

Field officers help tackle problems

FIELD officers are out and about seven days a week tackling concerns raised by residents and businesses.

The team, which is employed by Brighton and Hove City Council, deals with problems such as noise, flytipping, barking dogs, blocked drains, illegal street trading and obstruction on pavements.

Field officer Teresa Reynolds, said: "There is no such thing as a typical day.

"We can go from serving an enforcement notice or responding to a complaint about noise to changing the tubes which are used to monitor air quality around the city.

"We need to be compassionate while enforcing regulations."

Go to new.brighton-hove.gov.uk for more information.

Carbon cuts demanded

A PETITION demanding Brighton and Hove be made carbon neutral has received political backing.

The city's Green Party councillors are supporting the appeal, which has received more than 1,000 signatures. They raised the issue at a full council meeting at Brighton Town Hall yesterday, supported by members of campaign group Extinction Rebellion who gathered outside.

Fury over testing for four-year-olds



From left, Sarah Nield, Vicky Trainer and Alison Ali and, below, Sarah's daughter Marvel Garner

By Karen Goodwin
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FUMING parents are protesting over new Government plans to test four-year-olds.

The "More Than A Score" campaign group is chalking the colourful slogans "#playnottestsat4" and "#morethanascore" on pavements around Brighton to raise awareness and show their opposition to the plans.

Parents and children are taking pictures of themselves in front of the slogans and sharing them online.

Parent campaigner Sarah Nield said: "We want to stop this programme in its tracks.

"Starting school is about making new friends, enjoying new adventures and developing a love of learning.

"It's not about testing how good our little ones are at English and maths. Why are the Government spending more money that's neither wanted nor needed?"

The "baseline tests" will cost the Government £10 million and will be piloted in schools across the UK, including Brighton and Hove, from September.

If deemed successful, the



Government will roll them out nationally in 2020.

The tests in spelling, reading and maths will be run by a private company, National Foundation for Educational Research, and will give every child in the country a "baseline score".

The British Educational Research Association has called testing "flawed, unjustified and totally unfit for purpose".

Parent campaigner Vicky Trainer said: "I've got a four-

year-old, you can ask them what's one plus one and they might say two, or they might say bananas.

"Half of them are crying all day in the first few weeks of school."

Sarah Nield said: "We're not anti-testing, tests are fine, but leave it up to the teachers to do their job.

"They don't need the Government to tell them how to do that."

Campaigner Alison Ali said: "Nowhere in this are

factfile

WHAT WILL BE ASSESSED?
Communication, language and literacy

Early mathematics skills.

HOW WILL IT BE MEASURED?

Tests will take 20 minutes

Teachers will record the results, assessing progress pupils make from reception to the end of Key Stage 2

they thinking of the children.

"They find money when they want to bail out academies and grammar schools.

"They're obsessed with collecting data and in thrall with the idea of league tables.

"The last budget at Halloween, we call it 'Hammond's horror budget', they spent more money on potholes than education.

"Do we have to dig a pot-hole to get the funding we need for our school?"

More Than A Score has launched a petition against the introduction of reception baseline assessment.

Visit www.morethanascore.org.uk for more details.

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