

BATH AND NORTH EAST SOMERSET COUNCIL

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, 14th March, 2019

Present:- **Councillors** Cherry Beath, Patrick Anketell-Jones, Rob Appleyard, Tim Ball, Colin Barrett, Jasper Becker, Sarah Bevan, Colin Blackburn, John Bull, Neil Butters, Anthony Clarke, Matt Cochrane, Sue Craig, Paul Crossley, Chris Dando, Fiona Darey, Matthew Davies, Sally Davis, Emma Dixon, Michael Evans, Charles Gerrish, Bob Goodman, Francine Haerberling, Alan Hale, Liz Hardman, Steve Hedges, Deirdre Horstmann, Eleanor Jackson, Paul May, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, Alison Millar, Robin Moss, Paul Myers, Michael Norton, Lisa O'Brien, Michelle O'Doherty, Lin Patterson, June Player, Vic Pritchard, Joe Rayment, Liz Richardson, Dine Romero, Richard Samuel, Will Sandry, Mark Shelford, Brian Simmons, Peter Turner, Martin Veal, Karen Walker, Geoff Ward, Tim Warren, Karen Warrington and Chris Watt

Apologies for absence: **Councillors** Douglas Deacon, Andrew Furse, Ian Gilchrist, Lizzie Gladwyn, Steve Jeffries, Les Kew, Barry Macrae, Bryan Organ, Caroline Roberts and Nigel Roberts

Absent: **Councillors** Marie Longstaff and David Veale

76 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Chair drew attention to the emergency evacuation procedure, as set out on the agenda.

77 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Charles Gerrish declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 9 (Housing Motion), as Chair of ADL, and withdrew from the meeting for the duration of that item.

Councillor Joe Rayment declared an 'other' interest in item 12 (Climate Emergency) as he lives in a Georgian flat with single-glazed sash windows.

Councillor Eleanor Jackson declared an 'other' interest in item 12 (Climate Emergency) as a Member of the Development Management Committee which might see a planning application arising from this motion.

78 MINUTES - 19TH FEBRUARY 2019

On a motion from Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Dine Romero, it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of 19th February 2019, including the exempt minutes, are moved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

79 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OR FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Chair made the customary announcements regarding arrangements for the meeting.

In addition, she reminded Councillors that tickets were still available for the Charity Music Evening in the Guildhall this Saturday 16th March at 7.30pm.

She concluded by thanking all Councillors who are not re-standing, for the time they have given to the Authority and wishing those Councillors that are re-standing, good luck at the election.

80 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no items of urgent business.

81 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Statements were made by the following members of the public;

Rachel Willis made a statement in which she outlined several aspects of period poverty and called on the Council to pass the motion on the agenda, and further open up debate on this issue. A full copy of Rachel's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. Councillor Tim Warren asked if Rachel was aware that the Council had committed £50k in the budget to address period poverty, to which she replied that she had not been aware, and welcomed this news. Councillor Liz Hardman asked Rachel if she considered more sustainable sanitary products were acceptable to young people, to which she responded that she thought they increasingly were, but often the expense was a prohibitive factor. The Chair thanked Rachel for her statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Abbi Cole, a Bath resident and parent, made a statement explaining the recent steps she had taken in response to the climate emergency and urging the Council to pass the motion to declare a climate emergency later in the meeting. A full copy of Abbie's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. The Chair thanked Abbi for her statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Richard Young, an environmental scientist, father and Bath citizen addressed the Council about the climate emergency. He outlined the ways in which harm was being caused to the planet and the failure of leaders to tackle the enormity of the issue. He called on the Council to show leadership tonight and going forward. In response to a query from Councillor Dine Romero about whether Richard was aware of the cross party element of the agenda motion, he responded that he was and it gave him hope. The Chair thanked Richard for his statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Sarah Warren made a statement in which she explained that she had been doing a master's degree in sustainability over the last 3 years, through which she was becoming increasingly aware that environmental changes were happening faster than had been predicted, and cited some examples. She called on the Council, as

policy makers, to put this at the heart of all decision making. Councillor Paul Crossley asked Sarah about the effects of arctic ice melting on the Somerset area, to which she replied that flooding would have a number of negative aspects on the area. The Chair thanked Sarah for her statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Dr Alice Gardner, a GP in Wiltshire and resident of Bath, made a statement highlighting the negative health impacts of climate change such as air pollution and explaining how positive environmental changes also had positive health benefits. A full copy of Alice's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. In response to a query from Councillor Richard Samuel about safe levels of exposure to nitrogen dioxide, Alice responded that she was not aware of the different levels but confirmed that reducing these levels to near zero would be beneficial. The Chair thanked Alice for her statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Joanna Wright made a statement outlining the numerous ways in which petrochemicals underpinned all aspects of modern urban society and highlighting the urgent need to take action now. She urged the Council to vote for change. Councillor Shaun Stephenson McGall asked Joanna if she considered now was a good time for the Avon Pension Fund to divest its investments away from fossil fuel extraction, to which she responded that she completely agreed that divestment away from these fuel sources was the only way forward. The Chair thanked Joanna for her statement which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Jonathan Oates, a writer, teacher and resident of Bath, made a statement supporting the climate emergency resolution. He commended the world wide efforts calling for change, and challenged the Council to demonstrate what it could do in support. The Chair thanked Jonathan for his statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Dr Julian Caldecott, an Ecologist and author, made a statement setting out the environmental aspects of excess greenhouse gases. He called upon the Council to place ecology above politics in responding constructively to the global climate emergency. Councillor Richard Samuel asked for Julian's view of the most effective climate change mitigations that the Council could take, to which he responded that a joined up approach was needed to address a range of options, but a good starting point would be to look at insulation. A full copy of Julian's statement has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. The Chair thanked Julian for his statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

David Redgewell addressed the Council about a range of transport issues at local and West of England level, set out in full in David's statement which has been placed on the Council's Minute book and attached to the online minutes. Councillor Neil Butters asked David about a timescale for light rail. David responded that the rapid transit study was positive with a timescale of 10 – 15 years. Councillor Sarah Bevan asked David about the main stumbling block for the plans at Saltford station to which he responded that it came down to the number of slots available. Electrification was needed to finish the project. The Chair thanked David for his statement which was referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Andrew Dickens from the Lower Common East Allotment Association referred to his 3 previous statements to Council all asking for recognition as an Association and the consequent rights for an association concerning the gates, noticeboards etc. Councillor Dine Romero queried what was preventing him meeting with Councillor Bob Goodman, to which Andrew responded that he was not able to do so until the necessary confirmation from the Council was received. Councillor Robin Moss probed further about a meeting to address this issue and Andrew explained that he did not have the mandate to speak on behalf of the Association and until they were able to advertise on the noticeboard to elect Members, the impasse would continue. The Chair thanked Andrew for his statement which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

Sharon Gillings raised concerns about Curo Housing Association and the fact that the Council no longer had a much needed place on the Board. She recognised that the Council did not have a legal responsibility in this area but stated they had a moral responsibility to have oversight over housing issues. In response to a query from Councillor Will Sandry about whether Sharon had spoken to Curo about these concerns, she explained that there had been a lot of dialogue with them but as yet, no responses in writing. She was due to meet them again on 27th March 2019. The Chair thanked Sharon for her statement which would be referred to the relevant Cabinet Member.

82 THE CITY OF BATH WORLD HERITAGE SITE MANAGEMENT PLAN MID-TERM REVIEW

The Council considered a report seeking agreement to mid-term alterations to the World Heritage Site Management Plan 2016 – 2022, which had originally been endorsed by Council in 2016.

On a motion from Councillor Paul Myers, seconded by Councillor Will Sandry, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) to endorse the mid-term changes to the City of Bath World Heritage Site Management Plan and recommend to the Cabinet Member for Economic and Community Regeneration that the revised document is approved for submission to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

83 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - HOUSING

On a motion from Councillor Tim Warren, seconded by Councillor Paul Myers, it was

RESOLVED that

Council notes that:

1. In January 2019, a cross-party commission, convened by housing charity Shelter in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire, published a report *A vision for social housing*, finding that the roots of the current housing crisis can be found in the decline of social housing over the past four decades.

2. The report found that this decline in social housing has resulted in a failure to build enough homes to meet demand, huge waiting lists for social homes, an explosion in the number of people in private rented accommodation and a huge rise in welfare costs to government as a result of more people renting privately at higher cost.
3. The report further found that, unless a radically different approach is adopted, only half of today's young people are ever likely to own their own home. A generation of young families will be trapped in private rented property for their whole lives, with increasing numbers living in dangerous accommodation or going into debt. More people will grow old in private rentals, facing unaffordable rent increases or eviction at any point. Billions more in welfare costs will be paid to private landlords and hundreds of thousands more people will become homeless as a result of insecure tenancies and sky-high housing costs.
4. The report recommends a decisive and generational shift in housing policy. This would require:
 - investment in social housing;
 - a new regulator working across social and private renting to protect residents and to set and enforce common standards;
 - a new national tenants' organisation to give social housing residents a voice; and
 - a historic renewal of social housing with a 20 year programme to deliver 3.1 million more social homes.
5. Capital Economics set out in detail the costs and benefits of a 20-year social home building programme and found that while the gross additional cost would be on average £10.7 billion per year this gross cost would be reduced firstly by direct benefits to government of increased infrastructure spending and savings in the welfare system, and secondly by the returns to government arising from the knock-on economic benefits across the economy. Taking all this into account, the maximum net cost to government in the most expensive year could be £5.4 billion and if funded in the early years through borrowing, the programme pays back in full over 39 years.
6. In Bath and North East Somerset, there are around 5,000 households on the housing waiting list and currently 27 households in temporary accommodation.

This Council believes that:

7. In line with the vision outlined in the Shelter report, all political parties need to rediscover publicly built housing as a key pillar of our national infrastructure. A home is the foundation of individual success in life and a programme of home building can be the foundation of similar national success.

8. A major increase in the delivery of social housing is required to address the housing crisis in B&NES.

Council resolves therefore:

9. To defer consideration of the motion until full Council in July 2019 and instruct Officers to prepare an information report for that Council on the options and the implications covering policy, budget and Council operations.

[Notes:-

- 1. The Labour motion printed with the agenda was moved by Councillor Robin Moss, and seconded by Councillor Joe Rayment. It was subsequently amended.*
- 2. The above successful resolution was carried as an amendment with 32 Councillors voting in favour, and 19 Councillors voting against. The amendment added resolution 9 above, and removed points 9 – 16 of the original Labour motion as printed with the agenda.*
- 3. As the substantive motion, the above resolution was carried with 44 Councillors voting in favour, and 7 Councillors abstaining.*
- 4. Members across the Chamber were agreed that, when the report is brought back to July Council, points 9 – 16 of the original motion should be fully addressed as part of the information presented.]*

84 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - BUSES

On a motion from Councillor John Bull, seconded by Councillor Chris Dando, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) that

This Council:

1. Recognises that there is public dissatisfaction in B&NES resulting from the perceived lack of reliable, speedy and affordable buses linking residents with their work, educational and health facilities and venues for shopping and entertainment.
2. Also regards it as essential that such services exist in order to reduce residents' reliance on private vehicles with their accompanying pollution, congestion and road safety risks.
3. Welcomes the opportunity under the Bus Services Act 2018 for mayoral Combined Authorities to implement a franchising scheme whereby the Authority identifies the requirements of its residents and then invites bus operators to bid to run the routes rather than the operators competing to offer routes which can often lead to either duplication and overlap or gaps in services.

4. Calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor to the Exchequer to ask for an offer of free bus travel to those under 25, to be funded out of vehicle excise duty.
5. Calls on the WECA Mayor, in the light of recent bus service reductions in rural areas, to apply the necessary staff resources to completing the Bus Strategy as a matter of urgency and to carry out a high-level scoping study on a bus franchising scheme which incorporates conditions on operators including fare levels, frequency, reliability and vehicle accessibility.

[Notes:-

1. *The above resolution, deleting point 4 from the original Labour motion contained within the agenda papers, and adding the new point 4 above, was proposed by Councillor Mark Shelford, and accepted into the substantive by the mover and seconder of the motion.]*

85 MOTION FROM THE LABOUR GROUP - PERIOD POVERTY

On a motion from Councillor Liz Hardman, seconded by Councillor Karen Warrington, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) that

Council notes that:

1. A survey by girls' rights charity Plan International UK found that:
 - one in ten girls in the UK are unable to afford sanitary products;
 - one in seven girls have also struggled to afford sanitary products;
 - one in seven girls have had to ask to borrow sanitary wear from a friend due to affordability issues;
 - more than one in ten girls has had to improvise sanitary wear due to affordability issues; and
 - one in five girls have changed to a less suitable sanitary product due to cost.
2. A January 2018 report also by Plan International UK Break the Barriers: Girls' Experiences of Menstruation in the UK found that periods are surrounded by shame and stigma. 48% of girls feel embarrassed by their periods rising to 56% of 14 year olds.
3. A number of different approaches are being taken to address period poverty including the Red Box Project which provides sanitary products in schools. Brook, in partnership with Plan International UK is piloting a P-Card scheme

which will provide free period products, education and information to vulnerable and disadvantaged young people.

4. Safe disposal of menstrual products poses an increasing environmental problem. Some packs of single-use pads have the equivalent of four carrier bags worth of plastic in them which takes centuries to biodegrade and releases toxic gases if burnt.
5. Research by Anglia Water found that nearly half of women flush tampons and consider this a normal method of disposal. This can lead to blocked sewers and polluted rivers and oceans.
6. B&NES MYP, Hannah Powell, has said that many teenage girls would love to try menstrual cups because they are so much better for the environment, but the cost can be prohibitive.
7. That from this summer, the NHS will offer hospital patients free sanitary products in order to tackle period poverty.

This Council believes that:

8. Talking about periods and ending the taboos that surround them, means that we can better equip every girl with the products and information she needs to manage her periods effectively without shame, stigma or embarrassment.
9. Addressing period poverty should also involve education so that girls understand what is available and the environmental impact of disposable products. Reusable menstrual products, as well as being better for the environment, by their very nature help to address period poverty in a sustainable and long-lasting way. However, they will not be suitable for everyone and it is important that girls have a choice of products.
10. The development of alternatives to the non-biodegradable plastic elements of disposable sanitary products and packaging should be a priority for manufacturers.
11. Individual councillors as public figures and community leaders, have a responsibility to take a lead in opening up the debate about periods so that we can begin to address the shame and stigma felt by so many girls and women.

Council resolves therefore:

12. To welcome the £50K committed by this Council to address period poverty.

13. To work in partnership with those organisations seeking to address period poverty, to set up a pilot scheme to test the feasibility of providing girls, on a universal basis, with a choice from a range of reusable products, including menstrual cups and washable pads, along with the advice and support that they and their parents or carers need to start using these products. The pilot should seek to establish:

- the most appropriate age for providing reusable products to girls;
- the method of distribution; and
- the extent to which these products gain acceptability amongst girls.

14. Alongside this, working in partnership with schools, colleges, universities, local foodbanks and businesses, to provide access to plastic-free disposable sanitary products on a needs basis for school-aged girls and women and to ensure that the Council's own services have access to the sanitary products they need to support those experiencing period poverty.

15. To consider the outcome of the P-card pilot and whether the lessons learnt from it can be applied in the context of B&NES.

16. To meet the project management costs and staffing required to deliver this work from the identified budget.

17. To ask officers to report progress on the pilot scheme and the other measures to address period poverty to the relevant PDS Panel.

18. To welcome the successful campaigns leading to yesterday's announcement by the Chancellor that free sanitary products will be provided in secondary schools from September 2019.

19. To support campaigners calling for a zero rate of VAT to be applied to sanitary products and to call upon government to implement this at the earliest opportunity.

[Notes:-

- 1. Paragraphs 10, 18 & 19 of the above resolution were proposed by Councillor Dine Romero and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder.]*

86 JOINT MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP & CONSERVATIVE GROUP - DECLARING A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND JOINING UK100 CLUB

Councillor Lin Patterson presented a petition containing over 2,200 signatures calling for action on climate change now and made a statement in support.

On a motion from Councillor Rob Appleyard, seconded by Councillor Mark Shelford, it was

RESOLVED that

This Council acknowledges;

1. The devastating impacts that climate change and global temperature increases will have on the lives and livelihoods of people around the world, including on the health, safety and wellbeing of B&NES residents;
2. The urgent need for action to be taken fast enough for there to be a chance of further climate change being limited to avoid the worst impacts of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people;
3. The opportunity for individuals and organisations at all levels to take action on reducing carbon emissions, from both production and consumption;
4. The need to enable low carbon living across society through changes to laws, taxation, infrastructure **plus transport in all forms**, policies and plans;
5. The historic commitments made at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris regarding the future of renewable energy;
6. That global temperatures have already increased by 1oC compared to pre-industrial levels, are still rising, and are on track to overshoot the Paris Agreement limit before 2050;
7. That the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report (November 2018) makes clear the need to ensure global carbon emissions start to decline well before 2030 to avoid overshoot and enable global warming to be limited to 1.5°C;
8. Our responsibility to help secure an environmentally sustainable future for our residents and in relation to the global effects of anthropogenic climate change.

This Council subsequently notes that;

9. Despite the Paris Agreement placing no binding commitments upon local government institutions, we as a Council can still play our part in the global movement towards a sustainable energy future, this is evidenced in recent reports which show with ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, further climate change can be limited;
10. The UK is well placed to contribute to this, drawing upon our existing industrial base, rooted in an industrial heritage which once before revolutionised the global energy economy to the great benefit of humankind;

11. B&NES is well-placed to champion both rural and urban decarbonisation through renewable energy, energy efficiency, smart energy development, zero carbon homes, local & sustainable food, sustainable travel, carbon sequestration;
12. The Council is already working on a number of these issues including, for example, work to ensure the new Local Plan ensures zero carbon development and that the Council-owned ACL builds its new homes to that standard;
13. More needs to be done to enable Bath and wider area's high number of listed buildings to be made more energy efficient, through pressure on central government and Historic England;
14. The development of green industries can deliver economic benefits through creating well-paid, high-skilled employment locally, regionally and nationally as well as improved wellbeing for people worldwide;
15. The West of England Energy Strategy Framework has been agreed as a starting point for developing ambitious plans to support action on climate change;
16. The UK100 Agreement pledge includes the ambition to enable all the UK's cities, towns, villages and rural areas to exceed the Paris Climate targets through achieving 100% 'clean energy' before 2050, but in discussion have agreed to support B&NES aiming to achieve the pledge by 2030.

Therefore, this Council resolves to;

17. Declare a Climate Emergency;
18. Pledge to provide the leadership to enable Bath & North East Somerset to become carbon neutral by 2030;
19. Sign up to the UK100 Pledge to provide the strategic community leadership needed to enable our communities to achieve 100% clean energy across all sectors in Bath & North East Somerset by 2030, as a logical step from the B&NES Environmental Sustainability Vision Motion passed unanimously by Council in July 2018, and as a way to enable carbon neutrality by 2030;
20. Request that the Cabinet takes steps to identify work streams and budgets with the aim of making B&NES Council carbon neutral by 2030, across all functions, as our contribution to fighting climate change;

21. Engage and work in partnership with our partners in the public, private and community sectors including the West of England Combined Authority and central government to facilitate bold action to ensure Bath & North East Somerset is able to play its role in helping the UK to deliver against the commitments made nationally and internationally at the 2015 Paris Summit;
22. Instruct Cabinet to work with the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) and our West of England partners to produce an ambitious delivery plan for the West of England Energy Strategy to use as a key tool for seeking government funding to help us deliver our 2030 target;
23. Update the B&NES Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy in line with this pledge, and, with our partners across the community, to develop an action plan and 'route map' to a sustainable, low carbon future for our community;
24. Request a progress report to Council in 6 months' time, with an annual report on progress to full Council thereafter;
25. Launch real two-way engagement with the public to:
 - Improve "carbon literacy" of all citizens;
 - Encourage and support leadership on this issue in all sectors of society;
 - Obtain meaningful public input into the B&NES Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy and action planning;
 - Facilitate wide community engagement and behavioural change.
26. Oppose the proposed expansion of Bristol Airport.

[Notes:-

1. *The wording in bold in resolution 4 was proposed by Councillor Lin Patterson, and accepted into the substantive motion by the mover and seconder.*
2. *During debate, an amendment was moved by Councillor John Bull and seconded by Councillor Joe Rayment, which sought to add some practical actions that could be taken. This was lost, with 7 Councillors voting in favour, 39 Councillors voting against and 3 abstentions.*
3. *Paragraph 26 of the resolution was added as a result of a successful amendment moved by Councillor Joe Rayment, seconded by Councillor Robin Moss and following a vote of 24 Councillors voting in favour, 22 Councillors voting against and 3 abstentions.*
4. *The substantive motion was carried with 48 Councillors voting in favour and 1 abstention.*
5. *During debate, an unsuccessful proposal to extend the meeting to 10.15pm was lost with 21 Councillors voting in favour, and 28 Councillors voting against.]*

87 MOTION FROM THE CONSERVATIVE GROUP - REDUCTION OF PLASTIC USE

On a motion from Councillor Bob Goodman, seconded by Councillor Paul Crossley, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

This Council acknowledges;

1. That plastic is a material with an extremely long lifetime;
2. One of the largest proportions of plastic waste in our society is plastic that is used only for a short time – i.e. disposable or single use items. It is also these items that are most likely to pollute the environment in uncontrolled ways, i.e. ending up as litter;
3. Questions must be raised as to why we are using a nearly indestructible material for something that is in use for such a short space of time;
4. The ambition to significantly reduction global usage of single-use plastic is not about demonising plastic entirely;
5. Plastic is also a wonder material - it is cheap to make, lightweight and structurally strong;
6. It has enabled a great deal of progress and improved public health in a number of ways including the field of medicine, food hygiene and shelf life of products, it protects things and keeps us safe;
7. The critical role that single-use plastic can still play in areas such as the medical setting where some individuals still need to use straws or single use disposable items;
8. That the Council has been taking action to reduce single use plastics over the last year, for example: eliminating plastic straws in the GLL run leisure centres and the Heritage Services venues, along with action to switch to metal cutlery at the leisure centres, and tackle supply chain plastic waste by Heritage Services

This Council subsequently notes:

9. The prolific use of plastic has led to it becoming an environmental pollution problem on a local, national and global scale;
10. Therefore, it is vitally important to continue to recycle plastic at every opportunity.

11. It is time for everyone to examine how we can make a shift away from our reliance on plastic;
12. Aiming to reduce plastic aligns precisely with the Government's 25-year environment plan and the Government's Waste and Resource Strategy;
13. That the Council will continue to lobby Government and the industry to remove unnecessary packaging and make it easier to avoid single use plastics in the first place and develop solutions;
14. Eliminating single use plastic is a challenge, as here aren't all the answers there yet on alternatives to single use plastics, but there are lots of things that we do as customers, consumers and businesses to make some positive changes away from single-use plastics;
15. Real, tangible progress requires enough local organisations (business, public and community sectors) to sign up to and then demonstrate they have phased out single-use items – e.g. cups, stirrers, straws, condiments sachets;
16. There have already been a considerable number of active members of the business community, local community groups and parish council who have been leading the way or who have been involved in activities that support this:
 - Such as cafes incentivising customers to bring their own cups for take away hot drinks;
 - Refill Bath who are working on reducing the need for single-use plastic water bottles and have encouraged local businesses to sign up to the App that offers people a free tap-water refill, whether or not they are a customer in the shop;
 - The Last Straw – encouraging venues to replace plastic straws with sustainable alternatives;
 - No Place for Litter – supporting local groups organise their own litter picks;
 - Plastic Free Communities is a Surfers against Sewage initiative – joining others across the UK to 'free where we live from unnecessary, single-use plastics';

Therefore, this Council resolves to;

17. Work with the community to ensure that B&NES is able to meet the requirements to qualify for the Surfers Against Sewage Plastic Free Community Award by April 2020; which includes
18. Leading by example locally and continuing to push to remove unnecessary single-use plastic from across the Council workplaces – such as with the water dispensers across the Guildhall that each use single-use plastic cups by June 2019;
19. Continue to build on the recently launched ‘Plastic Free BathNES Pledge Campaign’ by signing up local businesses, public and community sector organisations to phase out a minimum of 3 single-use items and helping to make our environment free from plastic waste.

88 MOTION FROM THE LIBERAL DEMOCRAT GROUP - CONNECTING FAMILIES

On a motion from Councillor Paul Crossley, seconded by Councillor Paul May, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously)

Council notes:

1. Bath and North East Somerset Council’s Connecting Families Programme has been in operation since 2013 and is part of the Government’s ‘Troubled Families Programme’.
2. The Connecting Families team has worked with and tracked outcomes for 842 local families in the current phase of the programme and has recorded successful outcomes for 487 of these. This represents almost 70% of the Programme target of 700 families assisted.
3. B&NES is currently ranked as the second highest performing authority in the country for this indicator.
4. That intensive early intervention services are instrumental in improving the lives of local families and also lead to reduced costs and duplication of services for the Council.
5. Local authorities receive funding for the Programme through a payment-by-results system.
6. The second phase of the Programme is due to end in 2020 and no announcement has yet been made regarding the continuation of funding for the programme after this date.

7. The resolution adopted by the Children and Young People Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 19 September 2017 supporting the continuation of the Programme.

Council resolves:

8. To commend the Connecting Families team for their outstanding work in supporting local families, along with the volunteer support group Families Matter.
9. To ask the Leader of Council to make further representations to Government, calling for the continuation of funding for the Programme in the context of the forthcoming comprehensive spending review.
10. To ask the MPs for Bath and North East Somerset to support calls for continued funding for the Programme and to invite them to receive briefings about some of the successes achieved through the Programme.

89 QUESTIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillor Lin Patterson had made a statement and presented a petition earlier in the meeting.

Councillor Will Sandry thanked the Council and Chair at the conclusion of the meeting.

The meeting ended at 10.00 pm

Chairman

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

COUNCIL MEETING 14th MARCH 2019

REGISTERED SPEAKERS

- Rachel Willis
Re: Period poverty
- Abbi Cole
Re: Climate emergency
- Richard Young
Re: Climate emergency
- Sarah Warren
Re: Climate emergency
- Alice Gardner
Re: Climate emergency
- Joanna Wright
Re: Climate emergency
- Jonathan Oates
Re: Climate emergency
- Julian Caldecott
Re: Climate emergency
- David Redgewell
Re: Transport issues
- Andrew Dickens
Re: Lower Common East Allotment Association
- Sharon Gillings
Re: Housing

[Statements supplied in advance are attached]

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Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you today.

This evening you will be considering several really important motions including one brought to you by the Labour councillors on period poverty.

Over the past 24 hours we have heard an announcement that money is going to be put into addressing period poverty in secondary schools in England. This is to be welcomed. Period poverty has a particular impact on school girls who have no source of income and are therefore entirely reliant on the adults in their lives to provide them with the products they need to manage their periods. We hear too many stories about teenagers having to improvise sanitary wear, using rolled up socks or toilet roll and sellotape for example, and missing out on education because they can't afford the sanitary products they need. I am really glad that this is now being widely recognised as an issue that needs to be addressed.

However, the announcement made yesterday does not make this motion redundant. Far from it. Instead, if agreed, this motion will put B&NES Council at the forefront of efforts to end period poverty by providing a long lasting and sustainable solution.

We hear so much about climate change and ocean plastic and indeed you will be debating that tonight too. Many people will be shocked to learn that some disposable sanitary products contain the equivalent of four carrier bags of plastic which takes hundreds of years to biodegrade. Reusable products not only address environmental concerns but have built into them the means of addressing period poverty in the long term. As a teenager, I would have felt far too embarrassed to have freely helped myself from a basket by the sinks. Being provided with reusable products would have avoided this, but the provision of reusable sanitary wear will need to go hand-in-hand with education as many people will be unfamiliar with these items. It will also be important to provide girls and women with a choice through the provision of plastic-free disposable products to those in need.

Periods are still surrounded by embarrassment, but slowly the stigma is being eroded. Tonight you have a great opportunity to open up the debate even further. When you get to that item on the agenda, I hope to hear lots of councillors talking about periods and in doing so you will be making a big difference to women and girls in our area.

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Hello, I have lived in Bath or Keynsham my whole life and now I am a parent to a 7 year old daughter and 5 year old son. I have always been interested and concerned about climate change, but it is a fairly recent realisation that we are in such a desperate situation. My realisation and desire to make a difference came at the same time as many other parents and we have therefore joined together to form FACE (Family Action on Climate Emergency). We are committed to having a positive impact on climate change by raising awareness and making changes in our local area.

Reading the IPCC's special report back in October really opened my eyes and made me realise how everyone one of us needs to commit to making a difference now. I was filled with fear for the future and the impact that this would have on my children and our future generations.

To be honest I felt fairly desperate for a while, I was busy at work, filing tax returns, as I am an accountant, but I couldn't help feel it was all going to be worthless. What would be the point in helping people abide by the relevant law if we were all fighting for survival?

However, I had to focus on the positive that there is hope. If EVERYONE increases their understanding and knowledge on how we are damaging the planet, and we use this knowledge to make changes, we may be able to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees. This is far from ideal, but it is far better than the alternative. It means we can be proud of the impact we have had in these crucial moments to save the world for our children.

There is an ever increasing number of people in our city, and in particular parents, who share these beliefs and we are all taking action in our own way. However, we cannot make the impact and change that is needed on a larger scale without ambition from you. Therefore if our council do vote to declare a climate emergency you are using your power in the best possible way. This could have a huge impact on the city in which we live. We know that it will take resource and commitment which isn't always easy when budgets are constrained and you have a list of issues to deal with. However, you will be representing us to ensure that we are taking the right actions for the people living here and doing our part to drive change across the world. You have the power to ensure we have the right efficient public transport system, you can ensure there is widespread change on how we view waste and air travel. You have the power to change behaviours. This will make a difference.

I have always been proud to live in Bath, when I tell people I live here they are often envious. They think we live in a forward thinking, community driven, beautiful city. I don't want that to change. I don't want to rely on others who are too busy to take action. Therefore we ask that you please pass the climate emergency motion and give this the time and budget it so needs.

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14/3/19

Speech to Full Council Meeting, Bath and North East Somerset Council.

By Dr Alice Gardner, BA BMBCCh MRCGP.

GMC registration number 6144404

My name is Dr Alice Gardner. I work as a GP in Wiltshire, but I live with my family in Oldfield Park in Bath. I have two young daughters, and when I am at home I use my married name which is Alice Boden.

I feel that it is my duty as a mother and a health professional to fight for a safer, healthier future for my daughters and for my patients. This is why I am speaking in support of this motion to declare a climate emergency and work towards net zero emissions by 2030. We must do everything we can to effect rapid change, to reduce the risk of uncontrolled warming, climate chaos and mass extinction. As Sir David Attenborough told the UN climate conference last year, “the collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizon”.¹

This is a moment of crisis and we must act. However, I am here to tell you about the huge benefits of these necessary actions.

The World Health Organisation tells us that the costs of moving to a cleaner and more sustainable world are far outweighed by the health benefits of making these changes². The Zero Carbon Britain report “Rethinking the future”³ sets out strategies to net zero whilst maintaining and improving current living standards, including switching to 100% renewable energy, raising standards for new buildings, and retrofitting all existing buildings.

Increasing walking and cycling, planting trees and making public transport emission-free in BANES will bring huge health benefits. For example, turning inactive people more active could prevent 1 in 10 cases of stroke and heart disease in the UK⁴. Trees and green spaces make us happier and healthier. If everyone had equal access to green space, the savings to the NHS are estimated at £2.1 billion per year in England alone⁵.

I’m sure that, after the debate over the Clean Air Zone, you are all aware of the dangers of air pollution. Similarly, cold, damp homes increase rates of childhood asthma⁶, and cold homes cause increased hospital admission for older people⁷. Improving insulation and ventilation in our homes is another win-win situation.

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46398057> [Accessed 7.3.19]

² <https://www.who.int/news-room/detail/05-12-2018-health-benefits-far-outweigh-the-costs-of-meeting-climate-change-goals> [Accessed 7.3.19]

³ The Centre for Alternative Technology (2016) Zero Carbon Britain: rethinking the future.

⁴ Public Health England (2014) Everybody active, every day – an evidence based approach to physical activity.

⁵ Natural England Technical Information Note TIN055 (2009) An estimate of the economic and health value and cost effectiveness of the expanded WHI initiative 2009.

⁶ Stachan, D. Damp housing, mold allergy, and childhood asthma. *Proceedings of the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh* 1991; 1:140-6

⁷ Rudge, D., Gilchrist, R. Excess winter morbidity among older people at risk of cold homes: a population-based study in a London borough. *Journal of Public Health (Oxford)* 2005; 27(4): 353-8

The Zero Carbon Britain report recommends reducing food waste and increasing plant-sourced food. Agriculture produces about a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions⁸. A balanced diet, mostly from plants and with reduced meat, would cause a large drop in early deaths as well as reducing these dangerous emissions.

In a letter published in medical journals last month, a group of health professionals called on the UK Government to introduce legal changes to allow the UK to reach carbon net zero by 2030⁹. We must act quickly, to save the future for our children and the planet. But also, we must act quickly for better lives here in Bath and North East Somerset. Life can be better, happier and healthier right now, and in the future. To quote from the letter, “Our national history is made up of moments in which we have responded to crisis and realised a better world in the process”. Let’s start making that better world.

Thank you.

Distributed for reference:

UK Health Alliance on Climate Change (2016) Health and climate: co-benefits.

Centre for Alternative Technology (2014) Zero Carbon Britain: rethinking the future. Report in short: summary of key findings.

⁸ Springmann M, et al. Health and nutritional aspects of sustainable diet strategies and their association with environmental impacts: a global modelling analysis with country-level detail. *The Lancet Planetary Health* 2018; 2(10): PE451-PE461

⁹ Stott R, et al. Legislate for carbon net zero by 2030. *The Lancet* Online [eLetter] 20 February, 2019 [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(19\)30048-0/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(19)30048-0/fulltext)

Good evening everybody,

I am a writer, researcher and teacher. I live in Bath.

The Emergency Transition, to a new Human System, has begun.

The new system is more compatible with our professed morality. The system would not be damaging to human life, with the elimination of moral poverty, excess consumption, and systemic morbidity and premature death. Such a system would, given the starting point, minimise mass extinction, climate breakdown, environmental breakdown, and be adapted to locked-in changes. The threat from environmental breakdown and nuclear annihilation would likewise be, given the starting point, minimised.

To effect the changes required in the time available is going to require an extraordinary level of mobilisation by all institutions and households. A number of writers uses the example of the Second World War, just about in living memory, as a guide to its order of magnitude. It is though a peculiar moment : the main task of the next 12 to 24 months is to secure the participation of our major national governments and states, which have been criminally negligent at best. I believe this will be achieved once sufficient of the public, in all classes, comes to understand the 'extreme danger' we are all in, to use the phrase of the Science and Security Board of the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, a few years ago. Whilst the Head of State, Downing Street, and the national government, and major public and private media institutions – the BBC, and the press, above all – continue to fail in their responsibility in this regard, new civil society institutions like Extinction Rebellion, the Youth Strike 4 Climate, Fridays For Future, and Birth Strike movements, and myriad new coalitions will soon achieve the same end. A sea change is upon us. It is truly extraordinary to see our children leading us to safety. Citizens are, in turn, about to discover how extraordinary they are, and what they are capable of. I suggest you respond in kind. Let's discover what an extraordinary effort by a local authority, a Council, and councillors looks like, and can achieve. Nothing less will do; nor will it be accepted.

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Submission to B&NES Council in support of the motion on climate emergency and carbon neutrality, 14 March 2019.

The living world is now behaving in ways consistent with excess greenhouse gases, as released by the actions of humanity, trapping solar radiation as heat. Responses include mass die-offs and extinctions, rising sea levels, unstable atmospheric and oceanic currents, lethal multi-year droughts, unusual heatwaves and cold-snaps, unprecedented wildfires and wild storms, and new records for mean global temperature every year. Climate scientists have tested many hypotheses that might exculpate humanity, from coincidence to natural cycles, but all have been rejected because they are inconsistent with the evidence for human agency.

I now live in Bath but I spent 40 years as an ecologist and development professional in tropical countries, where I saw the cutting edge of mass extinction through deforestation, and the impacts of glacial retreat, drought, fire, storm and sea-level rise. I now have no doubt that human carbon emissions have destabilised nature, and that natural systems could well respond by extinguishing most life on Earth. I am particularly worried by the imminent loss of Arctic summer sea ice, which threatens runaway heating from about 2030.

In my work I have often seen effective environmental programmes being built by people who have set aside mere political differences in order to focus on ecological reality and the protection and restoration of the ecosystems that sustain their own communities and businesses. These are exceptions but they prove the value of correctly placing ecology above politics. This principle offers a way for us to respond constructively to a global climate emergency, one that we are not yet doing nearly enough to prevent or mitigate.

It has now been proposed that B&NES Council commits us to zero net carbon emissions by 2030, and I whole-heartedly support this motion as a way to focus minds on the changes that every community will have to make in coming years. Council members will be aware of the rapid increase in public alarm over climate change, which can only accelerate with every climate-related environmental calamity in the UK and worldwide. I hope that the Council will respond by supporting this proposal, thereby showing responsible leadership before public alarm becomes true panic in the face of overwhelming evidence of immediate threat to life and property.

Dr Julian Caldecott
Ecologist and author

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David Redgewell statement

Light Rail around Bristol and Bath

We want to see the budget for the light rail consultation studies in the Greater Bristol area to be fully protected and support the principles of a light rail route to Bristol Airport as a top priority and afterwards to Bath especially from Lambridge across the City to Newbridge which could then make use of the light rail corridor to Bristol through Bitton, Saltford, Kelston, Warmley to Yate and East Bristol via Mangotsfield, Staple Hill and Fishponds as well as linking into the RUH at Weston, the new Bath Spa Art & Design College at Weston Lock and Park & Ride sites which need to be co-ordinated with the Bristol Mayor's rapid transit project. The two schemes must link to Warmley and the Emersons Green Science Park and the Avon Valley Railway rail services should be run during the weekend, school holidays and for special events (gala days etc). Provision should be made for a continuous cycle/walkway between Bristol and Bath where possible but with double-tracking being designed in where available. The implementation of light rail will help bring the City region into line with EU emission and clean air targets together with clean fuel buses and taxi's. The light rail system should include the link up to Whitchurch via the former North Somerset Railway corridor to Callington Road thence on the ring road to Hengrove to the Whitchurch airport new housing development site and then to Bristol airport using design studies from the Avon County Council "Westway" light rail project as a template. This information could also be used as part of the current Bristol airport light rail study which proposes the use of the South Bristol link corridor on the A38 and Long Ashton P& R.

The light rail corridor to Odd Down is welcomed however the majority of the traffic is to the Somer Valley at Peasedown, Radstock and Mid Somer Norton and therefore an extension of a rapid transit system to this area would be beneficial. What evaluation of the Somerset and Dorset railway corridor has been carried out as Norton Radstock is an enterprise zone and needs public transport improvement.

The route to Bath University seems to have gradient constraints and requires considerable engineering works and it should also be noted that all LRT schemes approved in the UK have been conurbation wide eg Midland Metro (Birmingham - Wolverhampton), Greater Manchester, Nottingham and Croydon and will require DFT funding and approvals in the long term and in the short term to be in the Metro Mayors joint transport plan. A study needs to be carried out on these corridors.

Bus/Rail integration

This is required at Bath Spa station and other locations where light rail might possibly connect with buses. Across Europe and Greater Manchester/London rapid transit is fully integrated into the bus network. We need to make progress on bus/rail integration at Temple Meads as the proposed Temple Gate stops do not work for passengers.

On rail we welcome the work on disabled access at Stapleton Road and Patchway but the Stapleton Road temporary ramps do not provide good access without grab rails.

There should be investment in MetroWest between Westbury, Bath and Bristol currently out for consultation with the DFT as part of the GWR franchise with First Group as the operator until 2022. This could include a business unit for Bristol and Bath, Somerset, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire & Greater Bristol.

SWTN also want to see the GWR franchise retained as one complete business unit and not split up as originally proposed by the DFT. The GWR IEP electrification programme should also be completed in the shortest possible time to assist with high technology rail job creation opportunities in the region together with the Henbury loop rail project serving the proposed Filton Arena.

There should also be a Greater Bristol business unit within the GWR franchise with devolved powers similar to the West Midlands and Greater Manchester PTE's.

Bus proposals can be included as should future schemes eg light rail integration and the Overground rail project in Bristol.

Arena

issues

The Mayor and Metro Mayor should draw up a full transport plan with First Group and YTL if the Filton arena proposals are taken forward.

Regarding a shuttle train from Bristol Parkway to Temple Meads, taxi ranks, ferry terminal, service coaches and car parking including disabled spaces.

Construction of Station Street and bus interchange at the Friary is required as part of the new University campus development at Temple Meads.

Brabazon hanger

This location would need coach parking, MetroBus stops, coach stops, bus stops at this location and on Park & Ride services to Brislington, Parkway, Portway, Ashton Vale, extra trains from Bath and West Wilts, Taunton, W-S-M, Cardiff, Newport, Patchway, Filton, Yate, Gloucester, Cheltenham, Severn Beach via Clifton Down, Henbury loop, Portishead and Swindon. There should be 15 minute frequency services on the Henbury loop serving the Arena and 10 minute shuttle bus service on main routes to it.

The Class 800 IEP trains should operate from London and South Wales via Parkway to Filton North station for the arena, services from the South West, West Midlands to the Henbury loop station, coach parking will need to be provided, taxis, bus links Greater Bristol wide, links to Cribbs Causeway and hotels will need to be addressed.

If the Filton arena plans fall through for any reason then a Temple Meads Arena would need coach parking, MetroBus stops, coach stops in Avon Street, bus stops at this location and on Bath Road Park & Ride services from Brislington, Parkway, Portway, Ashton Vale, extra trains from Bath and West Wilts, Taunton, W-S-M, Cardiff, Newport, Patchway, Filton, Yate, Gloucester/Cheltenham, Severn Beach via Clifton Down, Henbury loop, Portishead and Swindon.

We urge Bristol City Council, WECA and Bristol Mayor's to address a full integrated transport plan for the Arena similar to those at Manchester Victoria/Wembley.

Arena rail services will need to be included in the new GW rail franchise.

All stations on the reopened Portishead line should be fully disabled accessible as should Nailsea & Backwell station and lifts should be provided at Weston-Super-Mare station.

Bus strategy

Whilst there has been some investment in the rail network including Stapleton Road, Patchway station car park and Portway Park & Ride we are concerned over the lack of an overall bus strategy. Some bus shelters need upgrading, bus flags require repair/replacement and many don't have working lighting or real time information screens. There shouldn't be any further cuts in bus subsidies but more investment in the local bus network instead so the Metro Mayor must address these issues alongside any light rail proposals for Bristol and Bath especially where services like the 16 from Bristol Parkway to Longwell Green via Lodge Causeway have already been cut leaving residents with no buses. The 10 Lyde Green - Southmead hospital bus service should be reinstated as part of an improved orbital bus network. We are also concerned about the limited frequencies on routes 36, 96 and 179 to Radstock and reduction of the 17 service from Kingswood to Southmead to hourly (Monday - Saturday evenings) and cut on the later Sunday evenings.

Passengers interchanging between bus/rail routes should have accessible toilet facilities on key routes with money for maintaining/cleaning bus shelters/bus bays. These should include facilities at Shirehampton Green, Eastville Park and Fishponds Park. One way to fund public transport would be to use money raised by parking fees instead of spending it on non transport infrastructure projects like pavement repairs. These toilets are also used by bus drivers and passengers on routes around Bristol. Has an Equalities Impact Assessment been carried out regarding the closures and any new facilities. Of course in South Gloucestershire, BANES and North Somerset have protected these facilities as part of the network.

We remind you that the tourism industry in Bristol alone is worth £1.3 billion and we do not want any reputational damage to Bristol with these closures so these facilities including community toilets and private sector transfers must work. Also, visitors to Weston-Super-Mare arriving by coach should not have to face an individual 20p charge to use the toilets on arrival after a long journey as many are in large family groups. Coach drivers should be able to issue free tokens to coach users to help visitors who are after all contributing a great deal to the North Somerset/Weston-Super-Mare tourism economy. BANES toilets should also be free at the P & R sites if possible.

It is very important that the new Weston-Super-Mare bus station is built to be fully accessible to allow enough bus interchange capacity for routes around the town.

WECA Transport Forum issues

We are concerned about the lack of progress for a rail and transport forum and the need to merge the congestion task force within any WECA group. We also must address the proposed Regional Transport Board.

On integration we are concerned about the lack of integration between MetroBus and the background bus network especially around North Bristol along the Bradley Stoke corridor.

DAVID REDGEWELL South West Transport Network/Bus Users South West