

TITLE OF REPORT: NOTICE OF MOTIONS

The following motions have been submitted, due notice of which has been given in accordance with Standing Order 4.8.12.

- A)** To be moved by Councillor Elizabeth Dennis-Harburg and seconded by Councillor Paul Clark:

Council notes:

Local resident concerns about their reduced ability to object to building works under the changes to Permitted Development Rights which have been made under this Government.

Widespread concerns and condemnation of the Planning White Paper proposals across Local Government, The Planning and Architecture Sector, and organisations concerned with protecting green spaces and heritage.

Council is concerned that:

Government proposals to change the planning system will remove the rights of residents to influence or object to inappropriate development within the District.

If implemented, the Government's proposals will undermine the character of our district and give carte blanche to developers to build what they please across large 'zones' without having to make proper contribution to the community.

Council believes that:

Planning works best when developers and the local community work together to shape local areas and deliver necessary new homes as part of coherent communities, with a full range of facilities.

Residents' rights to have a say over developments that will change the area must be protected.

Local councils, in consultation with their businesses and residents are best placed to understand the issues in their area and respond with a spatial strategy tailored to that area.

Council calls for the Government to protect the right of communities to be involved in individual planning applications by scrapping its Planning White Paper and instead:

- Undertake a wholesale review of the Planning system, including Permitted Development Rights, in consultation with all those involved.
- Make the Planning appeal system properly accountable to local people
- Reduce the ability of Ministers to influence planning decisions, especially where they have an undeclared interest.

- B)** To be moved by Councillor Steve Jarvis and seconded by Councillor Adem Ruggiero-Cakir:

Council notes that:

Many local authorities are playing an important role in the UK taking action to achieve net zero carbon emissions, and to protect and revitalise local wildlife and natural habitats.

Parliament in May 2019 declared an Environment and Climate Emergency and this Council has already declared a Climate Emergency.

There is a Bill before Parliament—the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill (published as the “Climate and Ecology Bill”), which, if it became law, would require the government to develop a strategy to address the emergency that would ensure:

the ecological emergency is tackled shoulder to shoulder with the climate crisis in a joined-up approach;

the Paris Agreement is enshrined into law to ensure that UK does its real fair share to limit global temperature rise to the most stringent end of the Paris agreement -1.5°C;

the Leaders Pledge for Nature is enshrined into law to ensure that the UK’s ecosystems are protected and restored with a focus on biodiversity, soils and natural carbon sinks;

the UK takes full responsibility for our entire greenhouse gas footprint (i.e. consumption emissions plus shipping, flights and land-based transport) by accounting for all of the emissions that take place overseas to manufacture, transport and dispose of the goods and services we import and consume;

the UK takes full responsibility for our ecological footprint so that we protect health and resilience of ecosystems along both domestic and our global supply chains; and

an independent, temporary Climate and Nature Assembly is set-up, representative of the UK’s population, to engage with the UK Parliament and UK Government to help develop the emergency strategy.

Council therefore resolves to:

Support the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill;

Inform the local media of this decision;

Write an open letter to all North Hertfordshire MPs (shared with our residents through local and social media) urging them to sign up to support the Bill, or thanking them for doing so; and

Write to the CEE Bill Alliance, the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, expressing its support.”