

**Extract from report to Council - 25 April 2002**

**NOTICES OF MOTION RECEIVED PURSUANT TO  
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12**

**(1) From Councillors J R F Mason and Mrs M J Webster**

The Proper Officer reports that the following Motion has been received from Councillors J R F Mason and Mrs M J Webster:-

“This Council recognises that all breeding sites of the Great Crested Newt should be identified as County Wildlife Sites. European Protective Species of Wild Life are listed on the Annexes of the Habitats Directive 1992 and this is enforced by the UK Conservation Regulations 1994.

It is proposed that any water feature with Great Crested Newts are specifically noted in the replacement Rochford District Local Plan.

It is further proposed that the replacement Rochford District Local Plan determines that any development proposal which affects any water feature (pond, ditch, lake etc) must have an ecological appraisal of the surrounding pond habitats within a distance of 500 metres for the presence of the Great Crested Newt.

Appraisals should follow certain standards. Appraisals should be undertaken in the appropriate time of year, use a variety of methods, and consist of at least three survey visits. This will enable the Local Authority to ensure that correct ecological information is provided for consideration of planning applications.

Furthermore, it is proposed that a policy of mitigation measures needs to be determined by this Council to promote sustainable development involving in situ conservation measures for reptiles and amphibians.

This Motion stands referred to the Environmental Services Committee for an Officer Report, to include reports from English Nature, Essex Wildlife Trust and the Essex Amphibians and Reptile Group, which is to be submitted to next Full Council.”