

Agenda Item 9a

AGENDA ITEM 9 Notice of Motion (a) Contamination of Oceans (Amendment)

Delete the last two paragraphs and replace with:

Council thanks the Cabinet Member for Environment and Community Safety for having already written on behalf of the Council to the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP back in November on this issue, and more recently to the city's two Members of Parliament, Stephen Morgan MP and Penny Mordaunt MP, highlighting concerns around plastic, plastic microfiber contamination and waste going into the oceans, as well as highlighting additional issues around water quality in and around our harbours (the causes which fall outside of the control of the City Council),, which too often affect the classification of our seabeds, and in turn our local fishermen's livelihoods.

Proposed by (Name) LUKE STOBBS

Signed [Redacted Signature]

Seconded by (Name) LINDA SYMES

Signed [Redacted Signature]

Amended Notice of Motion to therefore read (Overleaf):

As amended

As Portsmouth is the UK's only island city meaning we are surrounded by water, this Council is invested in ensuring we have safe, clean and environmentally friendly waters for the people, animals and plant life of Portsmouth.

Council notes the National Federation of Women's Institutes' new campaign concerning the contamination of the oceans from microplastic fibres, which passed with an overwhelming 98.9% majority at the 2017 WI Annual Meeting.

Microplastic fibres are small plastic fragments 5 mm or smaller that are shed from synthetic clothes when laundered and end up in the sea and wider environment. The scale of the problem is large; millions of people wash their clothes every week, shedding these tiny particles that are too small to be caught by the machine's filters, flowing into the sewage system and eventually into the ocean. Due to their small size, microplastic fibres are readily ingested by aquatic life, filling up their stomachs which can eventually cause death. We also know that the plastic fibres attract toxins and harmful chemical pollutants which then end up in the food we eat, the long-term effects of which are not yet clear.

Given the scale of the problem, there is an urgent need for more research to identify and develop potential solutions. We need to better understand the long term impact of microplastic fibres on the marine environment, develop a deeper understanding about why different textiles perform differently when washed, and to identify ways to prevent fibres being released into the water supply.

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