
REPORT OF THE COMMUNITY OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 8 DECEMBER 2004

1 DRAFT ANIMAL WELFARE CHARTER

1.1 This item of business was referred by the Community Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 8 December to Council for consideration, together with a number of recommendations. A copy of the officer's report to the Committee is attached at Appendix 1.

1.2 It is proposed that Council **RESOLVES**

- (1) That, subject to any changes made by Council, the draft Animal Welfare Charter be approved.
- (2) That Council policy on pets be altered so that tenants in sheltered housing schemes should not be treated differently from those in other Council accommodation, with regard to the keeping of pets.
- (3) That a letter be sent to the County Council requesting that emergency planning arrangements should include farm livestock at risk from flooding and that contingency arrangements in rest centre planning take account of domestic pets.
- (4) That a letter be sent to the local branch of the National Farmers' Union urging them to identify measures that could be taken to avoid animals drowning in the event of flooding, so as to avoid health risks from carcasses.
- (5) That a leaflet be produced and made available on the safety of animals in emergency situations.
- (6) That Members of Parliament be lobbied on the following:
 - The range of animals listed on the schedule of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act 1976 should not be reduced.
 - Large snakes over eight feet long should also be licensed.
 - The potential hazards to wildlife from the development of wind farms needs to be properly taken into account in the evaluation of proposals.

- . The development of alternative methods of research not involving animals.
 - . That animal cruelty and wildlife crime be made recordable for Police forces because of strong linkages with other crime and the Home Office lobbied on this.
 - . That stronger controls be introduced on the tethering of horses.
- (7) That an article appear in Rochford District Matters advising residents that:-
- . Work is identified within the Local Plan on wildlife and conservation issues, together with guidance relating to the sensitive treatment of tree felling associated with planning applications.
 - . The felling of trees, hedges and ditch clearance and associated works should be discouraged during bird nesting times.
- (8) That other Local Authorities be advised of the value of appointing an ecologist, both in terms of arboricultural, as well as planning issues and particularly where the introduction of an animal welfare charter was under consideration.
- (9) That consideration be given to the possibility of extending the Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park and of developing wildlife walks at Foulness with observation posts in order to encourage greater appreciation of wildlife, particularly given aspirations to develop Rochford as a centre of leisure and tourism within the Thames Gateway South Essex.
- (10) That the Minutes of all Animal Welfare Charter Sub-Committee meetings be attached to all distributed copies of the Animal Welfare Charter, to include all those organisations that gave evidence to the Sub-Committee and to all other animal welfare agencies, MPs, Essex County Council, Essex Police Authority, libraries, primary schools and veterinary surgeries.
- (11) That the Animal Welfare Charter be reviewed in 12 months' time.

Sarah Fowler

Head of Administrative & Member Services

Background Papers:-

None

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