

## COUNCIL MEETING 6 DECEMBER 2023 ALTERATION TO THE MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR STEVENSON

The team motorbike sport known as 'speedway' has been of great credit to Peterborough since 1970. The local 'Peterborough Panthers' team has won the highest level national championship three times, most recently in 2021.

Over the years, the club has brought many trophies to our city at various levels within the sport, including junior level.

Peterborough Speedway has put the city of on the international map, via regular live TV coverage broadcast on the Warner Bros Discovery TV channel.

Since 1970 until now, Peterborough Panthers has been racing on a purpose-built racetrack, thought to be one of the best in the world, on the East of England Showground. ~~The showground's current owner, the East of England Agricultural Society (EEAS) now wishes to sell the showground, and the council's local plan states that the land may be developed for housing and leisure.~~

~~However, AEPG, the company tasked with preparing the showground land for sale on behalf of EEAS has made it clear that the Peterborough speedway club is no longer permitted to race at the showground with immediate effect, regardless of the outcome of its two existing planning applications to redevelop the site. (In an article published in the Peterborough Telegraph on 21st November 2023, AEPG said, "To be clear, the decision not to renew the arrangement for running speedway meets would remain, irrespective of any planning applications on the land.")~~

The landowner and its agent **haveing** confirmed that the club will not be permitted to race at the showground after the end of the 2023 season (which has now concluded). ~~This~~ means that club now has nowhere to race, and ~~with nowhere to race the club cannot continue to operate and the sport of speedway in Peterborough may die.~~ **As** a matter of urgency, Peterborough Panthers Speedway Club must now find a new home.

### **This council acknowledges:**

- The enormous cultural and economic benefits that Peterborough Panthers Speedway Club has brought to Peterborough over the past 53 years.
- The many benefits Peterborough Panthers Speedway Club brings to the residents of Peterborough, many of whom have spoken of how the club has contributed positively towards their mental health and sense of wellbeing and community.
- That Peterborough Panthers provides positive role models for young people who are interested in motorbikes and provides a means for them to enjoy motorbikes as a sport in a safe and responsible way.

### **This council resolves:**

- To arrange a meeting between the **representatives** ~~current owners~~ of the Peterborough Panthers Speedway Team and the council leader and relevant cabinet member(s) and council officers to discover if there is any way the council can help to keep the sport of speedway alive in Peterborough.
- To promote speedway in Peterborough so that more of the city's residents are aware of the benefits this family-oriented sport brings to the city.

This page is intentionally left blank