

MOTIONS

9.1 MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR NELSON:

This Council recognises the importance of Black History Month locally, nationally and internationally. This Council will endeavour to protect and actively uphold the history, heritage and culture of all its residents.

The Council seems to have forgotten why Black History Month (BHM) was launched in 1987 in the UK under the African Jubilee year declaration. The Declaration bound Councils to undertake to organise events that publicise, encourage and implement the tenets of the Declaration. There was also a commitment to promote positive imagery, achievements and contributions of Africans at home and abroad over a wide range of endeavours, plus naming buildings, parks or monuments or streets after notable Africans, such as the CLR James Library in Hackney, and Mandela Street in Camden.

The purpose of BHM is to empower Africans who are generally marginalised and disadvantaged on numerous fronts, to increase their self-worth and knowledge, and indeed for the wider community to also learn more about the achievements of Africans, which are not often found in mainstream education or media.

Over the last two years this Council has not marked Black History Month. Residents and groups of African origin have raised concern that over the last two years this Council has used the month of October to celebrate Hillingdon history month instead of recognising October as Black History Month where the focus should be on the history of people of African descent.

I call upon this Council to re-focus the month of October as the month to celebrate African history.