

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

COUNCIL HELD ON 08 October 2020

STATEMENT from Nicky Loveday, a resident of Great Longstone, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"I am delighted to see that Councillor Claire Raw has proposed a motion to protect Derbyshire Wildlife and specifically our badgers and I hope that it will be debated by the Council on 8th October.

Like many residents of Derbyshire Dales I was devastated to learn that almost 3,000 badgers can now be killed in Derbyshire. Nationally as many as 70,000 will be shot this autumn. They will be trapped and executed or shot in the open. Thousands will suffer drawn out, agonising deaths. This is an outrage, a shameful tragedy.

This year almost 9,000 Derbyshire residents have contacted their MPs joining thousands more nationally who have called out the bogus science, and protested the inhumanity of slaughtering a protected species.

A badger cull is not necessary for the control of Bovine TB. Even the government has acknowledged this. In March they pledged to invest in cattle vaccine and away from culling. The decision to expand the cull is total reversal of this position.

Derbyshire Wildlife Trust leads the country's most extensive vaccination programme. A cull here threatens this programme. 80% of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust's badger vaccination farms/sites will not be eligible for no-cull buffer zones around them. Vaccinated badgers could well be killed and farmers and landowners are already pulling out of the vaccination programme to cull instead. This seriously threatens the governments stated aim of expanding badger vaccination programmes.

There is no published evidence that TB is endemic in badgers in Derbyshire. A recent Derbyshire Wildlife Trust report raised serious concerns about the lack of science behind Government views that there were high levels of bovine TB in badgers in Derbyshire. A recent roadkill study of badgers in Derbyshire, funded by DEFRA, and conducted by Nottingham University found that less than 4% of badgers had bovine TB out of 101 badgers tested. This is not enough to trigger a cull in the governments own terms!

2,785 badgers can be legally shot in Derbyshire this Autumn, 70,000 nationally. This will in effect cause localised extinctions of one of the last remaining large mammals we have left. But no research at all has been conducted into the impact of such a huge ecological change.

The cull will continue for four more years. This will have a devastating impact on local and national populations.

The cull allows for free shooting. The British Veterinary Association recently reiterated its opposition to this practise. Many badgers can be injured but not killed and die lingering, painful deaths.

Dr Brian Jones has also challenged the Chief Vet's position that there is evidence for badger to cattle transmission based on single nucleotide polymorphisms identified by whole genome sequencing. Given this blatant misinformation it is no wonder farmers are led to believe culling badgers will help solve the dire bovine TB problem.

I feel it is extremely important that misinformation like this is retracted and that all efforts to control bTB are the ones likely to bring improvement. All the evidence points to minimal involvement of badgers and that available measures like adequate testing, improved biosecurity and proper control of slurry use would reduce prevalence prior to the availability of cattle vaccination programme. This is what our Government should be focusing on rather than the unforgiveable systemic extermination of the badger population.

I would therefore like to encourage the Council to use the expertise and advice of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to inform their decision and for the Council to support the Motion.”

STATEMENT from Lynne Crowe, a resident of Tideswell, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“I would like this email to be recorded in support of the Member’s motion at Item 10 of your Council meeting on 8 October 2020. The motion asks that Derbyshire Dales District Council refuse to allow the badger cull to take place on their land. I am happy that any Member uses my email in support of the motion.

I am Chair of the Tideswell & District Environment Group. We have around 120 local residents who are members of our group Facebook page. And although I cannot speak on behalf of TDEG (as we are not constituted to be able to do that formally), many of our members have expressed their deep concern and disgust on our group Facebook page, that the government has authorised the killing of thousands of badgers in Derbyshire, despite the long standing vaccination programme in our county. We are aware of the arguments about bovine TB, and we sympathise with farmers affected by the disease. However, the evidence which this cull is based upon is highly disputed. Even Defra have stated that the main reason bTB spreads is because of the movement of stressed and unhealthy cattle around the country. The badger cull will not help the situation, and may indeed make it worse – causing badgers fleeing the cull to spread the disease even further in our county.

However, Derbyshire Dales District Council cannot do anything about this cull – that is a government decision. And whatever Councillors think about the cull personally, they must consider this motion and make their decision based on the best interests of the public on public land. It is clear that many members of the

public feel very strongly about this issue – over 6000 local people wrote to their MPs to protest about the cull. A recent national Change.org petition against the cull, has reported more signatures from Derbyshire Dales than any other district in the country. There is a very active Facebook group called Derbyshire Against the Cull, who are taking direct action to prevent the trapping and killing of badgers in our area. A recent Facebook post highlighting the use of a barn in Alport to store dead badger carcasses highlights the lengths this group will go to in order to campaign against the killings.

Whilst not supporting any illegal action, it is clear that there is huge potential for conflicts between local people and the shooting company implementing the cull. The use of firearms, at night, on public land must be a major health and safety issue, if cull protestors are prepared to put themselves in jeopardy. Other members of the public may inadvertently be put at risk, particularly whilst out studying wildlife or just enjoying a walk in the early morning hours. This is surely a risk no responsible public authority can countenance on land in their ownership. It will also take valuable resources from our local police, at a time when surely they are needed to deal with the coronavirus crisis rather than this distraction.

It is encouraging that other landowners have already taken this view. The National Trust has recently announced that they will not be allowing the cull on their land or their tenanted farms (<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/our-view-on-badgers-and-bovine-tb>), and local authorities across Cheshire have recently taken similar decisions. I feel that the National Trust's position demonstrates that this is not an argument based on strict party political lines. They have made their decision as a responsible and sensible landowner, based on the best evidence. I would ask Derbyshire Dales Members to do the same.

So I strongly support the Member's motion that Derbyshire Dales District Council refuse to allow the trapping and shooting of badgers on their land."

STATEMENT from Laura Saunders, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

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The evidence which this cull is based upon is highly disputed. Even Defra have stated that the main reason bTB spreads is because of the movement of stressed and unhealthy cattle around the country. The badger cull will not help the situation, and may indeed make it worse – causing badgers fleeing the cull to spread the disease even further in our county.

Derbyshire Dales District Council cannot do anything about this cull – that is a government decision. And whatever Councillors think about the cull personally, they must consider this motion and make their decision based on the best interests

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So I strongly support the Member's motion that Derbyshire Dales District Council refuse to allow the trapping and shooting of badgers on their land."

STATEMENT from Deborah Fulford, a resident of Tideswell, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"I am writing in support of the member's motion at item 10, to be debated at your meeting on 8th October - asking that Derbyshire Dales District Council refuse permission for the trapping and shooting of badgers on their land.

Independent experts and the Government's research do not support the culling of badgers as a way of combatting the very real problem of bovine TB, concluding it is ineffective. Rather, the disease appears to be spread through the movement of stressed and unhealthy cattle, ie through cattle to cattle contact, and the Government's research indicates that mass vaccination of cattle is the way forward. In the absence of this, vaccination of badgers is the more humane way of controlling any TB in badgers (and is very significantly cheaper than culling). Instead, thousands of badgers are being killed, to no effect. Those with the disease

who escape being killed are likely to move into new areas, because culling has depleted populations, thereby spreading the disease and worsening the problem.

While the decision to cull is made by the government, it is up to Derbyshire Dales District Council to give permission for this to happen on land that they own. I would ask in the strongest possible terms that Councillors support this motion, in the light of the best evidence about efficacy, and refuse permission for the cull to take place on the Council's land."

STATEMENT from Steve Elliott, a resident of Tideswell, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"I would like to ask that the committee considers not to allow the badger cull in Derbyshire.

It has been proven from analysis of badgers killed in previous culls that there are very few badgers that carry the disease than was previously thought.

The badger is one of our iconic species, and as part of the natural food chain, it would be a disaster to allow an interruption of natural processes to occur. Taking out a high proportion of a significant species, allows others to take their place, thus disrupting the natural flow - as described by David Attenborough's recent televised programme about species extinction.

Please stand up for the badger."

STATEMENT from Julie Mullan, a resident of Brushfield, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"I would like this email to be recorded in support of Item 10 of your council meeting on 8th October 2020, the motion asking Derbyshire Dales District Council refuse to allow an authorised badger cull on their land.

As a private individual, a resident of Derbyshire Dales and also a member of Tideswell District Environmental Group I endorse and support the email sent by our Chair, Lynn Crowe.

For all the reasons stated I feel very strongly about the trapping and shooting of this precious creature and protest against the cull.

As well as killing and causing distress to badgers the cull is based on disputed evidence and may in fact make the situation worse causing badgers to flee and spread the disease."

STATEMENT from Suzanne Leckie, a resident of Tideswell, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"I agree with the analysis presented in the paper, and I would like to support the motion to ban the culling of badgers on DDDC land, and the associated resolutions."

STATEMENT from Mike Pedler, a resident of Hathersage, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"As a resident of Hathersage and a member of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, I am writing to ask you to support the motion proposed in Item 10 on your agenda for the meeting on 8th October 2020.

I would like to make two points in relation to this proposal:

- 1. The efficacy of culling badgers to prevent Bovine TB is disputed and is not scientifically proven.*
- 2. The Derbyshire Wildlife trust has been at the forefront of a badger vaccination programme, which is an alternative way to prevent the spread of Bovine TB to cattle without the disruption and carnage produced by culling programmes. If the proposed cull in Derbyshire Dales goes ahead it will destroy six years of dedicated work by DWT.*

I attach a brief paper giving some further information on these points.

I ask members will support this motion to keep badger culling out of the Derbyshire Dales.

Reasons for asking councillors to support the above motion:

The Government has put money (£130k) into DWT's vaccination project (the country's most extensive vaccination programme) and has a stated aim of expanding vaccination programmes, but the project has not completed the necessary 7 years to be effective (it was started in 2014), vaccinated badgers are likely to be killed, and culling will make it difficult if not impossible to evaluate the results.

Back in 2011 Professor Lord John Krebs (now Emeritus Professor of Zoology, Oxford) summed up the results of ten years of "randomised badger culling trials" which he as Government Adviser had instigated, by saying that culling was "not an effective policy" because it involved a huge amount of work to kill a huge number of badgers for a small reduction (12-16%) of TB in cattle. He recommended increased biosecurity and the development of a vaccine.

Badgers are social animals. Culling disrupts social units and results in badgers from infected setts moving elsewhere and badgers from elsewhere moving into an

empty sett after culling. This disturbance can only increase the spread of TB in the badger population.

Transmission of TB to cattle via badgers is only one of several routes. TB can be passed between cattle when they are moved, and may also be spread through slurry sprayed onto grazing land.

The British Veterinary Association is anti-cull because of the suffering caused, especially where free shooting inevitably results in some badgers being wounded rather than killed outright.

A recent road kill study of badgers in Derbyshire (funded by Government and carried out by The University of Nottingham) found that less than 4% had bovine TB.

The cull (which will continue for four years) will cause localised extinctions of badgers – one of the very few large mammals we still have, but there has been absolutely no research done on the impact of this huge ecological change.

Nationally the cull will cost c. £20,000,000.”

STATEMENT from Carol Collins, a resident of Hathersage, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“As a member of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, resident in Hathersage, I am writing to ask you please to support the motion to ban the culling of badgers on all DDDC-owned land. As I'm sure you are aware, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has put an enormous amount of effort over the last six years into vaccinating badgers, precisely so that they need not be killed. I attach a brief list of reasons why I do not believe killing badgers to be the answer to the problem of bovine TB.

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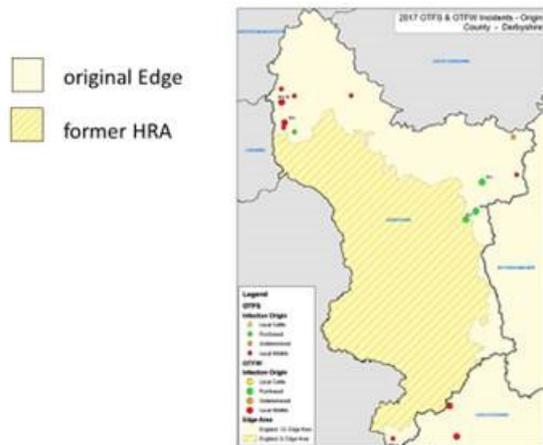
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STATEMENT from Sarah Tomlinson, a resident of Derbyshire Dales and Veterinary Surgeon. Also member of the TB Eradication and Advisory Group for England and TB Advisory Service for England, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“This motion is being raised in response to the Government decision to commence and extension to the culling of Badgers. The Cull is likely to take place in several areas in Derbyshire Dales. As many members are aware a successful vaccination programme has been established in Derbyshire and the area has avoided the need for a cull.

Derbyshire prior to 2018 was in the eyes of the TB policy a “split” county where the majority of Derbyshire in the south and west was included in the High-Risk Areas (HRA) for TB control. The rest of the county the very north and east were classified as Edge Area (the buffer zone between the TB endemic HRA and the Low Risk Area (LRA) where TB the number of TB infected herds is less than 0.5%.)The Badger Edge Vaccination Scheme (BEVS), of which Derbyshire has the largest areas involved is very much in the north of the county and where we do not believe badgers to be heavily infected with TB. The cull area is within the old HRA part of Derbyshire and therefore nowhere near to the BEVS area. Both Government policies should be able to work together in the different parts of the county where the different epidemiology dictates.

Split Edge/HRA county until 2018



- 6 monthly TB testing
- Compulsory gamma testing (expect to take 5-8%)
- Nearly half the reactors in 2019 were gamma reactors
- NOT yet happening in the HRA
- We are tackling the cattle disease

6

The views of the farming community on the effectiveness of the cull vary. Badger culling is a very emotive issue. Bovine TB in Cattle causes' extreme distress for farming family's in Derbyshire. At an NFU meeting last year members spoke about the experiences they had and talked openly about the issue. Some Dale's farmers had taken part in the vaccination programme and found this to be beneficial.

The Green Independent Group supports the evidence below that culling Badgers is not an effective method of managing Bovine TB.

The evidence to support the culling of Badgers to eradicate Bovine Tb is questionable. For example, Last year in the occurrence of bTB increased in Gloucestershire after culling was introduced.

TB data cannot be looked at on year by year comparisons and trends over time should be looked at. The 2019 data for Gloucestershire has dropped again and the general trend over the last 3 years is a downward one.

https://btb-statistics.shinyapps.io/dashboard_v1/

This is taken from the above website showing Gloucestershire TB incidence and prevalence.



Culling trials have shown that the shooting of wild badgers could reduce bTB by 12 to 23%

The figures quoted come from the Krebs or Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) papers (2005) and are now superseded by the Downs report (2017) which analysed culling according to the Natural England Licences over 4 years. It shows a reduction of new TB breakdowns by 66%, it also contradicts the issue of perturbation, as the areas around the cull zones saw TB reduce, not increase as seen with the RBCT.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-019-49957-6>

The South West area in which 80% of land has been involved in reducing badger density for nearly 7 years is now seeing the 5th consecutive year of declining new TB breakdowns (incidence)



In the South West they do not have the strict cattle measures Derbyshire Farmers are faced with. In Derbyshire whole herds are TB tested every 6 months and this involves every single animal being injected twice on one day then 3 days later the process is repeated. For an average sized herd this can take a whole working day each time.

in comparison a veterinary field study reported that vaccination programmes can reduce incidents of bTB by 74%

There is no published scientific evidence that vaccination of badgers can reduce TB in cattle herds. I would like to see the reference for this claim. The Government discussed the need for this evidence in the recent Response to the Godfary Review, pg 30

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/870414/bovine-tb-strategy-review-government-response.pdf

The BCG (TB) vaccination is only 75% effective at producing immunity in a badger group, and only if a specific proportion of that group is vaccinated. Vaccination does not cure a sick badger. In the HRA part of Derbyshire we have diseased badgers. A recent unpublished study of found dead badgers in Derbyshire was carried out in the old Edge part of the county not the whole of the county and yet still found 4 positives, where we believed there to be no infection! This is often incorrectly quoted as showing only 4% of badger in Derbyshire carry TB, it is in fact showing 4% of badger in parts (the very North and East of Derbyshire) are infected. The number of badgers vaccinated in the BEVS area last year was 155 out of an estimated population in Derbyshire of 5500. So despite being the largest area in England vaccinating badgers there is not a significant enough being vaccinated to have any effect on TB incidence.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/bovine-tb-summary-of-badger-control-monitoring-during-2019/summary-of-badger-vaccination-in-2019>

APHA epidemiological report written by experience local vets shows that in 2019 61% of breakdowns were attributed to badgers (this is second only to the county of Cornwall) pg 37

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/923195/tb-epidemiology-england-2019.pdf

In considering this motion we are also mindful that the introduction of culling will enable the use of fire arm in the area.

Culling of badgers is occurring in 42 large areas in England, it is not a public safety issue. The culling is carried out on private land with landowners and farmers permission.

This is of concern particularly during a pandemic when the risk to people's mental health and rational thinking is heightened.

Mental health issues in farming are at an all-time high and TB is a major factor in that. The threat of losing cattle who these farmers have often reared since birth, some maybe be pregnant, the threat of losing not just their business but their livelihoods and homes is massive. Protecting infected diseased badgers (1 in 4 badgers are diseased in endemically infected areas) is not a reason to ignore human mental health.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-35652-5>

I have had to deal with the fallout from TB breakdowns for 20 years. I have cried with farmers when they must witness animals being shot (40 000 cattle shot in

England last year). When reactors are found the farm is immediately stopped from trading, no cattle can leave or be moved onto the holding. No furlough scheme for staff, bills still must be paid yet cash flow is severely hampered.

This motion acknowledges and fully respects the law.

Badger Culling is a lawful process and farmers and participants are only carrying out and paying for part of the Government's 25 year TB eradication strategy, which costs me as a tax payer over £100 million every year, I would like to see this bill reduced in the most evidence based, cost effective, quickest way possible.

Its aim is to work within the law to protect the enjoyment of the wildlife and livestock in the Derbyshire Dales for future generations.

Last year farms went out of business because of bovine TB. Vets and farmers in Derbyshire Dales also want to see a healthy future for farmers and wildlife, culling is not forever it is a finite policy which no one takes pleasure out of but is a necessary tool in order for the HRA part of Derbyshire to become TB free and for the EA to remain TB free.

TB eradication isn't about who is pro culling or against it. TB eradication is about using the appropriate tools in the appropriate places."

STATEMENT from Jane Varley, a resident of Hathersage, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"I write in support of Councillor Raw's motion to ban badger culling on all land owned by Derbyshire Dales District Council. The ongoing vaccination programme being conducted by the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, which has received £130K from government towards carrying out this work, will be completely nullified if the cull goes ahead in our county. Hopefully, at least badgers on DDDC land can be protected as the National Trust and of course the DWT too, have pledged on land they own.

As a farmer supporting a vaccine programme in Cornwall said, 'culling is a sledge hammer to crack a nut'. Lord Krebs, who at first recommended culling, has now come round to the opinion that this expensive course of action is not going to significantly lower the incidence of bTB in cattle.

I hope my District Council will do what it can to protect this iconic species."

STATEMENT from a farmer, resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“I would like give a few true facts that the anti-cull brigade would rather you did not know.

The cull is funded entirely by farmers who have to pay a considerable amount of money for their land to be included in a cull zone. The only money spent by the government is for the policing of the anti-cull protesters otherwise the cull would be free to the tax payer, in fact the sooner we get rid of this devastating disease we can reduce the £100 million annual bill the treasury (UK tax payers) have to pay out in compensation for all the cattle compulsory slaughtered each year.

The area of the cull zone does not include all of Derbyshire, only about 760 km² of the 2625 km², less than 30% of Derbyshire are included in the cull zone, The BEVS areas are a considerable distance away from the cull zone so the vaccinated badgers will not be compromised by the cull. The contractors that are used to cull the badgers have all had to pass a very thorough training course and exam. The cull only takes place on private land and safety is always a number one priority.”

STATEMENT from Simon Haslam, a resident of Matlock, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“I write to urge members to vote against the resolution at Agenda Item 10 ‘Motion: Protect Derbyshire wildlife...’. I am a farmer and farm owner in Derbyshire Dales, with a beef farm where we breed and fatten cattle – most of our beef is sold locally, either directly to customers through a local butcher or to local restaurants. Bovine TB is a terrible scourge to beef farmers and to dairy farmers – and while thankfully our farm has had no reported bovine TB in the last six years, because we are in a high risk area, we are required to have our cattle tested for TB twice a year (rather than the usual once a year test), which is expensive and also a distressing experience for the livestock. As the proposer of the motion says, culling is an emotive issue – and I agree; but decisions about culling and vaccination have to be taken on the basis of evidence, and not just emotion.

I believe the proposer of the motion has not fairly set out the evidence for and against the badger cull, and has significantly over-stated the evidence that vaccination works. I would like to set out the following points

- *The motion states that ‘last year the occurrence of bTB increased in Gloucestershire after culling was introduced’ – in fact, a peer reviewed study published in 2019 found that culling in Somerset and Gloucestershire which started in 2013 (the Downs report) had produced a very significant reduction in new herd infections in its first four years (by 66% in Gloucestershire and by 37% in Somerset).*
- *There is to my knowledge NO peer-reviewed evidence to show any benefit from badger vaccination in terms of bTB rates.*

- *Vaccination is not a cure – if successful, it prevents an otherwise healthy badger becoming infected with TB. In the West of Derbyshire, including most of Derbyshire Dales, TB is already endemic in the badger population – it is too late here for vaccination to make any material difference. In the north and east of Derbyshire, where TB is not yet endemic, there is potentially a role for vaccination of badgers – which is where it is now recommended by the Government’s Animal and Plant Health Agency (‘APHA’)*
- *Currently there is no government funded badger vaccination program in the area of Derbyshire where culling has now been approved – there are only two or three privately funded programs, and these are very small. In 2019, across Derbyshire as a whole it is estimated that fewer than 3% of the total badger population were vaccinated – which is nothing like the level needed to make an impact on overall incidence of TB in badgers (members will be aware that human vaccination against common diseases need high levels of vaccination to achieve ‘herd’ immunity – for example, Public Health England state that 19 out of every 20 people need to be vaccinated against measles to protect people who are not vaccinated).*
- *APHA vets (who visit every farm that reports bTB, and dig into all the cattle movements on and off farm, the farm’s biosecurity etc and seek to determine how bTB was introduced to the herd) believe that more than three quarters of all new bTB breakdowns in Derbyshire are due to infection passing from badgers*
- *Here in Derbyshire, on every measure the level of TB in cattle is rising despite Derbyshire having the most stringent controls on cattle movement and testing anywhere in England. Pretty much throughout Derbyshire Dales, cattle are tested twice a year on farm – and also all cattle are tested before moving to another farm. It is worth noting that in the 1980s, bovine TB had been almost eradicated in England (only 235 cattle were slaughtered in 1986), but now some 30,000 cattle are slaughtered each year, despite much more rigorous controls and bio-security. It can’t be entirely co-incidental that over that same time period, badger numbers have increased several fold.*
- *At a time when we are all being encouraged to listen to the best Governmental scientific advice on combating Covid-19, we should surely do the same in the fight against bovine TB. Government Scientific advice has consistently been that if we are to eliminate TB in the national herd over the next 25 years, the badger population needs to be reduced – and we should listen and follow that clear and consensus driven advice, and not follow the minority of scientists who say the cull is not necessary*
- *Members should not underestimate the massive impact of bTB on farmers and their families if a case is reported in their cattle herd, with the risk of the loss of their entire herd (which may have been built up through careful*

breeding over more than a life-time) and where any compensation does not begin to cover the full market value of the cattle We are all much more mindful of the importance of mental health since lockdown began in March, and the Council should not be taking any steps that could have such an adverse impact on mental health of the farming community

Were the Council to ban culling of badgers on any land owned by the Council, it would set a very dangerous precedent and would be counter to all the best scientific and peer-reviewed advice. Please vote against the motion.”

STATEMENT from Peter Wildgoose, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“Badger culling should be allowed to continue because there is scientific proof that it is succeeding in reducing the amount of new outbreaks in cattle by 66% according to the downs report , helping the rural economy fight this dreadful disease.”

STATEMENT from Andrew Gagie, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“I note your council proposes to discuss the issue of badger culling this week.

There is in fact strong scientific evidence culling badgers reduces TB in cattle by a significant amount. There is no scientific evidence to show badger vaccination reduces TB in cattle.

The nearest BEVS badger vaccination area in Derbyshire is several miles north of the badger cull zone. There are 2 or 3 privately funded badger vaccination zones in the Derbyshire cull zone. We understand a very small number of badgers have been vaccinated in these areas.

There is a host of other evidence out there to illustrate culling badgers is necessary in the campaign to reduce TB in cattle. You do however need a desire to look for it.”

STATEMENT from Gordon Wardman, a resident of Matlock, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“We have a farm which suffers from TB breakdowns. I understand that the Council are to debate the issue of a badger cull and would ask that you study the following evidence before any decision is made.

We know badger population reduction works. In Gloucestershire and Somerset where culling started in 2013, a peer reviewed study published in 2019 that looked at the first four years of data, known as the Downs Report, showed impressive results. By reducing the badger population by 70% the incidence of new herd

infections was reduced by 66% in Gloucestershire and 37% in Somerset. As yet no similar scientific evidence has been produced to show the impact of badger vaccination on the incidence of cattle TB.

A vaccine will not cure an infected animal, so badger vaccination is not appropriate in the west of Derbyshire, it could have a role in the east and north of the county where the Government's Animal and Plant Health Agency intended it to be used.

There is no Government funded badger vaccination taking place in the Derbyshire cull area. The 2 or 3 privately funded areas are very small. Most of the badger vaccination takes place over 5 miles outside the cull area. We have to put in perspective the numbers of badgers vaccinated in Derbyshire in 2019, it is probably less than 3% of the estimated total badger population in the county.

APHA vets, who visit every bTB breakdown and delve into each farms cattle trading history, its biosecurity and presence of badgers, believe that 77% of new bTB breakdowns in Derbyshire are due to infection passing from badgers.

No country has eradicated bovine TB without tackling the reservoir of disease in the wildlife. In the 1980's England had all but eradicated bTB with only 235 cattle slaughtered in 1986 now it is around 30,000 per year despite increasing restrictions on cattle movements plus more frequent and new testing techniques. In that period the badger population has increased several fold. In Derbyshire all the measures of TB in cattle are rising despite the most stringent controls on cattle movement and testing applying in the country. Most cattle are tested every 6 months and all cattle are tested before moving onto another farm.

Badger population reduction is a key part of the Governments 25 year TB eradication strategy, it is a key part of the jigsaw, without it we will fail. If we are to believe Government science on combating Covid19 and climate change then we can't treat the eradication of TB any differently and listen to minority of scientists who say it is not necessary.

The impact of TB on farmers and their families is immense and in these days of increased awareness of mental health we must not overlook the strain it causes."

STATEMENT from Andrew and Joanna Bunting, residents of Bakewell, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"Firstly we would like to highlight some inaccuracies in Ms Raw's motion.

She states that there has been a successful vaccination programme in Derbyshire. In fact there have been 2 or 3 privately funded vaccination areas.

In 2019 it is estimated that less than 3% of the badger population of Derbyshire was vaccinated. There is no scientific evidence yet to prove the impact of badger vaccination on bovine TB. Even if sufficient badgers could be vaccinated, this cannot cure an infected animal. Ms Raw also asserts that the evidence to support badger culling to eradicate bovine TB is questionable. In fact a peer reviewed study

(the Down's Report) of 4 years of culling in Gloucestershire and Somerset found that by reducing the badger population by 70% the incidence of new herd infection was reduced by 66% and 37% respectively. No country has eradicated bovine TB without addressing the reservoir of infection in wildlife.

Our herd has been closed since 1985. This means that we haven't purchased a single animal in all that time, not even a stock bull and we hadn't had a case of bovine TB for over 70 years. However we have now suffered 2 breakdowns in the last 18 months. This is in spite of extra testing. Our testing regime used to be 4 yearly and it is now 6 monthly. When we had our first TB breakdown, the APHA vet assigned to our case confirmed that the outbreak was badger related. Apart from the financial losses that we incurred, which were more than £20,000, the stress on our cattle and ourselves, both physical and mental, has been immense.

Constantly TB testing stresses the cattle and the farmer alike and it isn't controlling the spread of bovine TB.

In 1986 there were only 235 cattle slaughtered with bovine TB in England . That figure has now reached around 30,000 per year, in spite of all the extra testing of cattle and more restrictions on cattle movements. In that same period of time the badger population has increased rocketed.

How can it be healthy for the badger population to be allowed to increase unchecked at the expense of other wildlife, especially hedgehogs and ground nesting birds?"

STATEMENT from a farmer, a resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"Last Thursday was not a good day, we found out that 21 of our cows had failed their bovine tb test following on from 5 in June and were to be compulsory slaughtered, luckily it was not as bad as November 2018 when we lost 32.

The farm eventually went clear in December 2019, during this time all cows had a gamma blood test that finds cattle at the earliest stage of tb infection and so should leave the herd clear of the disease.

Imagine our despair when the herd tested positive after 6 months of been free from tb. No cattle have moved into the herd, none of our cattle have contact with any neighbours stock, all bio security measures have been taken, yet we failed the tb test again, leaving only one reason this could have happened, the herd had been re-infected from the wildlife, re-infected from the many, many badgers that walk over our land. We are never going to get rid of tb if we don't control it in cattle and the wildlife leaving healthy cattle and healthy Badgers.

STATEMENT from Keith Harrop, a resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"It's been brought to my attention from a NFU text that you are having a meeting to discuss the ins and outs of the Badger cull in our area and that I as a farmer in the area could give my point of view on the subject So you may or may not know but I have recently been picked on by the "Derbyshire against the cull " group and exposed on social media as a organiser and cull operator now whilst this is mostly true the other stated facts that I am a mindless animal killer and only doing this to cover up my poor farming practices are totally and completely untrue.

So my reasons for being on the cull side of the fence are that about 5 years ago "we" as a family farm had a animal fail the routine skin test for Tb this animal was then compulsory slaughtered and found to have TB leasons we were then subjected to several more tests each 60 days apart over the next few years and a pattern emerged whereby we would test the cows through winter whilst they were indoors and get them clear of Tb only to turn them out the following spring to start the cycle all over again and it became fairly obvious that the cows were picking it up outside at grass over the last five years we have lost over 70 cattle to the government Tb testing regime now while I don't agree with every aspect of the DEFRA test policy on the whole it seems to work in removing it from the cattle but the fact remains the infection in the Badger population needs to be addressed It seems that the scientists can't agree and there is both equally valid or so it would seem arguments for and against culling.

But as a farmer on the ground 24/7 dealing with animals and I might add a very passionate wildlife supporter it's very plain to me that the vast and I mean vast increase in the Badger population in the last 15 years has no small part to play in the increase and spread of cattle Tb and I haven't even touched on the subject of the lapwings and curlews that nested here but now still come in spring but leave with no chicks. Now we are in no way going to or have any intention of driving badgers to the point of extinction in Britton or our beautiful Derbyshire there is a place for this mystical and elusive creature but for the sake of its welfare our cattle welfare and Indeed the beauty of the peak District with cattle out in the fields it's numbers have to be controlled and its population kept at a sustainable level.

Hope I haven't gone on too much but as you can imagine it's a subject close to my heart and one I have the power to shape for future badger and farmer families in the future."

STATEMENT from Andrew Broadley, a resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

- *"We know badger population reduction works. In Gloucestershire and Somerset, where culling started in 2013, a peer reviewed study published in 2019 that looked at the first four years of data, known as the Downs Report, showed impressive results. By reducing the badger population by*

70%, the incidence of new herd infections was reduced by 66% in Gloucestershire and 37% in Somerset.

- *As yet no similar scientific evidence has been produced to show the impact of badger vaccination on the incidence of bovine TB.*
- *A vaccine will not cure an infected animal, so badger vaccination is not appropriate in the west of Derbyshire. It could have a role in the north and east of the county where the Government's Animal and Plant Health Agency intended it to be used.*
- *There is no Government funded badger vaccination taking place in the Derbyshire cull area. The two or three privately funded areas are very small. Most of the badger vaccination takes place over five miles outside the cull area.*
- *We have to put into perspective the number of badgers vaccinated in Derbyshire in 2019 - it is less than 3% of the estimated total badger population in the county.*
- *APHA vets, who visit every bTB breakdown and delve into each farm's cattle trading history, their biosecurity, and the local presence of badgers, believe that 77% of new bTB breakdowns in Derbyshire are due to infection passing from badgers.*
- *No country has eradicated bovine TB without tackling the reservoir of disease in the wildlife.*
- *In the 1980s, England had all but eradicated bTB, with only 235 cattle slaughtered in 1986. Now, it is around 30,000 per year, despite increasing restrictions on cattle movements plus more frequent tests using newer testing techniques. Between 1986 and 2020, the badger population has increased by several hundred per cent.*
- *In Derbyshire, all the measures of TB in cattle are rising despite the county possessing the most stringent controls on cattle movement and testing in the country. Most cattle are tested every 6 months and all cattle are tested before moving onto another farm.*
- *Badger population reduction is a key part of the Government's 25 year TB eradication strategy; it is a key part of the jigsaw, without which we will fail. If we are to believe Government science on combating Covid-19 and climate change, then we can't treat the eradication of TB any differently and listen to minority of scientists who say it is not necessary.*
- *The impact of TB on farmers and their families is immense, and in these days of increased awareness of mental health we must not overlook the strain it causes.*

Over the years, our own farm has lost over 60 head of cattle due to bTB. Some of these animals were top genetics within the breed, with family lines going back decades. These can never be replaced. As well as a financial hit when you first lose your stock, if these animals were in calf at the time of slaughter, then two years down the line you find yourself understocked again due to the replacements having been slaughtered while inside their mothers. A TB breakdown also puts tremendous pressure on the mental and emotional side of a tight-knit family partnership. We don't want to see the total eradication of badgers, just their numbers being brought back under control, similar to where they were in the early eighties. This would not only help with the eradication of bovine TB, but would also benefit the wider population of wildlife that inhabits our fantastic Derbyshire dales countryside."

STATEMENT from Michael Dakin, a resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"This is the first time I have felt the need to make comment at a council meeting.

Under no circumstances do I wish to eradicate any species. I work closely with the Peak Park and am heavily involved in the Natural England Higher Level Scheme for the environment to restore hay meadows, low input grassland management and other areas as well as numerous restoration projects to improve habitats, we have plants of European and National importance on the farm. The badger population has increased massively on my farm in recent years taking out the reservoir of species I try to protect leaving me disillusioned with the work I am doing.

The wildlife pyramid is becoming increasingly top heavy with protection for the predators and little protection for the small and more vulnerable. Over population of the badger is having a detrimental effect to itself. Like Covid spread of these diseases is much more rapid and difficult to control where there is high/dense population. Badgers with TB will I imagine die suffering and I find it bizarre that anybody would want this. It seems irrational that efforts are being made to combat Covid to avoid suffering in humans whilst allowing TB in badgers to continue unchecked. Vaccination is an excellent idea in North and East Derbyshire where TB cases are minimal and this work must be encouraged and commended. Vaccination will not cure TB and is therefore an irrelevant option for West Derbyshire. Any support therefore for vaccination from the farming community I would think is from the North or East of the county. West Derbyshire actions should be considered separate to NE Derbyshire and should be science and Government led (Downs report 2019).

All the science experts believe the cull is currently the best option. APHA vets, who visit every bTB breakdown and delve into each farms cattle trading history, its biosecurity and presence of badgers, believe that 77% of new bTB breakdowns in Derbyshire are due to infection passing from badgers.

We have been struggling on our farm with TB reactors since 2006 and this year have had movement restrictions for cattle since January and will not be able to move until Feb 2021 at the earliest. This is having a devastating impact on our lives. Going forward and against my instincts we have made the decision to house the dairy herd for longer periods of time creating a barrier between the cows and wildlife. For the first time in 30 years some cattle which we will keep away from the main herd will have to stay outside all winter as we do not have the housing for the extra stock being forced upon us by the TB restrictions. Overstocking cattle in there housing has similar effects as Covid and TB in that lung diseases eg. Pneumonia increases rapidly in overstocked buildings needing a massive increase in drug use. We do not have the extra feed for these extra numbers. The extra workload this winter is daunting. It is bizarre that actions by the council is to reduce Covid but this proposal increases the spread of TB. These are 2 not dissimilar diseases but oddly only one being science led.

In the council brief it makes reference to shotguns and mental health due to Covid. TB on farm is far more devastating and stressful to me than Covid. Self-isolation as a farmer is second nature. The reversal of the 2019 cull was linked to several farmer suicides as this was their final hope to get on top of this dreadful disease and the losses they were incurring as reported by leading expert TB vets.

To conclude, rebalancing of the wildlife pyramid is important. Vaccination is pointless in West Derbyshire at this time. Results in N & E Derbyshire for vaccination which currently is on a miniscule level should NOT be used as guidance for West Derbyshire where TB is widespread. Both areas should be treated separately and based on science.

TB is devastating for the farmers which is the backbone of the Derbyshire community. The negativity and lack of respect thrown at the farming community by this council proposal is quite alarming and I strongly advise for the long term benefit of wildlife balance and farmer livelihoods that the cull is recommended at this time and until this terrible disease is brought under control.”

STATEMENT from Alison Bassett, a resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“I am commenting on your motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife. I feel that is very misleading for you to state that the area has a vaccination area in Derbyshire, and therefore the area has avoided the need for a cull.

The vaccination area is as I understand actually very small and there are no government funded vaccination areas within the cull zone. The vaccination area is in the very north of the county and completely separate from the cull area which is endemically infected

To say in your motion, that the views of the farming community on the effectiveness of the cull vary is misleading. If after years of witnessing the distress caused by repeated bovine Tb breakdowns, you would welcome the opportunity to tackle the

reservoir of disease in the wildlife population, along with other cattle measures. There is strong scientific evidence that culling badgers reduces TB in cattle by 66%. In contrast, there is no scientific evidence to show that badger vaccination reduces TB in cattle.

If the council thinks that it is protecting livestock through the vaccination programme alone, it is being misled

We all want a healthy cattle population and healthy wildlife as well, which is what we used to have many years ago."

STATEMENT from Scharlie & Stephen Platt, residents of Hathersage and Members of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"We would like to make the following points in relation to this proposal:

1. The efficiency of badger culling to prevent Bovine TB is not scientifically proven - killing large numbers of badgers in order to produce a badger free zone may result in a small reduction (12 to 16%) of TB in cattle. This is likely to be short term. Badgers are social animals. Culling disrupts social units and results in badgers from infected setts moving elsewhere and badgers from elsewhere moving into an empty sett after culling.

2. A vaccination programme is a much better long term solution and has widespread national and Government support. The Government has put money into DWT's current vaccination project (started 2014) which needs 7 years to be effective. Culling is likely to kill some vaccinated badgers, disrupt the programme and make it difficult to evaluate the results.

3. The British veterinary Association is anti-cull because of the suffering caused.

4. We are small-holders with 5 acres of land on the edge of the moor above Stanage. We are pleased to have badgers on our land.

We ask members to support this motion to keep badger culling out of the Derbyshire Dales."

STATEMENT from a resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

"Dominic Dyer says "we shouldn't fear badgers, we should treasure them", and he is right. But as a dairy farmer, I fear the prospect of Bovine TB.

When I was at agricultural college in the late 1980s, we were taught that BTb was eradicated on a national level, except for a small and concentrated pocket in the south west of England. After the Protection of Badgers Act 1992, with no culling allowed even for disease prevention in this hot spot, the disease has spread steadily from this area to the widespread condition we now face. We are fortunate

never to have had a case of Tb in our herd, yet, and are outside the current cull zone. This is good for us and good for our wildlife, but this may not continue without protecting our area. The last animal purchased on our farm was 19 years ago when we were on a 4 yearly testing requirement. This is now 6 monthly requirement, despite the very high levels of biosecurity we apply.

The cull is an unpalatable necessity to prevent further spread of Tb into uninfected areas, and not liking it is not a reason to prevent action to reduce this spread. Some of the figures in your agenda are not accurate, and emotions from both sides of this issue cloud perception. 28 years of a failed policy should be enough to illustrate what further inaction will yield. A sacrifice is required now to preserve a better future for farming and wildlife.”

STATEMENT from Simon Frost, on the Motion to protect Derbyshire wildlife within the District of Derbyshire Dales.

“Please consider the following points:

- 1. Independently reviewed scientific studies show that reduction in badger population numbers does reduce the incidence of TB in affected areas. Please see Downs et al report published last year for full details.*
- 2. Badger vaccination in Derbyshire takes place well away from the licensed badger control area (apart from a couple of very small private vaccination areas).*
- 3. Vaccination does not cure an infected animal. Any positive impact of vaccination will not be seen for a number of years – it is not an immediate solution, particularly when infected badgers remain at large.*
- 4. The majority of cattle herds infections in Derbyshire are linked with contact with infected badgers.”*

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENT from Nicholas Bishop, a resident of Ashbourne, on the Air Quality Status Report and Air Quality Management in Ashbourne.

- 1. “The Council has acknowledged that exposure to air pollution is a hazard to public health .The following statement is in the Council’s LAQM Annual Status Report 2019 “ Air pollution is associated with a number of adverse health impacts. It is recognised as a contributing factor in the onset of heart disease and cancer. “Has the Council consulted local Public Health and Primary health care agencies over the health impacts of NOx (Nitrogen Oxide), NO2 and PM2.5 emissions on Ashbourne residents?*
- 2. With respect to the constant “Air Quality exceedances” recorded in Buxton Road Ashbourne, why has the Council not declared Buxton Road an Air*

Quality Management Area, as it is entitled so to do, and produced a Plan to address the exceedances affecting Buxton Road and its residents?

3. *When will the Council publish, for public inspection, its Air Quality Status Report (ASR) 2020?"*

ANSWER

Thank you for your questions.

Along with all the other district and borough councils in Derbyshire, Derbyshire Dales submits its annual air quality reports to the Public Health team at Derbyshire County Council. They are fully aware of the levels of air pollution monitored in Ashbourne and elsewhere in the district.

In relation to Buxton Road, Ashbourne, officers have consulted with the Defra helpdesk in relation to the levels of NOx monitored there and are following the recommendations given by the Helpdesk. The next step required by Defra is the undertaking of a Detailed Assessment, which is currently being procured. If this indicates that an Air Quality Management Area should be declared, then a report will be submitted to Committee in relation to that declaration.

The Air Quality Status Report 2020 has been signed off by Defra and is now available on the District Council's website at:

<https://www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/environment-and-waste/pollution-noise/air-pollution/air-quality-reports-and-monitoring-information>

QUESTIONS AND STATEMENT from Peter Dobbs, a farmer resident in Derbyshire Dales, on the investigation on The Green Man, Ashbourne.

"I am pleased that the report of the Investigation into the Green Man Incident has been published. I now have the answers to all but one of the questions that I asked Council on 11th June.

However I hope that this report does not become a template for any future investigation where the reputation and decision making skills of councillors may be called into question. Those viewing the procedure used to remove the head will know how very close this came to being an accident subject to a Health and Safety Executive investigation. This 'near-miss' should I believe have made the incident subject to more scrutiny than it has received. In particular I believe that there is some confusion in the report between verifiable facts and opinions.

The report makes reference on several occasions to 'interviews with witnesses'. There is a table at the start of section 6 that lists the 'individuals contacted during the investigation'. Presumably this list contains all the witnesses who were interviewed. Examination of this list suggests that only six of these were present in the vicinity of the Green Man during the incident. Four of these have 'either not provided comments or documents or if comments and documents have been provided they have not been formally approved by that person'. Presumably therefore these 'witnesses' have not influenced any of the content of the report.

That leaves just two people who were eye witnesses to the events of the evening of 8th June whose statements have influenced the report. They are of course also both subjects of an aspect of the investigation.

- 1. My first question is therefore were there any 'independent' witnesses, present at the scene, who were interviewed to establish the details of the events of that night? If so why are they not identified?*
- 2. My second question concerns the preservation of the relevant CCTV files so that a more detailed analysis could be carried out. Can I have the Council's assurance that the relevant CCTV footage will not be deleted without the approval of Council?"*

ANSWER

Thank you for your questions.

Other than the people named in the report no other individuals were spoken to in connection to the investigation. The remit of the investigation was to clarify the capacity of individuals involved and the source/authority of any permission granted. The investigation was concerned with establishing whether councillors were acting in their capacity as councillors or in a private capacity. The actions of residents were not within the remit of the investigation, so no other individuals were considered appropriate for interview.

The retention of the CCTV footage is a matter for the Council to determine. My understanding is that the footage has been retained on file.