

Agenda Item 10a - Eastbourne Local Plan - Protecting our Green and Leisure Spaces.

Altered Motion to be moved by Councillor Holt with the Council's consent

“This Council notes:

That the Government requires a Local Plan to be produced.

- The Government states that Planning Officers have to identify what could be considered viable to the point which meets Government Housing Targets.
- For Eastbourne, this means 738 homes a year - which with the sea and National Park is unrealistic.
- Our leisure and green spaces are critical to our tourist economy and local residents' livelihoods and well being.
- That there is a need to build more houses in light of a housing crisis.
- That over 4,500 objections have been made to the Local Plan's identification of Fisherman's Green, including by Eastbourne Borough Council Leader Councillor David Tutt.

This Council:

- Thanks those residents who have lodged their own objections, showing the strength of local support to protect valuable green and leisure spaces which have added weight to our own evidence.

Deletes next three bullet points:

- ~~• Calls on the Government to remove its use of unrealistic housing targets.~~
- ~~• Calls on the Government to support the communities wish to protect key green spaces when considering how many new homes should be built in the Borough.~~
- ~~• Calls on the Government to provide reassurances that it will not sanction Eastbourne Borough Council for removing the Fisherman's Green site from the Local Plan proposal.”~~

Adds three additional points:

- **Welcomes the statement made by Rt Hon Michael Gove in the House of Commons that “Eastbourne Borough Council can remove Fisherman's Green from the Local Plan without incurring any sanctions”**
- **Recognises that by implication this statement means that Local Authorities are at liberty to remove any sensitive sites from their Local Plan without incurring any sanctions.**
- **That in light of this change in the position of Government this Council resolves to withdraw Fisherman's Green from the draft Local Plan and recommend to Cabinet withdrawing other sensitive sites.**

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Amendment to the motion to be proposed by Councillor Smart:

Remove 2nd bullet point

Remove 3rd bullet point

On 6th bullet point remove “including by EBC Leader Councillor David Tutt.”

On 7th bullet point remove “which have added weight to our own evidence.”

Remove 8th bullet point

Replace 10th bullet point with

“Thanks the Secretary of State for confirming that the decision to develop Fisherman’s Green is the Council’s alone.”

As a result of these changes the motion would read:

“This Council notes:

- That the Government requires a Local Plan to be produced.
- Our leisure and green spaces are critical to our tourist economy and local residents’ livelihoods and wellbeing.
- That there is a need to build more houses in light of a housing crisis.
- That over 4,500 objections have been made to the Local Plan’s identification of Fisherman’s Green.

This Council:

- Thanks those residents who have lodged their own objections, showing the strength of local support to protect valuable green and leisure spaces.
- Thanks the Secretary of State for confirming that the decision to develop Fisherman’s Green is the Council’s alone.

Eastbourne Full Council - 22nd February 2023

Agenda Item 7a – Council Budget and setting of the Council Tax

Amendment submitted by Councillor Smart:

“That the budget and council tax recommendations for 2023/24 are as set out in the report subject to the following amendment:

To reduce external debt through receipts from a more realistic approach to capital disposals as recommended by the CIPFA External Financial Review.”

Agenda Item 10b – Protecting Residents from Soaring Energy bills

Alternative motion will be moved by Councillor Lamb:

Eastbourne Borough Council has rightly recognised the impact on residents of the cost of living crisis. The Council therefore resolves to:

1. Investigate a revision to the council tax scheme when considered for 2024/25 to exempt the lowest income households totally from council tax.
2. Improve the energy efficiency of council owned homes to reduce bills.
3. Encourage more uptake of cheaper solar energy generation to take advantage of Eastbourne's record hours of sunshine.

Agenda Item 10c – Holding Southern Water to account for sewage Discharges in the Sea

Amendments will be moved by Councillor Di Cara

To add additional recommendations 4 to 8 to the motion shown in bold below:

The Council notes:

- That the Southern Water was consistently in breach of the legal requirements with regard to the discharge of sewage.
- In the last two years water companies in England dumped raw sewage 775,568 times lasting 5,768,679 hours.
- Water company executives have paid themselves £51 million, including £30.6 million in bonuses, over the last two years.
- That the Environment Agency downgraded Eastbourne's seawater quality from 'Good' to 'Sufficient' in 2022.
- That the Full Council passed a motion in 23 February 2022 which included a call for urgent action by Southern Water to prevent sewage discharges, and called on the Government to introduce a sewage tax on water companies to begin compensating for their discharges, and to help fund a cleaner sea.

This Council:

1. Reiterates its call for Southern Water to take robust action to prevent sewage discharges from occurring off the south coast.
2. Endorses the action taken by the Leader and the Chief Executive requesting an urgent meeting with the Chief Executive of Southern Water to hold the organisation to account for its raw sewage dumping along Eastbourne's coastline.
3. Calls on the Government to ban bonuses for water company executives.
4. **Backs local sea swimmers and our MP's campaign to redefine the bathing season to extend testing for quality assurance and public confidence.**
5. **Investigates a physical, beachfront water quality alert to complement the beachboy app to ensure no digital disadvantage to those not online.**
6. **Makes a submission to the Government's consultation and positively endorses a proposal that water companies become statutory consultees for planning purposes.**
7. **Invites the project team from the local Blue Heart initiative to speak to members of the Council's Scrutiny Committee to present their progress on managing rainwater runoff, so important to our sea bathing water quality outcomes.**
8. **Uses Council planning powers to mandate water run off measures on new builds wherever feasible, to reduce pressure on combined sewers and cut discharges."**

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