

AGENDA ITEM 7 – MOTIONS TO COUNCIL 13TH NOVEMBER 2019

a) CHESTERFIELD CAMPAIGN FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT (CND)

Motion moved by Councillor Clive Moesby

The Council are in receipt of a letter calling for a recognition of residents concerns in relation to international developments in relation to nuclear weapons.

Below is the letter for reference:

We write as citizens, concerned at international developments which have no national or local barriers : which impinge on, and threaten, us all.

We note:

The withdrawal of the USA from the International Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons of 1970

The withdrawal of the USA from The Paris Climate Agreement of 2015

Each of these agreements had been achieved only after extensive and prolonged discussions, at International, Bi-lateral and local level. Each of these agreements resulted from world-wide pressure from peoples everywhere.

We believe that the time has come when the peoples most concerned by the consequences of these decisions must okay their part in reversing these developments.

We further note :

We are not alone. Major powers, including Germany, China and Russia have declared their intention to implement their part in those agreements, - though as a result of President Trump's announcement, Russia too is withdrawing from the Non-proliferation Agreement.

Major Cities and States in the USA, including California and New York, have developed their own climate policies to meet those which President Trump has rejected.

Here in the UK, we have a history of local desire to play a part in these issues – expressed by the Derbyshire County Council's 'Nuclear-Free Zone' initiative at the time of the Cruise Missile crisis.

These examples show that we cannot leave our futures in the hands of the leaders who may be unworthy of such confidences. They show that popular pressure is needed to alert our populace of the dangers, and to get that awareness reflected in government decision making.

We are in a dangerous place, where the electorate and the peoples of the whole world are disfranchised from decisions which govern the quality or even the possibility of life on earth. We can work to lessen these dangers.

We appeal to Chesterfield Borough Council, North-East Derbyshire District Council, Bolsover District Council, and the Derbyshire County Council, to use their powers to act on these issues.

If you will join us, we may be able to make the world a less dangerous place.

For further information, please contact us.

Yours faithfully

Lyn Pardo (Secretary) lynpardo@phonecoop.coop

Joe Clark (Chair Person) clamak@tiscali.co.uk

In response I move that the Council note its previous representations to HM Government requesting Bolsover to be declared a nuclear free zone in 1982 and reaffirms its position on this matter.

b) SUPPORT FOR ALL WOMEN BORN IN THE 1950S WHO HAVE UNFAIRLY BORNE THE BURDEN OF INCREASES TO THE STATE PENSION AGE

Motion moved by Councillor Clive Moesby

The Motion:

“This Council demonstrates support for all women born in the 1950s who have unfairly borne the burden of increases to the State Pension Age (SPA) by the Pensions Act of 1995 and 2011 by:-

- i) Calling upon the Government to make fair traditional State Pensions arrangements for all women born in the 1950s, who have unfairly borne the burden if the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification.
- ii) identifying a named person as a champion for those women affected by state pension changes

iii) Notifying any interested parties as to council events where they may participate in educating and advising women about state pension changes.”

3.8 million Women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. 6,100 of these women affected live in the Bolsover District. Some women received as little as two years' notice of the increases to their state pension age. Many had no notification at all.

Within the Bolsover District there are many women living in hardship purely because of the decade they were born in and the fact that successive governments gave inadequate notice of changes to their state pension age, not once but twice. Some women had already left the Labour Market, caring for elderly relatives or grandchildren – the sandwich generation. Others had been made redundant. Almost all were expecting their pension at 60. Instead they have had up to six years extra added which in real monetary terms means a loss of £48,000.

Of those who continue to work, many struggle mentally and physically. Some suffer discrimination in the workplace and feel guilty that the younger generation would be better equipped to carry out their roles. Others struggle to find employment and the proposition that there would be apprenticeships for women of this generation has proved nonsensical. Many women were ineligible for Job Seekers' allowance so had to watch their hard-earned savings dwindle away. At least one woman in this district left work to care for her terminally-ill husband. After his death she attempted a Job Seekers' scheme. It was physically too demanding so she had to sell the family home quickly in order to survive.

We know that very little information was available for 1950's women when the 1995 Act was passed. A few small articles in financial papers and the occasional news item. As a full time worker with a husband, teenage daughter, four foster children, numerous pigs, piglets, chickens and pets, my reading matter was 'Bob the Builder' and I was tucked up in bed well before the '9 O' Clock News'. Letters did not go out until 2010 and then only for a small cohort. Following the 2011 Act more letters were sent but not to all affected. Women MPs from both sides of the house have stated they received no letter. Judges and lawyers were unaware as divorce settlements were agreed on the pension age being 60. Even the DWP's own website proclaimed the same until 1950s women pointed out the error.

These women have worked hard and contributed positively to society. They paid their taxes and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute – it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time (although one could argue that this generation who sought equality rarely received it in monetary terms). The issue here is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid. It has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected, leaving them with no time to make alternative arrangements.

We are now in a situation where one woman, through no fault of her own is having to walk five miles each way to access a computer to complete job applications. No bus pass until you reach State Pension age now. Another walks a similar distance on a Saturday to purchase the 10p reduced loaves to keep her going. Across the country there are women living in vans being unable to pay rent. And, of course, there are those who never received a penny of their pension. My friend Sue, a nurse for forty years contracted motor neurone disease. She campaigned for her pension tapping on her keyboard right until her final days.

But it is not only the women that are affected. It goes across the generations. Listen to these words from Heather:- "My mum was a WASPI woman. She dies in January at the age of 62.

In the years before she died she had to fight for ESA and PIP as though she was a scrounger and didn't deserve the air she breathed. It took a huge toll on her mental health. She lived in real poverty and when she was dying in a hospice bed the main thing she was worried about was who was going to pay for it (thanks St Cuthbert's Hospice and out NHS).

I'll never forget the battles she had to fight."

On 3rd October 2019, one group of 1950s women were unsuccessful in their High Court Judicial Review. (Case no: CO/3174/2018) In their conclusion, the judges wrote 'We are saddened by the stories we read in the evidence lodged by the Claimants. But our role as judges in this case is limited. There is no basis for concluding that the policy choices reflected in this legislation were not put to Government. We are satisfied that they were. In any event they were approved by Parliament. The wider issues raised by the Claimants, about whether these choices were right or wrong or good or bad, are not for us; they are for the members of the public and their elected representatives'

So in summary, I ask Council, as elected representatives, to support the Motion for all 1950s women grotesquely disadvantaged by the 1995 and 2011 Pension Acts.

c) THAT THE COUNCIL ADOPT THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE (IHRA) WORKING DEFINITION OF ANTI-SEMITISM

Motion moved by the Leader, Councillor Steve Fritchley

That the Council adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) working definition of anti-Semitism which is as follows:-

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

d) MOTION FOR TRAINING SESSIONS NOT TO COMMENCE PRIOR TO 6:30PM

Motion moved by Councillor James Watson

I move that from 1 December 2019 onwards, it is resolved that for any day where any member development and/or mandatory Councillor training sessions has been arranged or is to be arranged to take place, that all such sessions are scheduled to commence no earlier than 6:30pm on that day.

e) USE OF FIREWORKS

Motion moved by Councillor Nick Clarke

I move that Bolsover District Council resolves:

To require all public firework displays within the District boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people.

To write to the Government urging them to legislate that the law be changed to only allow the sale of fireworks to operators of licensed displays.

To actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people - including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks.

To write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90db for those sold to the public for private displays.

To encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock 'quieter' fireworks for public display.

To tighten up the restriction of sales of fireworks in the run up to Bonfire Night to under 18 year olds and to discourage proxy sales of fireworks for those under the age of 18.