



11 February 2026

Brighton & Hove City Council
Planning Department

By Email

Dear Planning Department,

I am writing in support of planning application BH2025/02949 to erect a statue of the suffragette Mary Clarke in recognition of her exceptional legacy.

I am a proud supporter of the brilliant work of Jean Calder, The Mary Clarke Statue Campaign and other campaigners and historians who have been piecing together the important role that women in the city played in the suffrage movement.

This dedicated local group have been working hard over many years to ensure that these remarkable women's achievements are properly recognised, remembered and celebrated.

Mary Clarke, was one of these amazing women who, like her better known sister Emmeline Pankhurst, carried a fierce spirit and determination to fight injustice. As a key organiser at the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) office in Brighton for the election campaign in 1909, she encouraged women to unite, and to rebel, and she was an important link with campaigners in London, Manchester, and elsewhere.

Mary was fearless in her approach and passionately campaigned for equality but sadly never lived to see women gain the right to vote. Tragically Mary died in 1910, just two days after being released from prison, where she had endured the acutely painful and cruel practice of being force-fed. Mary was the first suffragette to lose her life during the campaign.

Such an important figure in Brighton's history deserves permanent recognition - and I hope that councillors on the committee will recognise the huge amount of work that the campaign has done to bring key stakeholders together.

Brighton should remember Mary. I fully support the application for her statue in my constituency.

Yours sincerely,

Siân Berry MP
Green Party, Brighton Pavilion