

## **Brighton Soundscape Workshop, 6-7 April 2011**

*Draft Agenda, 22nd February 2011 – subject to revision*

### **Aims:**

1. To facilitate exchange between COST WGs and ISO WG54, primarily on soundscape issues related to health, quality of life and restorative functions of the environment.
2. To raise awareness and promote communication on soundscapes among the general public, stakeholders and policymakers, including encouraging exploration of new ways of listening in local soundscapes, and new ways of tackling noise and improving soundscape quality.
3. To explore how soundscapes concepts might contribute to local development planning in Brighton and Hove, including core strategy, open space strategy, public realm improvement and any future ‘neighbourhood development plan’, and to demonstrate how soundscape concepts might be applied in a range of types of environment, e.g. seafront, foreshore, historic terraces, squares and formal parks and gardens, narrow lanes, and edge of South Downs National Park.
4. To explore how a soundscape approach might contribute to resolution of issues raised by Local Action Teams, e.g. student noise, antisocial behaviour, late night street noise associated with entertainment venues in mixed use areas, issues related to sports stadia, and road traffic noise ‘hotspots’ as identified in Environmental Noise Directive Action Plans.

### **Workshop outline [PRELIMINARY]**

#### **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April**

09.30-09.45 Formal opening and welcome – Councillor(s), sponsors, etc.

09.45 – 10.45 **Introduction to the workshop** (1 hour)

Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp: Soundscape approaches, including public space perception and enhancement, drawing on experience in Berlin.

Luigi Maffei: Soundscape approaches, including guidelines in soundscape heritages and tourism, drawing on experience in the historical town of Napoli Unesco Patrimony.

*10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break*

11.00 – 13.00 **Health and quality of life context in soundscape research** (2 hours)

Irene van Kamp: Restoration as health outcome

Peter Lercher: Quality of life as health outcome

Daniel Shepherd: Amenity, health-related quality of life, and noise: from the high-rise to the farmhouse.

Kin Che Lam: Necessary context information from a physical geographer's viewpoint.

*13.00 – 14.00 Buffet lunch, with opportunity to visit exhibition, including panels illustrating issues, opportunities and plans in Brighton & Hove*

14.00 – 15.30 **Working groups** Parallel sessions (1.5 hours)

Group 1: **Health outcomes and related context**

led by Irene van Kamp, Peter Lercher & Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp

Group 2: **Physical and socio-psychological context**

led by Ronnie Klæboe, K C Lam & Daniel Shepherd

Group 3: **Social surveys and soundscape mapping**

led by Östen Axelsson

Group 4: **Local soundscape issues and potential**

led by Lisa Lavia, Max Dixon

*15.00 – 15.30 Tea and informal exchange*

15.30 – 16.30 **Summary & conclusions of discussion groups** (1 hour)

Presentation by WG-representatives

17.00 - 18.00 Soundwalks and site visits (near venue, optional)

*19.00 – 21.00 Evening meal with opportunities to informally discuss local issues and opportunities*

## **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

09.00 – 12.00 Soundscapes in a community context (3 hours)

Harry Witchel: Sound and Social Territory?

Ronnie Klæboe: Role of greenery

Jian Kang and YY Hao: Waterscape and soundscape in Sheffield - role in urban centre regeneration, and subjective evaluation

Brigitte Schulte-Fortkamp: including action plans and community planning in Berlin, e.g. Nauener Platz

Frits van den Berg: quiet area implementation: Netherlands

Colin Grimwood (invited, title still open).

*12.00 – 13.00 Buffet lunch, with opportunity to visit exhibition, including panels illustrating issues, opportunities and plans in Brighton & Hove*

13.00 – 14.30 Working groups (1.5 hours)

Group 1: **General policy approaches in soundscape implementation**

Led by C Grimwood & J Kang

Group 2: **Local approaches in soundscape implementation**

Led by F van den Berg & B Schulte-Fortkamp

14.30 – 15.30 Summary & conclusions (1 hour)

*Opportunity for some with long travel distances to depart*

Parallel sessions:

15.30 – 17.00 Tea, with opportunities for participants to discuss opportunities for addressing local issues (e.g. soundscape improvements in open spaces and planned developments, guided and self-guided soundwalks...)

15.30 – 17.00 Business meeting of ISO WG54; meeting of the COST Steering Group.

## **Annex: Brighton and Hove Council policy areas with particular relevance to soundscape quality**

*The following documents illustrate areas of Council activity where soundscape work might most readily contribute to improving health and quality of life.*

### ***‘Core Strategy’, proposed submission, February 2010***

<http://www.brighton->

[hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/ldf/REg\\_27Core\\_Strategy\\_Proposed\\_Submission\\_February\\_2010v2.pdf](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/ldf/REg_27Core_Strategy_Proposed_Submission_February_2010v2.pdf)

Relevant extracts:

The Spatial Vision states: “In 2026 there will be more people but less traffic and congestion in the city through a reduction in car use of 10-20%. There will be less air borne pollution, less traffic noise and far lower carbon emissions. The city will have a flexible transport network incorporating transport interchanges, more sustainable transport corridors and be able to accommodate peaks of demand” (page 12).

Strategic Objective SO19 states: “Across the city apply the principles of healthy urban planning and work with partners to achieve an equality of access to community services (health and learning), to opportunities and facilities for sport and recreation and lifelong learning. Ensure pollution is minimised and actively seek improvements in water, land and air quality and reduce noise pollution” (page 16).

SO21: “Promote and provide for sustainable forms of transport so that there will be less congestion, less air borne pollution, less traffic noise and less greenhouse gas emissions and work with partners to develop safe and sustainable means of access to and across the city including measures to improve bus and rail services and the provision of a coastal transport system and sites for park and ride” (page 16).

Paragraph 2.119: “Proposals for Valley Gardens must seek to realise the potential of the open space as a key connecting section of the ‘green network’ in the city. Accessibility to the open spaces will need to be improved, whilst new planted tree screening and water features, for example, can help towards improving local air quality and reducing the impact of traffic noise...” (page 68)

3.29: “The geographical inequalities in health in Brighton & Hove are such that there are marked differences in physical and mental health and life expectancy between the most deprived and most affluent neighbourhoods in the city. The purpose of this policy is to help reduce these inequalities (see also SA6 – Sustainable Neighbourhoods). It is also recognised that alongside this geographical inequality; health issues affect different communities differently. The determinants of health are closely linked to quality of life factors such as the ability to earn a reasonable wage, access to healthy housing, open space, an active lifestyle, cultural and community facilities, healthy food, care and health facilities together with the impact of noise and air quality. Environmental factors and constraints in the public realm are increasingly being recognised in national guidance as having a significant impact on health. The council will investigate the possibility of establishing a ‘Care Farms102’ programme with tenant farmers that encourage farms to develop opportunities for respite care, ‘Farm to Fork’ activities, mind exercise and nutrition” (page 92).

### **CP8 Sustainable Transport**

**The council will seek the creation of an integrated sustainable transport system that will accommodate new development, improve accessibility, promote walking, cycling and public transport use, and contribute to a safer, cleaner, quieter city”** (page 104).

### **DA1 Brighton Centre and Churchill Square Area**

**“...4. Improve community and public safety in the area, by ensuring replaced/new leisure and cultural facilities promote a balanced range of complementary evening and night-time economy uses and address, where appropriate, community safety concerns, in particular along West Street and the lower seafront promenade”** (page 23).

2.20 West Street contains a concentration of bars and large nightclubs and central Brighton and particularly the West Street area, continues to experience higher incidences of violent crime<sup>38</sup>. A priority will therefore be to improve community and public safety including West Street improvements to ensure a balanced range of complementary evening and night-time economy uses and initiatives to reduce public place violence” (page 25).

### **SA2 Central Brighton**

**“3. The Council will promote a balanced range of complementary evening and night-time economy uses which appeal to a wide range of age and social groups, avoid a spread of large bars/pubs and night clubs and address public safety concerns”** (page 62-3).

2.114 Central Brighton and particularly the West Street area has been identified as a violent crime hotspot<sup>72</sup>. Through effective coordination of relevant strategies and policy areas (e.g. licensing, policing and public safety) the council will seek to improve safety by encouraging a more balanced range of complementary evening and night-time economy uses which appeal to a wide range of age and social groups and managing existing late night uses within identified parts of central Brighton. Local work to reduce violent crime is coordinated through the Local Public Service Agreement/Violent Crime Action Plan. In addition, a ‘Cumulative Impact Zone’ within central Brighton has been adopted by the Council’s Licensing Committee and grants greater powers to control the number of licensed premises in the city centre” (page 64).

### **CP17 Culture, Tourism and Heritage**

**“...6. Through the Development Policies and Sites Allocations Development Plan Document identify the St James’s Street area as a unique shopping and night time destination with specific needs concerning community safety, the night time economy, public realm improvements and addressing hate crime”** (page 133).

3.128 “...Priorities to be explored through the Development Policies and Sites allocation Development Plan Document are to enhance the local shopping area, acknowledge issues around the night time economy with improved public safety, pedestrian priority, improved surfacing and street lighting, upgrade of pedestrian routes, redesigned traffic management and cycle routes and to create an enhanced environment for St. James's St. area as a unique 'destination' for shopping and leisure...”

3.130 As well as enjoying the seafront, leisure visitors come to the city to shop, eat out, and enjoy culture, the built heritage, entertainment and nightlife. The city has tapped into the growing short break and cultural tourism markets, still mainly at weekends, but this extends beyond the summer into the spring and autumn. It is also important to recognise the importance of the city’s natural environment as a tourism asset and other areas of the city attractive to visitors. The Tourism Strategy identifies six tourism places across the city with a specific character and role when visitors come to the city<sup>169</sup> and this has been addressed in the Core Strategy through the Special Area preferred options DA1- 5 and SA1- SA5” (page 135).

### ***‘Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study’, PMP consultants, 2008-9***

[http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/ldf/Open\\_Space\\_Sport\\_and\\_Recreation\\_Study\\_-\\_Final\\_Report\\_Mar\\_2009\\_3.pdf](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/ldf/Open_Space_Sport_and_Recreation_Study_-_Final_Report_Mar_2009_3.pdf) and [Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study \(1 April 2010\) ERRATUM \[PDF 408kb\]](#)

5,000 household surveys were sent to households across Brighton & Hove in freepost response envelopes. 686 were returned. The questions (pages 239, 243, 247) were few and short, covering facilities, access, and safety, with no direct questions on noise or soundscape quality. Noise was only mentioned in context of events (music), and cemeteries (‘quiet contemplation’). Overview open space map on page 294.

***‘Public Life, Public Space Study’ 2007/8, by Jan Gehl et al -***

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/index.cfm?request=c1190374> identifies public realm improvement opportunities, e.g. pedestrianising streets. Page 20 includes noise in 2 of 12 key quality criteria “Opportunities to walk and listen – low noise levels, and street furniture that provides ‘talkscapes’” and “Protection against unpleasant sensory experiences”. Process included workshop to formulate visions. Implementation could be linked with soundscape improvement.

***‘Urban Characterisation Study’, published Jan 2009, by Council’s Design & Conservation Team*** [conservation@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:conservation@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

[http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/conservation/UrbanStdy\\_Introduction\\_final.pdf](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/conservation/UrbanStdy_Introduction_final.pdf)  
Map of Neighbourhoods, page 7, Landscape quality assessment Map, page 20.

***London Road Central Masterplan, Supplementary Planning Document 10, December 2009*** [http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/London\\_Rd\\_SPD\\_17\\_Dec\\_09.pdf](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/London_Rd_SPD_17_Dec_09.pdf)

Noise was identified as a problem during consultation, and the plan proposes improving the noise climate, particularly on main avenues. Reducing noise impact identified as potential beneficiary of section 106 funding. Proposes more mixed uses to create activity at night, when noise issues will need particular care. Central square could be a special opportunity.

***‘Nature Conservation and Development’ Supplementary Planning Document 11, March 2010,*** [http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/ldf/SPD11\\_Nature\\_Conservation\\_and\\_Development\\_adopted.pdf](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/downloads/bhcc/ldf/SPD11_Nature_Conservation_and_Development_adopted.pdf)

Refers to Brighton and Hove Biodiversity Action Plan, and ecological data available at [www.CityWildlife.org.uk](http://www.CityWildlife.org.uk). Do ecological surveys include soundscape-related data, e.g. sound recordings?