



Council

Monday 14 December 2020

Agenda Item 9, Motions

Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Climate and Ecological Emergency (CEE) Bill

Motion

In 2019 this council and many others recognised the importance of tackling impending global ecological disaster by unanimously passing a climate emergency motion.

As a next step, Green MP Caroline Lucas recently introduced the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (CEE) to Parliament, which seeks to ensure that the UK plays its fair and proper role in limiting global temperatures to 1.5°C. Full details can be found at <https://www.cebill.uk/>.

The Bill was prepared by the CEE Bill Alliance, a team of scientists, academics, lawyers and campaigners guided by current science and has received cross party support from over 80 MPs.

It calls for urgent, far-reaching actions from the Government that take into account our entire global carbon footprint, including all emissions involved in the production and transport of goods from overseas that are consumed in the UK.

The Bill seeks to ensure that we take action now, rather than depending on new, untested future technologies, with a focus on the natural world as much as on the climate, protecting and conserving wildlife habitats in the UK and across the world.

A central mechanism for achieving these aims would be Citizen's Assemblies that would have a real influence on government strategy.

This council wishes to show support for the CEE Bill by :

- Taking into account the goals of The Bill when setting its own strategies, policies and targets.
- Encouraging individual councillors to join the CEE campaign
- Calling on all Oxfordshire MPs to sign the CEE Bill Early Day Motion (no 832)

Motion Proposer: Councillor Ian Middleton

Motion Seconder: TBC

Topic: Hunting

Motion

The 2005 Hunting Act banned hunting wild mammals with dogs except in specific circumstances. Hunts subsequently switched to trail hunting, where artificial scent trails are laid for the hounds to follow.

The League Against Cruel Sports recently released a secretly recorded meeting between key members of the hunting community in which they allegedly describe trail hunting as a "smokescreen" for hunts that wish to follow live prey. This is being investigated by the police and potentially makes any organisation that facilitates hunting on its land complicit in an illegal activity.

As a result national bodies including The National Trust, Forestry England, The Lake District National Park, Natural Resources Wales and United Utilities have suspended hunting on their land. Similar responses are likely from other organisations including the MOD and the Church of England.

Council notes that hunts in and around Cherwell have crossed public land and highways in the district, and as a result of these new restrictions these incidents may increase. As a responsible authority, we must also take steps to ensure we are not seen to be supporting potentially illegal activities.

Council calls on the leader to write to hunt masters in and around the district and Thames Valley Police, making it clear that, while investigations into trail hunting are ongoing, hunts will not be permitted to cross public or council controlled land or cause a nuisance on public highways within Cherwell, and that we will expect any such encroachments to be prosecuted to the fullest extent.

Motion Proposer: Councillor Katherine Tyson

Motion Seconder: Councillor Ian Middleton

Topic: Improving Coronavirus testing and tracing

Motion

Cherwell District Council would like to stand in solidarity with Oxford City Council in expressing our concern that, so far into the COVID pandemic, the country still does not have an adequate testing and tracing system. A fully functioning system decreases the risk of Oxfordshire residents to coronavirus.

Test and trace is proven in countries with a properly functioning locally-based system to be a successful strategy to manage and contain COVID-19 outbreaks.

This Council agrees that to rectify the situation substantial control should be passed to local authorities, with the necessary funding to do the job properly, with national input providing any support necessary to ensure effective co-ordination.

A local scheme will:

- Improve traceability
- Enable increased and targeted testing, including asymptomatic testing
- Be better integrated into existing Council COVID support services
- Be a more cost-effective solution
- Achieve greater community engagement
- Allow for the engagement of local volunteers

Pressure is building on the Government both to use local authorities more and to cease contracting out 'NHS Test and Trace' to private companies. Local authorities in Oxfordshire are working better than the national average in tackling COVID19 and should be supported.

This Council agrees to add its voice to those challenging the current, failed national system by asking the Leader to:

- Call on our Director of Public Health and the Leader of the County Council to support more local authority engagement in testing and tracing.
- Write to our MPs asking them for their support.