



## **Council**

**Monday 19 October 2020**

### **Agenda Item 9, Motions**

**Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton**

**Motion Seconder: TBC**

**Topic: Badger Culling**

#### **Motion**

At the beginning of September, Natural England began licencing the culling of badgers in Oxfordshire.

Evidence suggests that only 5.7% of incidences of bovine tuberculosis is caused by badgers. An independent review said that badger culling can only have a "modest" effect in reducing tuberculosis in cattle, and urged the government to accelerate the development of non-lethal controls and an increased focus on cow to cow transmission.

Whilst we need to support our farming communities in tackling Bovine TB, this council believes that the mass slaughter of badgers without a proven scientific rationale is unjustified. The extermination of a native species against the advice of major wildlife organisations is also incompatible with the council's environmental policies.

At least 30% of all badgers shot will be cage trapped and could instead be vaccinated which is a far cheaper, more humane, targeted and effective alternative. Shooting is more than seven times more expensive, less controllable and can actually disperse an infected population over a wider range.

This council therefore resolves :

1. That the leader write to DEFRA expressing our opposition to the badger cull across Oxfordshire.
2. Not to permit the culling of badgers on any land owned or controlled by the council
3. To instead allow and support participation in licenced badger vaccination programmes on council owned or controlled land where these are applied for
4. To encourage all parish councils in Cherwell to take the same approach on their land