

COUNCIL	AGENDA ITEM No. 12
11 OCTOBER 2017	PUBLIC REPORT

MOTIONS ON NOTICE

The following notice of motion has been received in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders:

1. Motion from Councillor Shaz Nawaz

A number of people from Peterborough have expressed grave concern over the crisis in Myanmar. With regard to the humanitarian disaster, persecution, suffering and displacement of the Rohingya people in Myanmar, this council urges the UK government to:

- 1) Supply medial & financial aid to the victims of these appalling acts of violence.
- 2) Put pressure on the government of Myanmar, both directly and indirectly, through the UN, to ensure that violence against the Rohingya people comes to an end.
- 3) Stop giving aid to the Myanmar Administration until its Government officially recognises the Rohingya people.
- 4) Allow International observers human rights organisations and media unhindered access to all areas in Rakhine Province.
- 5) Support the Bangladeshi government in their endeavours to support the Rohingya People.

2. Motion from Councillor Ed Murphy

Council notes the distress caused to animals and residents from the use of fireworks in an inconsiderate manner, and the dangers to individuals and the general public.

Council believes that fireworks should be used primarily at controlled events and that the further restriction of sale and use benefit public safety, community cohesion, reduce casualties and such a policy receives support from the Fire Service, animal welfare charities and the NHS.

Council resolves to call upon the government to introduce further legislation on this matter and do all we can locally to encourage people not to use fireworks themselves and take actions to educate and prosecute those using fireworks in an antisocial or dangerous manner. Council also requests a review by Government as to the types of fireworks available for general public sale to remove firework types that result in the most public disturbance due to noise.

3. Motion from Councillor John Peach

Many citizens of Peterborough were extremely worried and horrified by the events happening in Burma against the residents of Rohingya state in Myanmar.

As we have seen horrific, graphic scenes of continuous violence on social and mainstream media and also confirmed reports by the United Nations, Human Rights organisations as well as many countries worldwide. There are reports of ethnic cleansing taking place by the Myanmar army and extremist Buddhists who are brutally killing the Rohingya people using severe acts of bloody violence by beheading, burning, chopping limbs and dishonouring women. Consequently, over 400,000 people have been displaced and the number is growing.

These people are taking refuge on the border of Myanmar and Bangladesh. The situation is chaotic, people are starving and children are severely affected. This is a serious humanitarian crisis which is beyond description.

The United Kingdom has a proud history of being a leading example for reacting appropriately to such crisis and human rights violations around the globe. The residents of Peterborough are urging this to be continued and shown in this crisis. Indeed H.M. Government has already raised this matter at the United Nations and we understand that either the Foreign Secretary or Minister in the Foreign Office will try to talk to the Burma Government and/or visit soon.

Both Peterborough's members of Parliament have written to the Foreign Office and Shailesh Vara MP attended a packed meeting at Gladstone Park Community Centre on this subject recently.

Therefore Peterborough City Council calls upon Council Leader to write a letter to the Prime Minister urging her to work with the international community to put pressure on the Burmese government to achieve the following:

- Take necessary steps to stop the violence and genocide in Burma against the Rohingya people.
- Provide sufficient support and humanitarian aid to the refugees.
- Take the necessary steps to ensure that the Burmese government allows the safe return of the refugees back to their homes and accepts them as their citizens.
- Rebuild their homes and infrastructure and provide enough medical facilities to enable the victims to overcome the trauma.
- Bring the perpetrators to justice to ensure that this not happen again.
- Strip the Honorary title held by the Prime Minister Aung San Suu Kyi as she is clearly not worthy of this.

I urge members to support this to demonstrate that we are against any violence and violations of human rights.

4. Motion from Councillor Matthew Mahabadi

Council notes the recent decision to borrow £15m which council will loan to a hotel company, using public money to build a hotel in a public-private venture. Council also notes that Peterborough is the 3rd fastest growing city in the UK and notes the disgraceful ongoing failure of this council to build safe and affordable social housing in Peterborough to meet the demand of residents in the lowest income brackets. Council furthermore notes that commercial lending is a far riskier activity than investment in building houses, which are a far safer investment for public money due to the near guarantee that they rise in value over time.

Council believes that Peterborough council should focus its attentions not on borrowing for risky commercial ventures backstopped by the public purse, but on borrowing to invest in building safe and affordable social housing for Peterborough residents. Council is not a commercial bank, it is there to serve the public good, not showboating with flashy projects that will serve no direct benefit to many of our fellow residents in Peterborough, many of whom are urgently seeking safe and affordable places to live.

Council resolves that any further borrowing to lend will be only for investment in social housing and other public projects, such as building of social housing.