

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

1.1 The Proper Officer reports that, pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 13, the following motions have been received:-

1.2 From Cllrs M J Webb and M J Steptoe:-

‘Further to the Secretary of State’s letter of 15 October 2019 to Council Leaders, this Council is asked to adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) definition of antisemitism as set out below:

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, towards Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.’

1.3 From Cllrs Mrs C M Mason, M Hoy and J E Newport:-

‘That this Council, having received the observations of the Corporate Peer Challenge and the identified need to strengthen the scrutiny function and the inclusion in the report that the minority political groups do not feel sufficiently engaged, address both these points by altering the Constitution as follows:

To alter the Constitution prior to Annual Council so that the Chair of the overview and scrutiny committee, Review Committee, be nominated by the minority political groups and independent Members only. If no Member of the minority political groups accepts a nomination then, and only then, will nominations be accepted from any other Member.

This would encourage minority political groups and Independent Member engagement and facilitate greater scrutiny if minority political groups and Independent Members felt that their views had some impact rather than the current impression that their views are being ignored by the majority political group.’

1.4 From Cllrs Mrs C M Mason and M Hoy

‘That this Council notes the concern expressed by the delay in acknowledging its error and find the further delay proposed in rectification unacceptable.

We are concerned that the Council, having repeatedly been questioned over the correct status of the Planning Policy Sub-Committee, repeatedly failed to investigate this matter.

- Prior to last Annual Council, officers were advised that they had incorrectly shown Planning Policy Sub-Committee as different to the other full Committees of Council.

- Despite its name Planning Policy Sub-Committee is not a sub-committee but a Full Committee of Council and reports direct to Full Council.
- Last May when this situation could have easily been rectified it was not.
- This was again raised as a matter of concern in October and eventually the administration agreed to investigate the situation.
- One officer has advised it is a sub-committee of Council, another that there cannot be a sub-committee of Council.
- Eventually, after further requests for clarity, it was conceded that the Council had made an error dating back some years.
- The latest officer suggestion is that this is resolved at Annual Council in May, yet this could have been done at the last Annual Council and was not.

The reason for this Motion is not just one of concern for the error and the failure of officers to take Members concerns seriously, but the failure to correct such an error at the earliest opportunity.

The lack of transparency and willingness to correct is concerning. All people and organisations make mistakes; it is their willingness to hold their hands up and admit to such a situation and ensure a prompt resolution that shows the mettle of the organisation.

This motion calls for the Monitoring Officer to resolve this situation immediately and confirm the correct Status of Planning Policy with any necessary amendments to the Constitution as needed, at the next Council meeting on 21st April 2020.'

1.5 From Cllrs Mrs C M Mason, Mrs T L Carter and A H Eves

'To instruct officers to Investigate the Billy Chip scheme as a matter of urgency with the view to implementation before the end of April 2020.'

'Background and Brief Description of the Scheme

The B A Hope Foundation was set up in 2018 to continue the legacy of Billy Abernethy-Hope a twenty year old ambulance driver from Bristol who was the inspiration and idea behind the Billy Chip.

After helping support the homeless at Christmas, Billy, felt disheartened at how little support the general public gave to local homeless people. Many

people donate to charity on a regular basis but Billy was surprised what a small percentage of donations were given directly to people living rough on our streets.

Turns out most people are apprehensive to give money directly to homeless people, because it's not possible to know how a donation is spent. Unfortunately, the common perception is the money will be used for alcohol, drugs or cigarettes. Even if a donation of food or drink is given to safeguard your donation it is very awkward as people have to make assumptions of what the person wants and when they want it. The alternative is to engage with that person, ask the question and then purchase what's required which many feel uncomfortable doing.

Billy recognised that the likelihood of someone having the time, inclination, courage, and kindness to engage with a homeless person to buy them food or drink was too big a challenge. That was the eureka moment when Billy first thought up the concept of the Billy Chip. Sadly Billy never got to launch the Billy Chip as he had planned due to his untimely death whilst backpacking in Thailand.

The Billy Chip is a token that can be purchased for a £2 donation via a retail outlet which supplies take away beverages like Tea & Coffee. The purchaser receives the Billy Chip which can be given to any homeless person instead of money. The homeless person can redeem the Billy Chip in any participating outlet displaying the Billy Chip sign for a Tea or Coffee (hopefully in the future there will be more options like cold drinks or food available).

Each time a donation for a Billy Chip is received some of your money goes towards supporting the B A Hope Foundation to carry on working to support the people in the local area and other causes close to Billy's Heart. A proportion of the donation goes to the retailer to cover their costs and the costs of supporting the foundation's function.

The brilliant and unique way the Billy Chip scheme works allows people to donate to the homeless without the worry of their donation being spent in an inappropriate manner. It also encourages retail outlets to do their bit for corporate social responsibility.

Summary and Conclusion

1. The Billy chip has received national publicity for the way it supports the homeless, and local businesses.
 - It provides a degree of security to the giver by removing any uncertainty about the use the donation may be put to.

- It also alleviates the risk of people receiving donations being able to use contributions for dependency issues.
2. Although Rochford District does not have as many homeless people as some nearby areas the fact that the problem is a relatively small one should not prevent this Council in being proactive in assisting people in need.
- The scheme sought to provide tea/coffee and the chip has a set value of £2.00. There is no reason why outlets could not extend this to food & soft drinks and different value chips be made available for this.
 - Every blue token, similar to a poker chip, has Billy’s smiling face on it along with the message: “You’re fabulous, and don’t you ever forget it.”
3. Having contacted the organisation, they are willing to support Rochford District Council in extending this scheme to our area.
- As the scheme is already up and running any costs involved should be minimal as the £2.00 token covers retailers expenses.
4. This Motion directs that officers investigate this scheme as a matter of urgency with the view to implementation through Council before the end of April 2020.

This Council Notes:

The simplicity and speed of using an existing scheme to assist our homeless population.

This Council Resolves to:

Undertake the necessary steps to ensure that Rochford District is included in the scheme.

Promote the scheme with local traders.

Look to extend the scheme to cover food and different value tokens.’

1.6 From Cllrs C C Cannell and J E Newport

‘The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland left the European Union at 2300 on January 31st, 2020.

In July 2017 the then Prime Minister, Theresa May, announced the outline for a ‘EU Settled Status’ scheme that would enable EU nationals the right to continue living, working, and studying in the UK after we leave.

In January 2019 the same Prime Minister announced that, following a pilot, the EU Settlement Scheme, as it had become formally known, was to launch in March 2019 and that a £65 fee that was charged in that pilot would be removed.

The current Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, has continued the scheme, and used Prime Minister's Questions as recently as January 2020 to vocalise his support for it.

The scheme outlined two forms of status:

'Settled status' is for those that have lived in the UK for five years or more and means that they can reside in the UK forever without re-applying, unless they leave the UK for a period of five consecutive years.

'Pre-settled status' for those citizens who started living in the UK by 31st December 2020 but will not have five years' continuous residence at this point. It will allow people to reside in the UK for five years, at which point they can apply for settled status.

This Council notes:

- The invaluable contribution of EU citizens, living and/or working in Rochford District, to the local economy and public service provision

This Council therefore resolves to:

- Advertise the government's EU Settlement Scheme and support any resident with their application for 'settled status' or 'pre-settled status' under the scheme.
- Support any resident who applied to the EU Settlement Scheme before March 2019 receive a refund.
- Confirm that it believes that all EU citizens in the District should retain their right to vote in and be candidates in local elections.
- Pledge to support and protect all EU citizens who live or work in the District, throughout the transition period.'

1.7 From Cllrs C C Cannell and J E Newport

'Motion to increase support for RSPCA firework campaigning.'

'Well organised, considerate, public fireworks displays, such as the annual displays at King George V's Playing Fields and Belchamps, bring enjoyment to many people in the District.

Unfortunately however, residents have been contacting their local Councillors due to irresponsible private use of fireworks in residential areas.

There are four categories of fireworks in the UK and the first three categories are available to buy, carry, or use (on private property) by any member of the public aged 18 or over.

Fireworks can be legally used on any day between the hours of 7am and 11pm, with extensions in place on Bonfire Night (12am), New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year (all 1am).

This Council notes:

- The unpredictable occurrence of loud noise, that most fireworks produce, can cause fear and anxieties, both to people and animals.
- Used irresponsibly, fireworks can cause damage to property, pose a fire risk, and do significant harm to people and animals.
- The RSPCA run a public awareness campaign, aimed at ensuring people can enjoy fireworks responsibly whilst reducing risk to animals, and residents.
- Rochford District Council support this public awareness campaign on its website and provides residents with links to the RSPCA's website to find out more about it.

This Council resolves to:

Support the RSPCA's Bang Out of Order campaign by:

- Writing to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation that reduces the maximum noise level of P2 & P3 fireworks from 120db to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- Taking measures to ensure public firework displays within Rochford District can be advertised in advance, with appropriate references to the size of the display, allowing residents to take precautions for people and animals in their care.'

1.8 From Cllrs J E Newport, C M Stanley and C C Cannell

'This Council notes:

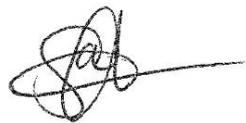
- 1) The Council has a working group to understand the implications and recommend initial actions this Council can take to reduce its carbon footprint, ahead of becoming carbon neutral by 2030;

- 2) That the biggest single contributor to climate change is the emission of carbon from fossil fuels;
- 3) That trees have the ability to soak up carbon emissions and therefore tree planting can offset some of the carbon dioxide which is contributing to climate change;
- 4) Forest Research, Britain's principal organisation for forestry and tree related research, says that the average tree canopy cover figure in England is 16%, measured from 283 towns and cities.

The Rochford District has less than 10% tree cover and Friends of the Earth recommends that this should be, at least, doubled

This Council therefore calls on the Managing Director, Strategic Director, and Assistant Director for Place & Environment, to produce a tree planting strategy which:

- 1) Aims to increase considerably the tree cover within the District by identifying council owned land that could be used for tree planting;
- 2) Sets out to create community orchards to help improve the supply of fresh, local produce and boost the health of residents;
- 3) Works with the voluntary sector to deliver tree planting plans;
- 4) Involves schools, colleges and their pupils and students in carrying out tree planting and woodland maintenance;
- 5) Identifies sources of funding available to the council and voluntary organisations to reduce the cost to the taxpayer.'



Angela Law

Assistant Director, Legal & Democratic

Background Papers:-

Corporate Peer Challenge 18-21 November 2019. – Feedback Report

[Bang Out of Order: Fireworks Frighten Animals](#)

For further information please contact Sonia Worthington (Democratic Services Officer) on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.