



# Hove & Kingsway Bowling Club

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Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) Reg. No. CH9280

Levelling Up Fund. Support for Council "Kingsway to the Sea" bid.

To: Toni Manuel, Seafront Development Manager

We fully support the "Kingsway to the Sea" initiative of Brighton and Hove City Council to instigate a revival of the sea front area of Hove.

Hove and Kingsway Bowling Club is a long-established bowling club with Pavilion and Clubhouse buildings leased from the Council providing facilities to support bowling activities including a cafe, bar and meeting space with opportunity to provide a variety of social functions. Bowling clubs have existed on this site in excess of one hundred years and the current club was formed in 1970 by the merger of two clubs: "Hove Bowling Club" and "Kingsway Bowling Club".

Membership is of wide age demographic and although gradually reduced over the last two decades has more recently increased with a drive for attracting new members showing signs that possibly there is an increased interest in outdoor activity. The green areas have seen a rise in use for socialising and fitness and health activity, and planting and landscaping would further enable the growing population of Hove to enjoy this green space.

The application for funding by the Council is a refreshingly welcome indication of the intention to invest in the revival and regeneration of this vital asset and restore the area to a thriving recreational outdoor space in line with its protected designation of "Fields in Trust". Not so long ago there were five fully operating well used and perfectly maintained six-rink bowling greens, but restraints and circumstance have reduced the number of bowling greens to two plus a croquet lawn, leaving the other grassed areas underused. There is enormous potential for landscaping and redesigning to provide new outdoor activities which will enhance the area and provide an exceptional panorama.

Financial restraints and only minimal community investment in the public facilities of the area has resulted in a stretch of amenity space with a rundown appearance lacking in focus. All ideas directed at making this a "go to" destination with pleasant landscaping and activity opportunities must be encouraged.

With the extra investment encouraging greater use of the site there is potential for our club to be a hub for greater community activity. With imaginative landscaping this could include a petanque court on the site to the north of the Bowls Clubhouse which would provide a low maintenance activity compatible with the existing bowls and croquet clubs and to the benefit of the existing enterprises. This would be an all-year round activity encouraging wider use of the area. The entrance to, and only aspect of, the Clubhouse is facing north, with no view or access to the promenade or beach. An opening on the south side providing direct access to the promenade would be of huge benefit and a roof terrace offering sea views would be a major asset and attraction. Other improvements could include an outside exercise area and metal fencing or hedgerows enclosing the bowling greens to provide shelter from the wind and protect against malicious or inadvertent damage to the playing surfaces.

We hope this is sufficient and we are happy to elaborate or clarify if it will be helpful.

Committee of Hove and Kingsway Bowling Club, 17th June 2021.