

Motion to Council
24 September 2019

Subject Biodiversity emergency

Proposer Councillor Bogelein
Seconder Councillor Utton

Item
10a

A recent Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) report warns “Nature is declining globally at rates unprecedented in human history – and the rate of species extinctions is accelerating” although “it is not too late to make a difference, but only if we start now at every level from local to global.”

Biodiversity loss is alarming. Species that have evolved over millennia are being lost forever as a direct result of human activity. Locally we experience a worrying decline of bee species and the hedgehog population, plus an anticipated loss of soil biodiversity. Immediate action is needed.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) Note that enhancing the local environment, including biodiversity, is part of the corporate plan priority of ‘great neighbourhoods, housing and environment’.
- (2) Ask cabinet to urgently take up local measures to prevent the loss of and to enhance biodiversity by:
 - (a) Updating the Biodiversity Action Plan (last updated in 2002) to give a full overview of the biodiversity measures planned and taken across different teams
 - (b) Clarifying the local policy to require that every new development achieves a biodiversity net gain. This could be achieved by producing a Supplementary Planning Document (see e.g. North Hampshire or Cornwall biodiversity SPD) which provides developers with detailed guidance to ensure all developments deliver a biodiversity net gain
 - (c) Following the example of Hull by including a local policy in the local plan which requires three new trees to be planted for every new dwelling
 - (d) Using council publications to encourage the public to take biodiversity measures in their own homes, for example, in gardens, on roofs, balconies and window sills
 - (e) Promoting a Parks Biodiversity Toolkit to encourage community engagement with habitat creation such as flowering meadows for pollinating insects
 - (f) Including additional wildlife measures in council-owned gardens and communal areas (greening, wildflower beds, small mammal holes etc.)
 - (g) Conducting biodiversity audits in our local parks and open spaces and setting measurable targets and standards for biodiversity increase in local parks and open spaces

- (h) Identifying suitable verges and establishing a 'river of flowers' wildflower programme where appropriate (see e.g. Rotherham Council)
- (i) Prioritising biodiversity targets in the River Wensum strategy
- (j) Exploring opportunities to encourage the growth of wildflowers on brownfield sites which are waiting to be developed in line with existing evidence that brownfield sites can make an important contribution to biodiversity enhancement
- (k) Joining the growing number of pesticide free councils across the UK (e.g. Glastonbury, Lewes, Hammersmith & Fulham), by establishing and implementing a long term plan to reduce chemical use as advised by Pesticide Action Network UK
- (l) Educating residents about the risks of pesticides (e.g. through posters at allotment sites)

Motion to Council
24 September 2019

Subject Unfair evictions

Proposer Councillor Jones

Seconder Councillor Davis

Item

10b

End unfair evictions - abolish Section 21 of 1988 Housing Act

Most of England's 11 million renters, including thousands in Norwich, are on tenancies with fixed terms of six months or a year; after this period has ended, landlords can evict their tenants with just two months' notice, without giving them a reason. These 'no fault evictions' were introduced under section 21 of the 1988 Housing Act; before this, renters had much greater security and it was difficult for landlords to evict tenants who paid the rent on time and looked after the property. This insecurity harms quality of life tenants with a range of documented negative side effects.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) Note that;
 - (a) Evictions are the number one cause of homelessness. 80% of evictions are on no-fault grounds, and 63% of private renters who were forced to move in 2016 were evicted not due to any fault of their own but because the landlord wanted to sell or use the property.
 - (b) Insecurity harms quality of life for tenants, with private renters less likely than either owners or people in council housing to say they know lots of people in their local area, but more worried that they will have to move within the next year. The threat of being evicted also gives landlords huge power over tenants, who may decide not to complain about disrepair, big rent increases or other problems in case they are kicked out.
 - (c) In Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden (among other countries), tenancies are indefinite, meaning blameless tenants cannot be evicted from their homes.
 - (d) In 2017, the Scottish government made tenancies indefinite and banned no-fault evictions under the terms of the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016.
 - (e) A growing number of groups and individuals support abolition, including the *Times* newspaper, the London Assembly, the Resolution Foundation Age UK,

Children England, Crisis, Centrepont, and over 50000 people who signed the 38 Degrees petition to abolish section 21 in a ten week period.

- (2) Ask the Leader to write to the Secretary of State for Local Government to request:-
- (a) The abolition of section 21 which would help to make renting more secure, improve standards, increase tenant confidence and ultimately contribute towards making renting a viable long-term alternative to home ownership or social rent for the millions who currently cannot access either.
 - (b) Since insecure tenancies make it difficult for renters to complain and organise for their rights, removing section 21 would make it easier for new renter unions like the London Renters Union and ACORN to organise and drive up standards in the private rented sector.
 - (c) To encourage renters across Norwich to take part in the End Unfair Evictions coalition online survey as part of the Government consultation on scrapping section 21. Including sharing support for the End Section 21 campaign on social media channels
 - (d) Ensure any changes to section 21 and section 8 cannot allow no-fault evictions through the back door.
 - (e) Call on the Members of Parliament for Norwich to publicly state their support for the abolition of section 21.

Motion to Council
24 September 2019

Subject Climate strike

Proposer Councillor Maguire
Seconded Councillor Matthew Fulton-McAlister

Item
10c

Earlier this year Norwich City Council recognised that the world is facing the combined effects of climate, economic, and social emergencies. According to the IPCC as of 1st January 2018 the world has a remaining carbon dioxide budget of 420 gigatonnes of CO² left in our CO² budget. At current levels that budget is wiped out within 8.5 years. To play its part in reversing the climate part of the emergency Norwich City Council has recently committed to becoming Carbon Neutral as soon as possible.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) apply its policies within the Corporate Plan 2020-2025 and the 2040 vision regarding the current climate emergency which the world faces
- (2) Support the aims behind climate strikes led by the youth movement by
 - (a) Allowing employees the opportunity to support the action and participate in the action days on 20 and 27 September 2019, with the appropriate deductions from pay,
 - (b) Investigating the closure of roads in order to show solidarity with the aims of climate strikes
 - (c) Signposting resources that we might offer to schools to help pupils who wish to protest
- (3) Ask group leaders to write to the Secretary of State calling on them to:
 - (a) investigate the implications of outsourced carbon emissions being included in the Government pledge to be carbon neutral by 2050
 - (b) Look at ways that the UK might become achieve carbon neutrality earlier than 2050
 - (c) Give local authorities the capacity to achieve an earlier target for carbon neutrality; and
 - (d) Identify ways that carbon based energy investment might be diverted into renewable sources

Motion to Council
24 September 2019
Subject Vehicle emission reduction
Proposer Councillor Wright
Seconder Councillor Lubbock

Item
10d

Cities across Europe have implemented schemes to ensure that vehicles entering their city meet necessary standards in terms of emissions.

London has an Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ), and in Germany, cars must display an Umweltplakette in many cities.

These schemes are in place to help reduce pollution from particulates, and whilst implementation varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the principle is the same.

Council **RESOLVES** to

- (1) Note that this council has already;
 - (a) taken steps to enforce stationary idling of buses where drivers leave their engines running when not loading or unloading.
 - (b) removed petrol and diesel vehicles from the Lord Mayor's Procession and Norwich had its first Car-free Day on 22nd September.
 - (c) made air quality a priority and key action in the Corporate Plan 2019-2022
- (2) Ask cabinet, through its Climate Emergency and Environment Executive Panel, to
 - (a) ask the DVLA to provide a breakdown, categorised by Euro emission standard, detailing the total number of all vehicles registered in Norwich.
 - (b) consider the feasibility of introducing a scheme, similar to that in Germany, for vehicles to display a badge showing their Euro emission level following the colour standard of the German scheme, and;
 - (i) make such a scheme compulsory for all buses, coaches and taxis operating within the Norwich city boundary.
 - (ii) assess the impact of offering a discount of up to 100% for residential parking permits in Norwich where domestic vehicles in the lower emissions categories registered at that address opt to display a badge.

- (iii) assess the impact of offering discounted parking at Norwich City Council operated car parks for vehicles in the lower emission categories.

Motion to Council
24 September 2019

Item

Subject International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons

10e

Proposer Councillor Grahame
Seconder Councillor Waters

Nuclear weapons pose a great threat to communities throughout the world, including Norwich. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) Note that the council firmly believes that its residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat.
- (2) continue to avoid investment in weapons of mass destruction in the council's treasury management and investment policies
- (3) formally support the ICAN Cities Appeal and call on our government to join those who have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- (4) ask all party groups in this chamber to forward this decision to their national parties; and
- (5) ask the leader of the council to write to the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary informing them of Norwich's support for national security through diplomatic means, and specifically, the International Convention against nuclear weapons.