
Big conversation video transcript

- Video link: <https://youtu.be/nw3xjykmk3U>
- Consultation link: <https://brighton-hove.gov.uk/parks-consultation>

Text transcript

The words 'The big conversation about the city's parks and open spaces' and the Brighton & Hove City Council logo appear.

A woman walks through a park with various colourful plants and trees on a sunny day.

Voice over commentary begins, "Brighton & Hove City Council wants your views on the future of the city's parks. Councils all over the country are facing reductions in the funding they receive from central government. It means they're facing tough decisions about how to go on providing many services. In Brighton & Hove, one key service affected will be parks.

Various online news stories are shown highlighting the funding reductions to local authorities.

A sign in Preston Rock Garden displays a map of the park and the wildlife that can be found in the park. A man looks at the plants and bushes as he walks through the park.

The voice over commentary continues, "Between 2009 and 2020, the council's parks service will have to lose around one third of its funding, down from £4.7m to just £3.4m.

"So to keep parks going, it means the council must explore new ways of providing and funding its 147 parks and playgrounds, as well as around 3,000 allotments.

"It's happening already. For example, new funding has been secured from national sporting bodies or the Lottery. Volunteers and Friends' groups are an important part of maintaining parks. Future options could include turning some parks into charities or trusts. Some spaces could be sold to help pay for those which remain."

A large grass area is shown with a statue in the foreground, while people are sitting in the café in the background.

Men and women are playing bowls on one of the bowling greens.

Dozens of people are shown sitting on park benches talking to each other and eating food.

The voice over commentary continues, “Because change is now essential, the council wants residents’ views on how that change should occur. What’s important about your local park? With less money around what would be on your shopping list for parks? If things must be cut, what should go?”

Cllr Gill Mitchell (chair of the environment committee) is sat down on a bench in a park and says: “And so what we’re doing is asking everybody and anybody to come forward with suggestions as to how they think we could attract income into the future to maintain our parks. So we’re looking at things other councils have done such as forming trusts to manage their parks. We’re looking at ways the parks themselves can generate income – activities that can be done within them. Perhaps cafes and so on could contribute to their future. So this is a wide-ranging conversation.”

Literature advertising the big conversation is shown including news articles, posters and postcards.

The voice over commentary continues, “To get as many views as possible the council has launched what it calls the Big Conversation on parks. It’s seeking views in various ways and there’ll be lots of opportunities to get involved. Survey postcards will be sent directly to 3000 homes. If you get one, please respond. And see the contact details at the end of this video.”

A woman at The Level says: “In addition to everything else I like about this park is the fact it’s a very, very safe place for children to come.”

A child at The Level says: “I like that it has a café!”

Another woman at The Level says: “They’re well maintained [the parks], I don’t know how they keep that up. So you come in the morning, it’s fresh and has been looked after. It’s very nice.”

Another child at The Level says: “I like this one better as well because it’s got mini, baby [water] sprinklers and there’s big ones for older children.”

Denise Taylor walks through the Green Ridge open space and looks at the dew pond.

Denise Taylor, chair of City in Bloom says: “We should be under no illusion that our open spaces, our playgrounds, our city parks are all under threat. Due to budget restrictions, lack of resources, the council are going to have to be very creative about how they maintain these parks in future.

“We’re talking about our central small parks where you might take a child for a push on a swing, where you might walk a dog, where you might have a quick jog, where you might just sit and be – and read a book. Everything, every single area in the open spaces sector is going to be affected. And the council are putting it out there for us to get involved. We must get involved, for the solution, for the way forward. And hopefully they’ll listen to what we have to say. And anybody that’s passionate about their local space must get involved.”

The voice over commentary continues, “Join the Big Conversation about Brighton & Hove’s parks. You’ll need to give the council your views by October 28.”

The words ‘Take part in the big conversation at www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/parks-consultation. The consultation is open until 28 October 2016’ and the Brighton & Hove City Council logo appear.

The video ends.