

Motion to Full Council – 2 October 2012

Proposed Badger Cull

Motion proposed by Councillor Eddie Gaines and seconded by Councillor Steve Ross

This Council notes the serious and damaging animal welfare and economic impact that Bovine Tuberculosis (TB) has on the farming community in the area. This Council also notes with concern the considerable public and scientific opposition to the Government's proposals to pilot a badger cull in areas including one that covers this Council.

The Council acknowledges scientific research that highlights the short-comings in the Government's current proposals including a report by the Independent Scientific Group (ISG) that concluded that, 'badger culling can make no meaningful contribution to cattle TB control in Britain'.

This Council recognises the strong public opposition to the cull and the arguments made by respected animal welfare organisations, such as the RSPCA, Badgers Trust, League Against Cruel Sports and Humane Society International that the current proposals would be ineffective and could eradicate 70% of badger populations.

Furthermore this Council believes that the Government would better serve the farming community by developing work on vaccinations for badgers to achieve the long-term eradication of the disease from livestock.

This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs to:-

- Highlight the Council's concern about the practicalities as well as the welfare implications of the current proposed cull in the Wiveliscombe area of Taunton Deane;
- Object to the cull taking place on Council owned land; and
- Call on the Government to seek alternative methods to tackle the problem of Bovine Tuberculosis.