

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

COUNCIL – 5 MARCH 2014

PETITION – SAVE EAST HERTS BADGERS FROM CULLING

Kim Shaw, a resident of Bishop's Stortford, submitted an e-petition request on the matter above. In accordance with the Council's petition scheme, this e-petition has been hosted on the Council's website from 17 December 2013 – 28 February 2014. At time of writing, the e-petition had attracted 12 signatories (Note – the final figure will be reported verbally at the meeting.)

We the undersigned petition the Council to prohibit the culling of badgers on council-owned land and invest in vaccination programmes locally. We ask this because we believe culling to be inhumane, inefficient and unscientific.

This is a national issue which will be of direct concern to the people of East Herts when DEFRA "rolls out" its culling policy in 2014. The object of the petition is to ensure that East Herts' badger population is as safe as possible from slaughter and that the already available injectable badger vaccine against bTB is used in as many cases as possible. We ask this because we believe the culling policy is inhumane (DEFRA's measurement of "humaneness" is to time the screams of wounded badgers), inefficient (previous culls showed an increase in bTB because of badger movement) and unscientific (the majority of scientific opinion hold that a cull will have "no meaningful result").

Note:

Members are reminded that the lead petitioner is permitted to address Council for up to three minutes. The relevant Executive Member will respond to the petition. There is no provision for any general debate by Members, however, local ward Members may comment if they wish.