

Motion from the Labour Group: Badger Cull

Councillor Joe Rayment to move

Council notes:

- 1) That Natural England has received an application for badger culling in Avon.
- 2) That badger culling has already been taking place in Somerset for a number of years.
- 3) That only 5.7% of incidences of bovine tuberculosis (bTb) are caused by badgers.
- 4) That millions of pounds are spent each year on the badger cull, with each culled badger costing thousands of pounds.
- 5) That the badger cull is more than seven times more expensive per badger than the Welsh government's badger vaccination scheme.
- 6) That reports show that up to 22.8% of badgers culled take more than 5 minutes to die, making the cull inhumane by government standards.
- 7) That organisations opposed to the badger cull include: the RSPCA, the RSPB, and the Wildlife Trusts (including Avon Wildlife Trust).
- 8) That landowner permission is required for the badger cull to take place on any land.

Council believes:

- 1) That the badger cull has been ineffective.
- 2) That more effective means of controlling bTb include: testing, movement control and vaccination.
- 3) That the government should revisit the evidence on badger culling and end the programme.
- 4) That public money could be far better spent than on spending an estimated £100 million on badger culling by 2020.

Council resolves:

- 1) To refuse permission for any badger culling to take place on land owned by the Council.
- 2) To encourage parish councils to implement the same policy.
- 3) To write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to inform him of our decision, but to offer access to Council land for a coordinated badger vaccination programme.