

**Legal & Democratic Services****Democratic Services**

Brighton & Hove City Council
Room 167
Hove Town Hall
Hove BN3 3BQ

VIA EMAIL**Date:** 1 December 2016**Direct Line:** (01273) 291058**E-mail:** john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Dear Jim,

Deputation presented to the Environment, Transport & Sustainability Committee Meeting

I have detailed the response to your deputation from the Chair of the Committee below for your information:

"Thank you for your deputation and for the time and effort that members of the Allotment Federation have put into looking at and considering the options for delivering budget savings.

I am really open to suggestions from you on the best way to deliver budget savings. You have very recently set out a number of interesting proposals with regard administration charges, age based concessions and phasing of rental increases for example – again I am grateful for your suggestions and we are keen to find a way of testing some of the suggestions you made in your previous letter to us and I will discuss with officers how this is best delivered.

I note your comments on the allotment water systems which I understand are old and probably do leak. We used specialist contractors to 'gas test' Roedale Valley allotments water system this year and intend to use the same process at Weald allotments next year. If we find big leaks that can be repaired this will save money however if we find that the water systems need replacing we will need to discuss finding ways to fund these repairs.

I would certainly like to ensure that those least able to pay are cushioned from any rent increases and support the Federation's recent proposal of confining rent increase above inflation to non-concession holders but I am concerned about the practicality of the allotment service doing the assessing whether allotment holders should qualify as coming from a low income household as currently there is just not the resource available within this service to do this. I agree with the principle but believe further work is required to examine the practicalities of that.

In your deputation you state that you have serious concerns about the way that allotment volunteers are treated. I am well aware of how dependant we are upon the site representatives so have asked the Head of Cityclean and Cityparks to look into this further and would be grateful if you could supply him with examples of this poor treatment".

If you have any further questions or queries or need further assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

John Peel
Democratic Services Officer