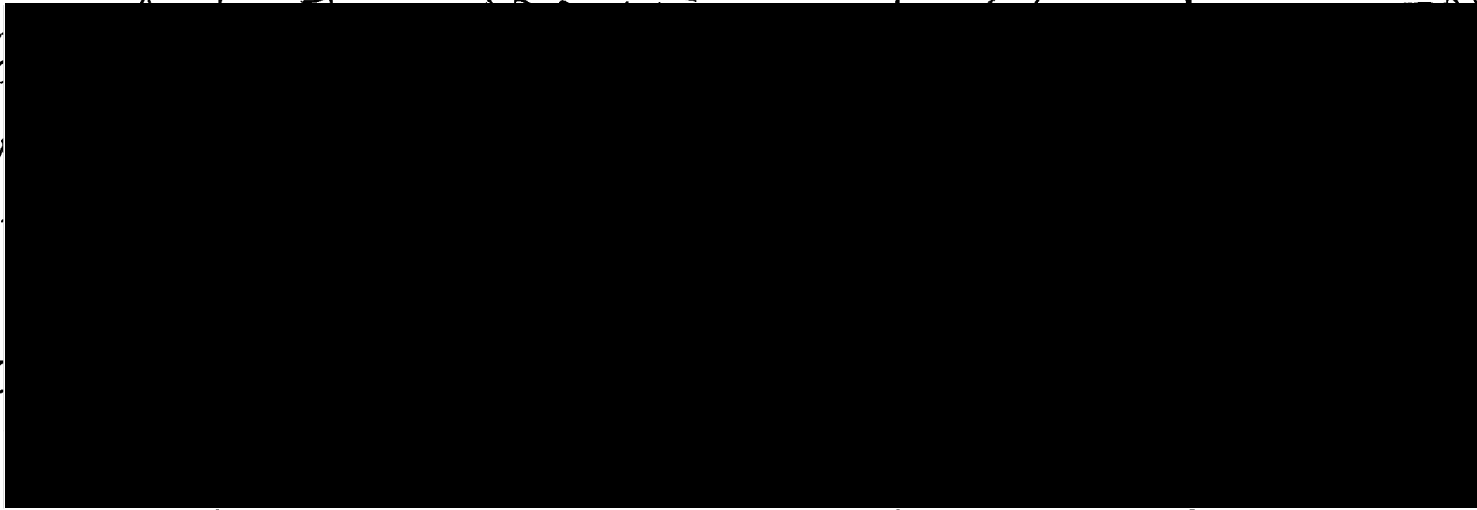
[REDACTED]
Juliette Hunting, Chair,
Lansdowne Area Residents' Association

[REDACTED]
21.04.22

SAVE OUR BRUNSWICK AND ADELAIDE WARD

Under the Local Government Boundary Review, it is proposed to remove the BRUNSWICK AND ADELAIDE WARD, the origins of HOVE and join it to a new Regency Ward consisting of central Brighton seafront and Western Road.

As residents we strongly object to this proposed change, and request that Brunswick and Adelaide remain an independent ward in Brighton and Hove with its own TWO Councillors who will have our interests at heart.

Name	Address	Signature	Tel/email
			
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Ben

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Name

Address

Signature

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SAVE OUR BRUNSWICK AND ADELAIDE WARD

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CB

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Name Address Signature Tel/email

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SAVE OUR BRUNSWICK AND ADELAIDE WARD

Under the Local Government Boundary Review, it is proposed to remove the BRUNSWICK AND ADELAIDE WARD, the origins of HOVE and join it to a new Eastern Ward consisting of central Brighton seafront and Western Road.

As residents we strongly object to this proposed change, and request that Brunswick and Adelaide remain an independent ward in Brighton and Hove with its own TWO Councillors who will have our interests at heart.

NAME

Address

Signature

Tel/email

THE OUR BRUNSWICK AND ADELAIDE WARD

Following the Local Government Boundary Review, it is proposed to remove the ~~HOVE~~ **HOVE AND ADELAIDE WARD**, the origins of HOVE and join it to a new ~~Brighton~~ **Brighton** Ward consisting of central Brighton seafront and Western Road.

~~As a result~~ we strongly object to this proposed change, and request that ~~the ward~~ and Adelaide remain an independent ward in Brighton and Hove ~~with~~ **TWO** Councillors who will have our interests at heart.

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Address

Signature

Tel/email

SAVE OUR BRUNSWICK AND ADELAIDE WARD

17/19

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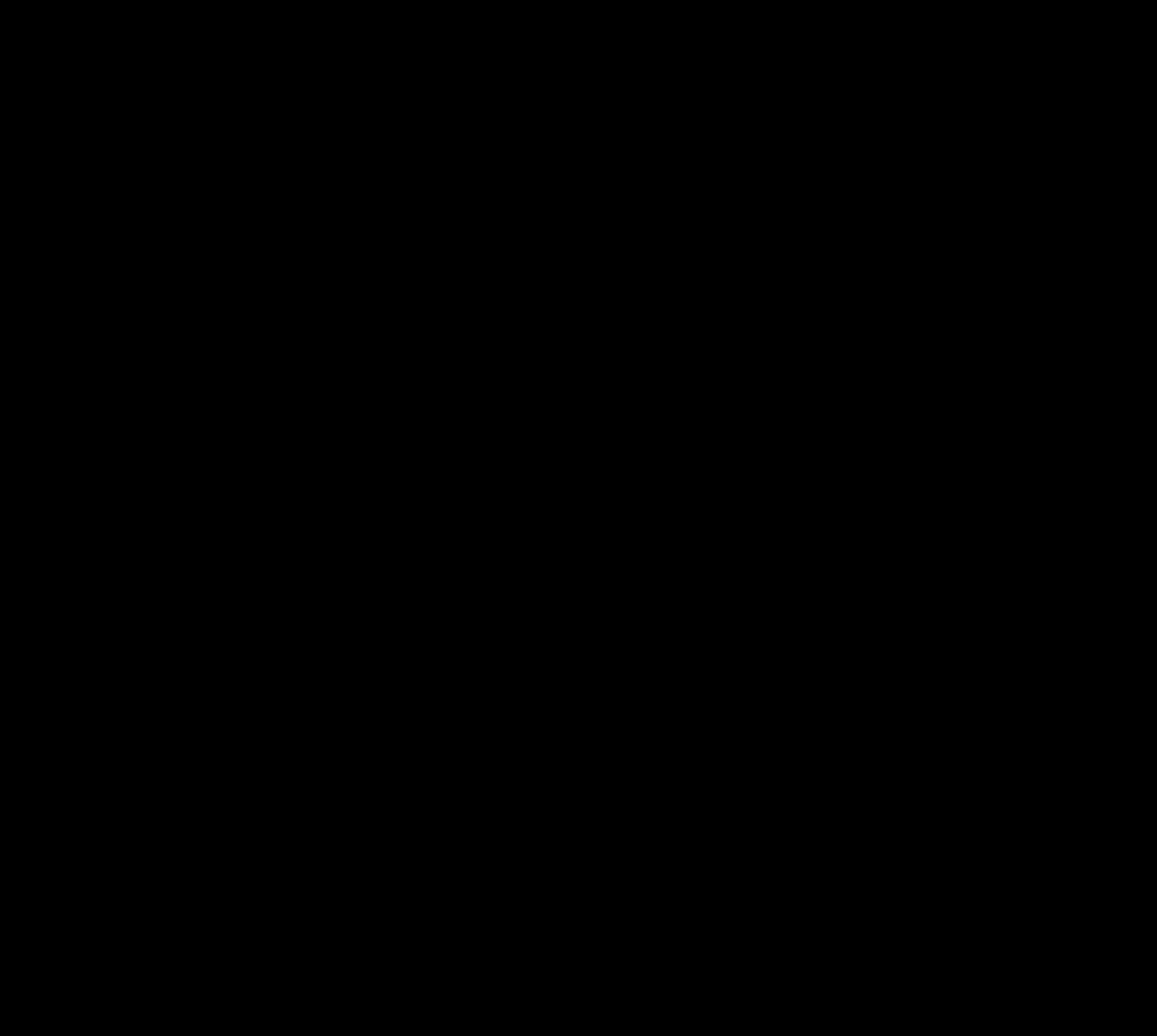
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Name

Address

Signature

Tel/email

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them.

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