Amendment not accepted

Item 8(d)

Motion to: Council

20 June 2023

Subject: Protection and recovery of the swift population

Proposer: Councillor Champion

Seconder: Councillor Fox

An amendment has been received from **Councillor Giles**.

Councillor Giles is amending the motion as follows:-

Replacing the word "**Require**" with the word "**request**" in resolution 1)

Replacing the word "**include**" with the words "**to consider including, where practicable and in conjunction with the agreed priorities of its business plan and model**" in resolution 1)

Replace resolution 3) with the following "**Commit to reviewing the findings of the Biodiversity Baseline and Opportunities Study to ascertain the species and habitats under threat in Norwich, and how we go about conserving and enhancing them most effectively in accordance with our Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan. This will include considering updating planning policies to include a requirement for swift bricks to be used in all new buildings.**"

So the revised motion becomes:-

Swift populations are rapidly declining across the UK. Between 1995 and 2016, numbers of the birds declined by 53%, with first-year survival of the fledgling birds being similarly in decline. In 2021, they were added to the Red list on the UK Conservation Status report.

A simple action that can be taken to support swift populations is the addition of swift boxes or swift bricks across urban areas, providing homes for the birds when they arrive back in the UK in the spring to nest. Without homes they can return to each year, swifts will not nest, as they return each year to the same locations.

Local projects such as Wild King Street and the Norwich Swift Network have been working to make sure that homes exist for returning swifts; multiple swift boxes have gone up on sites across the city. Norwich City Council owns residential and commercial property across Norwich that would be suitable for aiding in this endeavour, and with local planning policies, can influence the provision of swift homes on many more buildings in our city. It is recognised in proposing this motion, amendments to local plan policies would have to be subject to a lawful, evidence

based process which could look more widely at the evidence to ensure habitats for wildlife are enhanced.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

1) request its wholly-owned company, Lion Homes, to consider including, where practicable and in conjunction with the agreed priorities of its business plan and model, swift bricks or swift boxes as standard on all its new properties, and to, where practicable;

2) require Norwich City Services Limited to install swift boxes onto current council-owned properties when roof repairs or similar at-height works are carried out;

3) commit to reviewing the findings of the Biodiversity Baseline and Opportunities Study to ascertain the species and habitats under threat in Norwich, and how we go about conserving and enhancing them most effectively in accordance with our Biodiversity Strategy and Development Plan. This will include considering updating planning policies to include a requirement for swift bricks to be used in all new buildings;

4) as part of the Love Norwich scheme, arrange for the council's at-height working equipment and staff trained in the use of it to be available to help put swift boxes onto private properties at intervals through the year;

5) use Citizen magazine and the council's social media accounts to raise awareness about swifts, inform residents how to install their own swift boxes, and publicise other appropriate actions members of the public can take; and

6) work with the Norwich Historic Churches Trust and the caretakers of other tall buildings in the city to find appropriate ways church towers and other high places can be used to support swift colonies, in conjunction with the priorities of the Environmental and Biodiversity Action Plan.