

CAMBOURNE TOWN COUNCIL

District of South Cambridgeshire

District Councillors Reports Council Meeting 1st October 2019

8.1 Cllr R Betson Report

Cllr R Betson will not be in attendance as she has a prior engagement.
No report has been received.

8.2 Cllr S Bhattacharya Report

Cllr S Bhattacharya apologised for being unable to provide a report for the meeting due to work commitments. She will circulate an update by email, so Councillors are aware of what has been happening.

Just for the information and dates:

Our annual reflections (of Hindu faith) and celebrations (Similar like Christmas for the Christian faith) starts from Saturday 28th September till 29th October (Diwali – the Festival of Lights).

8.3 Cllr G Clayton Report

No report has been received.

At the Full Council Meeting dated 3rd September 2019 it was agreed to defer the proposal contained in Cllr G Clayton's report until this meeting. The proposal is reproduced below for your consideration.

1/ Motion on hate crime and adoption of safe space network membership will be considered at Cabinet on Sept 4.

The motion :

This Council condemns the recent spike in hate crime and in particular that of homophobic hate crime.

This Council notes the need for proactive policy development and recruitment of a specialist officer due to increased levels of hate crime as reported (in Parliamentary Briefing Paper Number 08537, 28 March 2019, Hate Crime Statistics, By Grahame Allen, Yago Zayed). It shows Police Reported hate crimes by monitored strands in England have increased by 123% since 2011. In particular: Race 98% Religion 415% sexual orientation 415% Disability 313% and biggest increase of all for people who identify as transgender 427%

Now is the time to ensure specialist Equality and Diversity Officer responsibilities fall within the remit of a Policy Officer as part of the forthcoming Equality Policy Review. This Council is an Equal Opportunities employer and already [will] works with neighbouring councils to share best practice and raise equality awareness. This Council requests therefore its Employment and Staffing Committee to build upon the existing Equality Pledge by exploring the suitability of the Single Equality Scheme that is being established in Cambridge City which is proactive in providing training across public, private and third sector partners and to join the Encompass Network's Safer Spaces scheme so that there is a visible reassurance for LGBTQ+ residents of South Cambridgeshire.

I please request that Cambourne Town Council adopt a similar commitment in issuing a public statement condemning hate crime and to demonstrate clear support for all residents of Cambourne regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and disability. That the Town Council in addition to ensuring this is clear for all its employees that it will work with retailers to adopt and display the safe space logo and engage with the Encompass Network for our LGBTQ+ community members.