

Motion to Council
17 March 2020
Subject Promoting pollinators in the city
Proposer Councillor Packer
Seconded Councillor Maguire

Item
9(a)

Norwich City Council is committed to helping to conserve the UK's pollinators by ensuring the council will consider the needs of pollinators in the delivery of its duties and work. The council will seek to protect and increase the amount and quality of pollinator habitat and manage its green space to provide greater benefits for pollinators. We will ensure local people are provided with opportunities to make Norwich more pollinator friendly. The council already undertakes important actions to help pollinators however, we should always aspire to do more. In addition to the actions within the biodiversity motion passed by Norwich City Council in September 2019,

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) note, that it is well documented that bees and other pollinators have been in serious decline for many years. This is a loud and clear message that they need help and quickly otherwise all of us, plants, pollinators and people, face serious problems. Pollinators are central to Norfolk's fruit farms, they serve crops including oilseed rape, clovers and other nitrogen fixing plants. They are important for livestock grazing and wild flowers. Pollinators add to the diversity of plant species, habitats and wildlife in Norwich as well as its natural beauty. This makes Norwich a better place to live, to enjoy and to visit. Losing our pollinators would be a major ecological and economic disaster.
- 2) continue to raise the awareness of pollinators' needs in local communities by:
 - a) continuing to promote what action can be undertaken both on an individual basis and by community groups to help pollinators;
 - b) continuing to ensure the wellbeing of pollinators is a principal consideration in land management e.g. through grass-cutting and pollinator-friendly planting regimes;
 - c) using planning powers to protect pollinator habitats where possible;
 - d) reviewing and seeking to end the use of pesticides in its estate;

- e) planting pollinator-friendly plants and trees, such as those identified in the Royal Horticultural Society's Perfect for Pollinators scheme;
- 3) ask cabinet, through its advisory climate and environment emergency executive panel, to develop a pollinator action plan;
- 4) continue to plant pollinator-friendly plants as part of amenity planting in parks, gardens and green spaces;
- 5) ask the county council to encourage schools to help children engage with this agenda;
- 6) seek to influence other partners, including social housing, public health bodies, district and county councils to support our efforts; and
- 7) ask the leader of the council to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs calling on the Government to maintain the current ban following 31 January on the use of neonicotinoids – with a widening of the ban to include other neonics and systemic pesticides based on results from the funding of proper research into the hazards of neonicotinoids and glyphosate on human health and the environment.

Motion to Council
17 March 2020
Subject Car free city centre
Proposer Councillor Wright
Seconded Councillor Lubbock

Item
9(b)

In January 2019, this council acknowledged the existence of a Climate Emergency and pledged to take measures as soon as possible to make Norwich carbon neutral.

In September 2019, Norwich marked Car Free Day, and will continue this on an annual basis.

Car journeys have an important part to play in our transport mix, but there is evidence that car use impacts on health through high levels of air pollution.

Building on existing policies, and as part of the council desire to make Norwich carbon neutral, this council should consider further steps to reduce carbon emissions and increase the attraction and uptake of sustainable transport options, such as cycling and public transport.

Council **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to:

- 1) Identify options following consultation, and in conjunction with the county council, residents, businesses and groups such as Car-Free Norwich, to significantly reduce or remove non-essential motor vehicle journeys from 'within the city walls', considering all financial, regulatory and legal factors;
- 2) work closely with disability advocacy groups and Blue Badge Holders to identify options to ensure that access to the city centre is maintained and improved for people with mobility difficulties or who are otherwise unable to use public transport;
- 3) explore opportunities to significantly reduce or restrict all non-essential motor vehicles from accessing the roads immediately adjacent to the city's primary schools at drop-off and pick-up times;
- 4) work constructively with traders in any options to ensure deliveries continue and businesses are not negatively impacted by any changes to city centre access.

Motion to Council
17 March 2020

Subject Private rented sector

Proposer Councillor Jones
Seconded Councillor Davis

Item

9(c)

A secure home is at the heart of all of our lives. It gives security, enables aspiration and gives children a stable home in which to grow up. Residents living in the private rented sector should have the security to build their lives and futures, and to become an active part of their community, just as residents in other housing tenures should expect. Nationally one-in-four private rented homes are classed 'non-decent', meaning they are damp, cold, in disrepair and unsafe to live in and private tenants collectively pay £10bn per year in private rents to landlords letting sub-standard homes. Over 1.7 million private renters pay more than a third of their income in rents.

This Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) support the national and local campaign to introduce a private renters' charter including a right to an affordable home, a right to a secure home, and a right to a decent home.
- 2) ask the cabinet member for Safer, Stronger Neighbourhoods to
 - a) call for the Prime Minister to honour the commitment to abolish 'Section 21' of the Housing Act 1988
 - b) call on the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to increase the local housing allowance for under 35s to the standard limit
 - c) write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to:
 - i. abolish Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 which allows eviction without the landlord having to establish fault on the part of a tenant
 - ii. introduce open-ended tenancies to help to make renting more secure and protect tenants from unfair evictions
 - iii. cap rents at inflation and introduce powers for further controls in areas facing run-away rents

- iv. remove the Ministerial veto on local licensing schemes for private landlords and call on the government to give councils discretionary powers to licence all private rented housing within its boundaries.
 - v. introduce a property 'MOT' consisting of annual, independent checks of private rental properties, tough fines including repayment of rent to tenants, and fresh local enforcement powers.
- 3) write to local MPs to ask for their support to in pressing the Government to act.

Motion to Council
17 March 2020
Subject Action on fly-tipping
Proposer Councillor Schmierer
Seconder Councillor Neale

Item
9(d)

Norwich has a problem with fly-tipping. For instance, more than 1,700 mattresses have been dumped in Norwich over the last two years, more than almost anywhere else in the UK. Across Britain there is a fly-tipping epidemic with 1,000,000 incidents last year alone.

It is currently either relatively costly or inconvenient for residents to get rid of bulky items. It costs £23.50 for one item to be collected but only £30 for three items, while getting to the Mile Cross recycling centre is only possible with car ownership.

Other councils are conducting similar reviews of the cost of providing community tips, which would make it much easier for people to dispose of their rubbish legally.

Council **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to:

- 1) ask council officers to investigate the cost and logistics of both introducing “community skips” in key locations across the city as well as kerbside collections. The officers are asked to report back within three months;
- 2) evaluate the current kerbside collection system, especially whether the costs and the service is suitable to the needs of the residents;
- 3) continue to provide information to residents about how to dispose of their waste legally and where possible increase the provision of this information;
- 4) investigate working with partners and other councils to ensure greater enforcement action is taken on those who fly tip in Norwich.

Motion to Council
17 March 2020
Subject Repairs
Proposer Councillor Grahame
Seconded Councillor Osborn

Item
9(e)

The Mile Cross recycling centre is to be replaced with a new facility near Norwich Airport. Saleable goods will be sold, well-sorted recyclables will be recycled, but there will be some waste going to landfill due to the lack of a repair facility.

Goods which have the potential to be repaired and re-used could end up in landfill. The making and disposal of goods creates greenhouse gas emissions which need to be reduced.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) ask group leaders to write to Norfolk County Council asking for the new recycling centre to include a facility for cleaning and repairing potentially re-useable goods and explore the training and employment opportunities of investing in such a facility; and
- 2) build on the work that is already being done to lead by example and minimise its own waste by finding re-use outlets for goods and materials no longer required, for example office furniture, IT hardware.