



FRIENDS OF HOVE LAGOON

C/O 31 Derek Avenue
Hove, BN3 4PE

17 June 2021

Re: Levelling Up Fund: Brighton and Hove City Council's "Kingsway to the Sea" proposal

I am writing to express our support for the above submission to the Government's "Levelling Up" Fund, which the council has consulted us on.

Friends of Hove Lagoon (FoHL) is a thriving, fully constituted community group with a committee of 9 resident and 3 business reps. We are situated at the extreme west end of the city, next to the sea and adjacent to Shoreham Port. The main purpose of FoHL is to preserve, protect and improve Hove Lagoon and the local area. We are a special amenity, including a café with public toilets, a number of water-based activities, children's rides, playground and paddling pool, a skatepark and a large area of grass for dog walking and outdoor exercise and with direct access to the beach. We also run an annual event- LagoonFest - which is very successful. We have over 400 email supporters and many more on social media and a constant flow of locals, day trippers and holiday makers use our facilities every day.

Hove Lagoon and the rest of the area included in "Kingsway to the Sea" has an interesting history and a very particular landscape which needs constant maintenance and care, which in turn costs a lot of money. Along with other towns and cities located by the sea, we have our very own "levelling up" issues, problems and delights. The weather conditions, the salty air, environmental changes, vandalism and graffiti and the continual footfall of locals and tourists are a challenge to those of us – statutory and community alike - attempting to keep our heritage safe, at the same time as responding to the everyday needs of our citizens.

Regular users of Hove Lagoon and the adjacent seafront are very proud of its heritage and what it offers to families and individuals of all ages and

abilities. Many are happy to volunteer for activities to keep it tidy, safe and fun for all, but we have reached the stage where even we are unable to maintain and improve without sufficient funds. Along with other local groups, we have been lobbying the council for interventions to “stop the rot” of our local landscape and historic buildings.

We have been very clear with our views about what changes to our area we will and won't support and will continue to challenge and/or support the council's proposals and actions as and when appropriate.

The “Levelling Up” fund would go some way to help us on our collaborative journey of preservation, protection and improvement for Hove Lagoon and our part of the seafront. Hence our support for the council's application.

I am very happy to respond to any questions or provide further clarification in support of this application.

Sue Johnson
Secretary
Friends of Hove Lagoon

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