



Council

Monday 20 July 2020

Agenda Item 9, Motions

(To be debated in the order submitted)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Hannah Banfield

Motion Seconder: Councillor Dan Sames

Topic: Peat Free Compost

Motion

“Peatlands located within the UK and The Republic Of Ireland, play a vital role in absorbing and storing large amounts of carbon dioxide and thus help to mitigate climate change. This council agrees that any supplier of our bedding plants at this time and in the future will from this juncture use no more than 50% peat compost within the cultivation of our plants and that the suppliers of our bedding plants now and in the future must make the commitment to be peat-free as soon as practicable and most definitely by 2030. In making this commitment we will conserve this diminishing natural resource and help to safeguard our peatlands.

This Council agrees that officers will investigate sustainable alternatives in relation to the design and planting of our bedding schemes which will include perennial plants that are cost-effective, insect-friendly, and attractive to pollinators.”

(NB. The motion on this matter submitted by Councillor Banfield to the 24 February 2020 Council meeting which was adjourned due to it having budgetary implications was withdrawn having been considered at the 6 July 2020 Executive, agenda item 8 available at the following link [Executive agenda](#))

Motion Proposer: Councillor Sean Woodcock

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Brighter Futures Banbury

Motion

"This council notes with alarm that in the last three years this district recorded the biggest increase in child poverty in the whole of Oxfordshire.

This council agrees that 1 in 8 children living below the poverty line in Cherwell is completely unacceptable.

Further, with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic anticipated to be extremely negative, this council understands that unless urgent remedial action is taken the Cherwell child poverty crisis is only likely to get worse.

Thus, this council commits to the following in order to help tackle our child poverty crisis:-

- Restarting the 'Brighter Futures' programme at the earliest possible opportunity with the appointment of a dedicated Lead Member and regular reporting to this council's committees and Executive.
- Carrying out an urgent study across the district on the causes and impact of child poverty locally. This study will be completed within 6 months.
- Drawing up an action plan to tackle child poverty, working with other authorities and agencies to understand best practices and how to implement them, within 6 months of the completion of this study."

Motion Proposer: Councillor Barry Wood

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Black Lives Matter

Motion

"This Council notes recent national awareness around the Black Lives Matter Movement.

This Council believes that of course all lives matter but knows that the evidence points to BAME communities being particularly vulnerable to deprivation, poorer life chances and racism. This is reflected in, among other indicators, disproportionate deaths from Covid 19.

The Council has a good record with things like help for the Sunshine Centre, the Bretch Hill Centre, the FAST programme and Banbury Brighter Futures, but a good Council always refreshes and updates its work.

To that end the Council resolves to request Officers to consider an engagement exercise with BAME communities and individuals to effectively listen to their experience of life in our District and to bring back recommendations to Scrutiny and the Executive for consideration by Members."

Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton

Motion Seconder: Councillor John Broad

Topic: Government Covid-19 Recovery Plan

Motion

Boris Johnson recently announced his plan for recovery from the COVID-19 crisis is to Build! Build! Build!

This blunt aspiration carries the potential to override local democracy on planning, damage the environment, destroy wildlife habitats and harm both our rural and urban communities with more roads and cars, and yet more unnecessary development on green field sites. Our eco-systems and our health are going to be sacrificed on the altar of growth in the pursuit of inward investment at all costs. This is surely not in the best interests of the people we represent. We have an opportunity now to learn the lessons of the past. A socially just and green recovery will create a better future for our planet and everyone on it. Let's build back better!

This council calls on government to :

- Work towards ensuring everyone has access to wholesome food, free healthcare, income and job security, affordable zero carbon housing, renewable energy, superfast broadband, public transport, clean air and green spaces.
- Acknowledge the value of our carers and educators by protecting and investing in our NHS, social care, schools, colleges and early years care
- Protect genuine local democracy on planning matters.
- Restructure public and private finance to give power to local communities and guarantee sufficient funding to councils to provide high quality local services for everyone.
- Decarbonise the economy and create thousands of new, well-paid, secure jobs in green industries.
- Ensure that the longer-term recovery will guarantee human rights and prevent environmental damage, injustice and conflict.

Motion Proposer: Councillor Conrad Copeland

Motion Seconder: Councillor Katherine Tyson

Topic: Motion to Guarantee Democratic Accountability in 2021

Motion

Government has undertaken to present a White Paper on Devolution this year. Regardless of any proposed changes or reorganisation of local authorities, democratic accountability remains fundamental to local representation and government. Democratic accountability is important in the consultation process on any proposals contained in the White Paper.

Oxfordshire County Council Leader, Ian Hudspeth, tabled a motion which calls on the Leader to write to the Secretary of State requesting that the 2021 county elections be delayed until 2022.

It is democratically deficient to go years without filling empty seats. Cherwell must endeavour to make sure that our residents are not democratically silenced by not holding elections.

Coronavirus Act 2020, section 61 gives the Secretary of State power to delay elections taking place before 5 May 2021; subsection (5) states that the date for postponed elections cannot fall after 6 May 2021.

The schedule for local elections conforms to these rules within the legislation. Further, current District Council elections are scheduled for 6 May 2021, outside of the window for further delay.

Therefore, Cherwell District Council opposes any further delay to local elections.

Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State to request that local elections at all levels of local government proceed as planned in May 2021.

Council guarantees that seats scheduled for election will take place on 6 May 2021, or as soon thereafter as it is safe to do so, through byelection or other means, notwithstanding any delay of formal elections.