

The West Hove Forum

Email: westhoveforum@gmail.com

Website: whforum.wordpress.com

18 June 2021

Ms Toni Manuel,
Seafront Development Officer
Brighton and Hove Council

Dear Toni,

I am writing on behalf of the West Hove Forum (see below) to strongly endorse the application that Brighton and Hove Council are making for the *Kingsway to the Sea* proposal for levelling up funding.

Kingsway to the Sea is a crucially important area of open space for recreation and exercise including the King Alfred Sports Centre, especially for all residents in the western part of city of Brighton and Hove, some 100,000 people, including many who are disadvantaged, living in social housing and privately rented accommodation in the western council wards of the city.

The West Hove Forum undertook a review in 2018 of the public domain spaces in *Kingsway to the Sea* area (the so called Western Hove Lawns) prior to establishing the separate West Hove Seafront Action Group of community groups and businesses operating in the area and which is now a member group. This review found this has been an important area of relative neglect with many rapidly deteriorating facilities dating from the immediate post war era (1946-55) and in urgent need of improvements to make these spaces appropriate for the needs of the 2020s.

We have also observed that during the COVID pandemic restrictions, these public open spaces and facilities have been of vital importance to the health and well being of the community but in having this function come under considerably increased pressure of use by residents from the western area of the city, again highlighting the urgent need for improvements.

High environmental benefits: making *sustainable improvements* according to a plan which is envisaged as environmentally sensitive and anticipating needed adaptations to climate change in this close to marine environment will be important and highly beneficial.

Best Regards,

Dr Edward Clay (Chair on behalf of the West Hove Forum)

Note: West Hove Forum is a network of more than 20 community resident associations, groups supporting the six public spaces, NGOs supporting the homeless and other disadvantaged people in the Westbourne and Wish Wards of Brighton and Hove having a population of more than 20,000 residents and with local Councillors as ex-officio members.