



Council

Monday 24 February 2020

Agenda Item 9, Motions

(To be debated in the order submitted)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Hugo Brown

Motion Seconder: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Topic: Tree Planting

Motion

CDC acknowledged a Climate Emergency and pledged to make the Council carbon-neutral by 2030.

First steps include assessing the Council's own emissions, down 32% since 2008, and Officer teams have been tasked with exploring opportunities to further reduce the Council's own and also District-wide emissions.

One strategy to support the achievement of the 2030 target, promoted by all major political parties, is tree-planting. Tree cover in the District, County and Nationally falls short; Cherwell District's is estimated at 5.2% of land mass and with County's at approx. 9% both are below the UK figure of 13%, itself about 1/3rd of the EU average of 35%

There are many competing interests for the available land mass, including housing and development for economic re-generation, but these need not be mutually exclusive. They can co-exist, and tree cover should be encouraged to shield building developments from view, masking light and noise pollution, and absorbing many of the emissions generated by those economically necessary developments - and, as importantly, providing habitat for wildlife, aiding with flood management and enhancing the beauty of the environment

Council therefore:

- commits, as far as possible, to double tree cover within the District by 2045
- requests that Officers identify, and secure, funding opportunities from Central Government and other sources in furtherance of the commitment
- requires developers to demonstrate how they will be improving biodiversity, specifically through the planting of more trees

Proposer of Amendment: Cllr Ian Middleton

Seconder of Amendment: Cllr Conrad Copeland

Motion with Amendments

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One strategy to support the achievement of the 2030 target, promoted by all major political parties, is tree-planting. Tree cover in the District, County and Nationally falls short; Cherwell District's is estimated at 5.2% of land mass and with County's at approx. 9% both are below the UK figure of 13%, itself about 1/3rd of the EU average of ~~35%~~38%

There are many competing interests for the available land mass, including housing and development for economic re-generation, but these need not be mutually exclusive. They can co-exist, and tree cover should be encouraged to shield building developments from view, masking light and noise pollution, and absorbing many of the emissions generated by those economically necessary developments - and, as importantly, providing habitat for wildlife, aiding with flood management and enhancing the beauty of the environment

Council therefore:

- commits, ~~as far as possible~~, to at least double tree cover within the District by ~~2045~~2030
- requests that Officers identify, and secure, funding opportunities from Central Government and other sources in furtherance of the commitment
- requires developers to ~~demonstrate how they will be improving~~ enhance biodiversity as an integral part of all new developments, including specifically through the planting of more trees
- will update local plans to include increased tree cover in planning and decision processes

Motion Proposer: Councillor Hannah Banfield

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Peat-free Compost

Motion

This council agrees to use only peat-free compost for our horticultural procedures. In making this commitment we will conserve this diminishing natural resource, as our UK peatlands and the peatlands located within The Republic Of Ireland, play a vital role in absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide and thus help to mitigate climate change.

Proposer of Amendment: Cllr Ian Middleton

Seconder of Amendment: TBC

Motion with Amendments

This council agrees to use only peat-free compost for our horticultural procedures. In making this commitment we will conserve this diminishing natural resource, as our UK peatlands and the peatlands located within The Republic Of Ireland, play a vital role in absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide and thus help to mitigate climate change.

The council already has access to huge amounts of 'homegrown' naturally peat-free compost and this should be the first choice when these materials are required. As a general principle the council should only use compost and soil improvers generated through its own waste recycling and composting facilities and avoid the use of commercially produced compost in all but the most exceptional circumstances. This will not only be cheaper, it will also avoid the additional carbon created in the manufacture, packaging and distribution of commercially produced composts.