

COUNCIL MEETING 15th SEPTEMBER 2021

STATEMENTS & QUESTIONS

Public statements (item 5)

- David Redgewell
Re: Transport issues

- Ben Reed
Re: Approach golf course

Councillor statement (item 8)

- Cllr Joanna Wright (statement overleaf)
Re: Nuclear Ban Communities Pledge

Councillor question (item 8)

Question from Councillor Joanna Wright to Councillor Kevin Guy;

“At the Policy Development and Scrutiny panels under our own constitution and expected ways of working, it is assumed that the Cabinet Member responsible for papers will be present to answer questions and debate with the panel about the policy. At the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy and Development and Scrutiny Panel on the 7th June 2021 the Cabinet Member for Transport was not present to debate with the panel the Liveable Neighbourhood paper. Please note that the use of TROs is a key element of delivering Liveable Neighbourhoods. Will the Leader of Council ensure in future that all relevant Cabinet Members attend the PDS panels and be answerable to the papers in the public forum?”

Response from Councillor Kevin Guy

“Cabinet members attend PDS meetings at the invitation of the panel Chair and will always attend when they are able. With regard to the Climate Emergency and Sustainability Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel on 7 June, the Cabinet member with lead responsibility for Liveable Neighbourhoods attended and introduced the report. The Cabinet member for Transport wanted to attend, but was unable to do so, due to the Covid precautions in place at the time.”

Statement from Cllr Joanna Wright

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) is asking that all Councillors pledge a commitment to promote the United Nations Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons within their elected chamber. I am therefore proposing that this Chamber pledges that B&NES Council commits and signs the ICAN pledge and calls on the British Government to sign and ratify the Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear Weapons.

In the first resolution in 1946 of the UN General Assembly, it called for “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.” Advocating the importance of nuclear disarmament and nuclear weapon free world

The Nobel Peace Prize in 2017 was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its ground-breaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."

In a statement from the Noble committee they said “We live in a world where the risk of nuclear weapons being used is greater than it has been for a long time. Some states are modernizing their nuclear arsenals, and there is a real danger that more countries will try to procure nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons pose a constant threat to humanity and all life on earth. Through binding international agreements, the international community has previously adopted prohibitions against land mines, cluster munitions and biological and chemical weapons. Nuclear weapons are even more destructive, but have not yet been made the object of a similar international legal prohibition.

The International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) has been the leading civil society actor in the endeavour to achieve a prohibition of nuclear weapons under international law. On 7 July 2017, 122 of the UN member states adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. As soon as the treaty has been ratified by 50 states, the ban on nuclear weapons will enter into force and will be binding under international law for all the countries that are party to the treaty.

Five of the states that currently have nuclear weapons – USA, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China – have already committed to this objective through their accession to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1970. The Non-Proliferation Treaty will remain the primary international legal instrument for promoting nuclear disarmament and preventing the further spread of such weapons.

All life on earth is still under the shadow of nuclear bombs and the calamitous environmental impact that dropping them would and does cause. I therefore call upon all Councillors in Bath and North East Somerset Council to sign the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons pledge.