

Council Motion (2 October 2017)

Council resolved to adopt the following motion:

1. This Council believes that all Oxford residents, whether living in houses, in hostels or on our streets, have the right to be treated with dignity and without discrimination.
2. Council notes the good work done by Council officers and voluntary organisations to support homeless residents in this city.
3. Council takes note of the Petition signed by more than 1,800 people, calling for the reopening of Lucy Faithfull House and accepts that the Petition shows a powerful concern by Oxford citizens for community cohesion and for a better way of life for those on our streets.
4. Community Protection Notices (CPNs) are used to address unreasonable behaviour that is detrimental and persistent. Fire hazards in a central Oxford street with a high footfall are detrimental to everyone working in the building and people in the vicinity if there was an incident. In the case referred to in the petition, Council welcomes the judgement of officers that the fire safety of people working within the building should take precedence.”
5. Council acknowledges that all enforcement decisions are taken on a case by case basis, in accordance with the Council’s Corporate Enforcement Policy which places a requirement on council officers to resolve cases using the lowest possible intervention suitable to circumstances of the case. Contrary to recent publicity, only the court can fine a person for breaching a CPN. This Council is not taking anyone to court.
6. This Council recognises there may indeed be circumstances where issuing a CPN is necessary and in order to provide sufficient checks and balances, this Council requests that the City Executive Board review the process with a view to including appropriate checks such as:
 - No CPN should be issued by a Council employee (or contracted staff) without a dual sign-off, one from either the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive or a Director, and the other from the Head of Law and Governance; and that
 - Before signing, the signatories must continue to satisfy themselves that the CPN is considered, appropriate, proportional, and humane and that all other reasonable courses of action have been explored, as already happens.

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