

NOTICE OF MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH SHARP

1. Measure Number One - Trees

This Council notes:

The importance of trees in slowing the pace of climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen into the air, as well as providing a habitat for wildlife

The contribution trees make to the environment in our towns including shading and cooling pollution and noise mitigation, as well speeding up floodwater drainage and improving the quality of our street scene.

This Council further notes:

- The Government's pledge in 2018 to plant 11 million new trees by 2050, including in towns and urban areas, and the appointment of a national Tree Champion with a remit to make this happen.

In support of the national campaign to increase the number of trees being planted, particularly in our towns, this Council therefore:

- (i) Calls for a review of current policies on, and attitude towards, the planting of trees in our urban area with a view to introducing a more proactive policy, which looks to increase the number and regularity of trees planted in our city and residential streets and parks and other open spaces;
- (ii) Calls for a new strategy to include providing opportunities to educate children in understanding the benefits of trees and to get involved in tree planting;
- (iii) Recommends closer partnership working with our County and District Councils, and landowners seeking sites for new tree planting
- (iv) Recommends an urgent **Tree Summit** bringing together the City Council, District Council and County Council, BID and the Tree Wardens and members of the public to work out how to plant more trees on our city and residential streets and in our parks and other open spaces in order to provide more shade for future residents due to rising temperatures due to climate change, to provide more protection from pollution and improve air quality, to reduce our carbon footprint, and lastly to promote trees for improving our mental health and well being
- (v) Recommends that our Council takes advantage of any outside funding to assist with costs including the Woodland Trust that enable residents and community groups to fund the planting and future maintenance of trees.

2. Measure Number Two - Wildflowers to support pollinators

The City Council is responsible for various open spaces for example Litten Gardens, St Martin's Garden, St Bartholomew's Church, St Paul's Church.

Chichester City Council owns and manages a total of 14.5 acres of allotment land spread over seven sites within the City.

The way in which the Property Team manage this land which is under our control as City Council assets has an impact on wildlife and amenity .

Being cut several times each year means grass is cut before many wildflower plants have had a chance to flower. Wildflowers need to be available for insects when in flower and to be left long enough to have seeded before being cut. Cutting regimes should be timed to allow wildflower areas to self-perpetuate and improve the wildlife value of the land.

We recommend to the City Council that we:

- (i) Review and reduce the timing and frequency of grass cutting across the City to increase biodiversity and manage some of our land as wildlife habitats, and work with partners to produce a pollinator action plan to guide cutting contracts. When managed correctly grass can support remarkable, diverse collections of species. The good news is that good management often involves simply doing less which saves money, allowing the space to develop and plants to set seed before cutting takes place.
- (ii) Communicate to residents the reasons for the change of management and the importance of land as wildlife habitats especially because meadows and other species-rich grasslands now cover less than 1% of the UK.

3. Measure Number Three - Pesticide Free City

We note that:

- (i) The Property Team has already terminated its using of Glyphosate based weedkillers and is experimenting with natural weedkillers.
- (ii) We would like to congratulate the Property Manager on limiting the use of dangerous chemicals which could endanger the health of the City Council employees and the wider public.
- (iii) We recommend to the Council that the Property Manager coordinates with his County and District Colleagues to reduce the use of pesticides in the city more widely.
- (iv) We recommend the City Council joining the Pesticide Free Towns Network for a healthier environment for our citizens.

The Network of Pesticide Free Towns envisions a world where the use of pesticides is minimized and replaced with sustainable alternatives, hence, the health of citizens and the environment is safeguarded, biodiversity is enhanced and an improved quality of life is achieved.

To achieve this vision, we would encourage Chichester City Council to pledge to continue to adhere to appropriate policies and measures to ensure the following objective(s) are reached:

- Ban the use of herbicides in public areas under city's control
- Ban the use of all pesticides in public areas under city's control
- Help to extend the ban of pesticides to private areas with public access and agricultural areas next to where citizens live

- Step up and support the greening efforts towards local biodiversity enhancement already being championed by Transition Chichester under the direction of Mrs Mary Iden.

In order to put into effect the pesticide free vision for the Chichester we would commit specifically to:

- Develop and promote a campaign aimed at informing citizens about the transition to become pesticide-free, and the reasons for it; encourage citizens to actively support the transition by promoting the use of sustainable alternatives in private gardens and allotments
- Communicate with and involve all stakeholders (County and District Council employees and sub-contractors, local farmers, etc).
- Increase local biodiversity through municipal and citizen-driven activities

4. Measure Number Four - Green bus stops

We recommend that the City Council works with Stagecoach and the District and County Councils to initiate the use of Green roofs for bus stops in Chichester.

We recommend that sedum or other plants are used on the roofs of bus stops to attract more bees as pollinators, provide more plants to improve air quality and to be a visible sign that the City Council is actively reducing our collective carbon footprint.

5. Measure Number Five – Greening Flower Offer in the City Centre displays

The City organises much of the civic planting in the city. This Council recommends that every effort must be made to consider

- (i) Drought resistance of the planting
- (ii) Using pollinator friendly planting to encourage bees
- (iii) Using locally grown flowers wherever possible instead of plants from abroad
- (iv) Using native plants.
- (v) Using perennials and wildflowers as much as possible to draw the public's attention to the importance of supporting native species and encouraging bees in the hanging baskets, Cathedral beds and flower towers and other areas of planting the City is responsible for.

Motion about Electricity Suppliers

We note that the City Council has declared a Climate Emergency in the summer.

We note that one of the key actions that individuals, businesses and councils can take to reduce their carbon footprint is to source their electricity from renewable sources and change to a Green Tarriff.

We recommend that enquiries are made to compare different renewable energy providers as this would be an easy way to show the City Council's commitment to reducing its impact on the environment.

We recommend the City Council should evaluate the comparison prices between an 100% Green tariff and a Brown tariff and make a decision based on the environmental as well as economic objectives of the city council, prioritising Green energy within existing energy budgets.

We recommend that we evaluate the various 'basket' options including fixed and flexible pricing and the length of the contracts in consultation with the Property Manager and make a decision based on the environmental as well as economic objectives of the City Council, prioritising fuel-efficient and 'green' options within existing energy budgets

We recommend that the City Council looks into that the future review of energy supply contracts and should explore an energy procurement strategy that supports local community energy providers for example the County Council's Your Energy Sussex <https://www.yourenergysussex.org.uk/>

We note as a City Council that costs need to be kept under control however we note that sometimes it is important to consider other implications of purchases.

Sheffield City Council, Oswestry Town Council, Brighton City Council and Lancaster City Council are all examples of councils which have recently switched to green tariffs in order to deliver changes needed by the climate change emergency we have declared.