

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL
COUNCIL – 7 JANUARY 2020

NOTICE OF MOTIONS UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 16

To consider the following notice of motions submitted under Procedure Rule 16:-

1. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Malcolm Cowan and will be seconded by Councillor Helen Quenet:-

“This Council resolves:-

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

2. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Kieran Thorpe and will be seconded by Councillor Glyn Hayes:-

“This Council notes that in November 2018, on the issue of Rail Fare increases, Welwyn Hatfield’s MP said “Given this year’s lamentable performance there’s never been a more appropriate time to freeze fares.

For the year ahead I think that passengers should be given a much-needed break from higher prices, in recognition of being so badly let down by the railway over the past few months.”

This Council notes that regardless, in January 2019, fares increased by 3.1%

A survey conducted by Which? Magazine asked commuters to rate the quality of rail franchisees. Great Northern and Thameslink both scored in the bottom 5.

According to figures from Great Northern themselves, customer satisfaction has not risen at all between spring 2018 and spring 2019, their latest published figures.

This Council notes that despite this, at the start of this year, rail fares have risen again - on average by a further 2.7%

This Council resolves to write to the Minister for Transport, Welwyn Hatfield’s MP, expressing our concern that rail fares have again risen for Welwyn Hatfield commuters, without them seeing significant improvement on “lamentable performance” - and encourages him to act to improve the performance of franchise companies, rather than using his position to threaten the working rights of their staff.”

3. The following motion has been submitted by Councillor Paul Zukowskyj and will be seconded by Councillor Siobhan Elam:-

“This council is concerned by the number of complaints received by members, about the level of maintenance of the council's housing stock.

As this council's most valuable asset, not to mention the welfare of the residents who call them home, the level and nature of the complaints raises serious concerns.

This council therefore asks the executive member, in consultation with officers, to bring forward proposals to council to firstly identify areas of concern, and then to address them.”