

MOTIONS

9.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR MATHERS

That this Council is concerned at the level of bee colony collapse in the UK over the last 10 years and the threat to our food supply as bees provide over 80% of crop pollination. With this in view and taking into account the Council's responsibilities for conserving biodiversity, this Council calls on the Cabinet to:

- i) Establish a 'Bees and Pollinators' action plan for the borough. Such a plan could include:
 - Using planning powers to protecting habitats that are important to bees and pollinators,
 - Encouraging all new developments to provide for pollinators,
 - Stopping the use of insecticides on local authority land,
 - Continue the use of wildflower meadows on public green spaces and along public highways and continue planting pollinator-friendly plants,
 - Asking public health bodies and social housing partners to support our efforts
- ii) Establish and fund a 'Bee Friendly Wildlife Group' of officers charged with promoting beekeeping in Hillingdon.
- iii) Establish a team to visit schools to educate children about the relationship between bees and biodiversity and the problems surrounding bee mortality and encouraging schools to help children engage with this agenda.
- iv) Fund regular marketing campaigns on:
 - the use of beehives on municipal land, allotments and in the gardens of volunteers.
 - encourage forms of gardening and land use that support pollinating insects.
 - Asking the public not to use insecticides in their garden and to plant bee-friendly plants
- v) Add an additional category of awards to Hillingdon in Bloom to compliment the Roome Cup category for gardens that specifically provides recognition for bee-friendly habitats.

9.2 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR CURLING

That this Council notes that there is a national issue with regard to unsafe and unsalable homes due to the cladding scandal, and other defects, that has only come to light because of the tragic loss of lives in the Grenfell fire, which was four years ago.

Council also notes that this scandal has left many leaseholders in severe financial crisis because of developers and management companies placing the cost of repair works on the shoulders of innocent leaseholders, even though leaseholders bear no responsibility for the situation in which they find themselves.

Council recognise that this is all having a detrimental impact on the mental and physical health of many residents in Hillingdon, who have put considerable, personal and financial, investment into becoming part of the home owning democracy, only to find that the large development companies are demanding bankrupting high repair costs.

Council also recognises that the cladding & unsafe buildings scandal is the joint responsibility of the developers and the government, as recognised by the Prime Minister, who referred to Ballymore at PMQs and declared that he was “on their case” with regard to this very issue.

Council further notes that the building safety bill is currently going through parliament, and that whilst this is welcome, there is still an emphasis on individual leaseholders taking legal action and being financially burdened, rather than the developers being made to face up to their responsibilities.

Council therefore calls on the Cabinet to act in order to put Hillingdon residents first, by:

- Raising these issues with the government.
- Joining forces with other local authorities and the LGA to work with government to explore ways in which local councils can be empowered to support their residents and ensure building regulations are complied with, or retrospectively repaired at no cost to the leaseholder.
- Supporting the aims of the ‘End Our Cladding Scandal’ campaign, especially the 10 steps to end the scandal, which are:
 1. The government must lead an urgent national effort to remove all dangerous cladding from buildings by June 2022.
 2. The Building Safety Fund must cover all buildings, regardless of height, and a range of internal and external fire safety defects, not just cladding.
 3. The government should provide the money up front and then seek to recover it from any responsible parties or via a temporary levy on development.
 4. Social housing providers must have full and equal access to the fund.
 5. The government must compel building owners or managers to be honest with residents about fire safety defects.
 6. The government should cover the cost of interim safety measures.
 7. The government should act as an insurer of last resort and underwrite insurance where premiums have soared.
 8. A fairer, faster process is needed to replace the EWS form and funding is necessary to ensure all buildings requiring a form are surveyed within 12 months.
 9. Mental health support must be offered to affected residents.
 10. Protecting residents from historic and future costs must be a key legislative commitment so that developers, not leaseholders, are held accountable for the repair of all unsafe elements of the buildings they constructed.