

## Public Issues for Environment and Place O&S Committee

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	Questions
1.	<p>Thank you for discussing Plant Based Treaty today. I was also at the July Council meeting, and I'm grateful that you are looking at it again. The councils who endorse Plant Based Treaty go on to do some truly amazing things. I feel particularly inspired by Exmouth Town Council's Plant Based Treaty Action plan. They are transitioning their climate meetings and public events to be fully plant-based and at recent community festivals they have asked food vendors to have a minimum of two plant-based options, emphasise and promote them at the top of the menu and include carbon labelling. It's so simple, and it works. We could do that here, such as Street Food Corner and the Christmas market. Please can BCP council start the process today and endorse the Plant Based Treaty.</p> <p>Mr Chris Jolliffe</p>
2.	<p>At the July Council meeting I heard all of the positive and urgent reasons that BCP council should endorse the Plant Based Treaty. I won't repeat the facts from the last meeting, but I am sure we can agree the science is compelling and the benefits of plant-based food are undeniable. I feel it is particularly urgent for a country that consumes a lot of meat and dairy, like the UK, to act fast and boldly. At COP28 last December, the UK signed a pledge to include food in climate action planning, so I believe this is the perfect time for BCP to become leaders in the food and climate space. Please can the council commit today to initiate a thorough impact assessment like Edinburgh Council. By joining 30 other UK towns and cities worldwide, we can positively impact the local community but also influence the rest of the world.</p> <p>Alex Harman</p>
3.	<p>I have just moved to Bournemouth, and heard about Plant Based Treaty in the Daily Echo. I've come along to show my support for BCP endorsing it. I have been reading about the experience of other councils, and it's brilliant. Haywards Heath were the first European council to endorse. One of the councillors Deanna Nicholson has been building up a test case of public events where plant-based food has been featured and successful, with the aim to make food offerings fully plant-based in the future. She said in an interview: "Not only are we reducing our carbon footprint and meeting the aims of the Plant Based Treaty when serving vegan food, but all our community is suddenly welcomed and catered for. I realised the best plant-based argument is inclusion." Please can BCP council join 30 councils who have endorsed Plant Based Treaty and then create an action plan like Edinburgh.</p>

	Noah Baker
4.	<p>I attended the full council meeting in July, where I invited BCP Council to consider endorsing the Plant Based Treaty and commit to expanding access to plant-based food. I appreciate the committee for listening and initiating this important discussion today. Please can you take the next step by committing to an impact assessment on endorsing the Plant Based Treaty? This process was transformative for Edinburgh City Council, which endorsed the initiative and then committed to a Plant Based Treaty Action Plan. They are now close to completing their carbon labelling trial, which they aim to implement in all schools by 2026. This is one of many Plant Based Treaty actions Edinburgh will deploy to help children and their parents understand the link between their food choices and the planet. It will encourage them to make sustainable choices and opt for plant-based options of their own free will.</p> <p>Nicola Harris</p>
5.	<p>As a parent of vegan children, it's been a huge struggle to get their school to provide plant-based meal options. All children should have the freedom to choose a plant-based options every day. Plant-based options are for everyone to enjoy and they also cover alot of bases when allergies are concerned. I know that BCP can only directly impact a small number of schools and not all the academies, but by expressing support for Plant Based Treaty and creating an action plan would actually help focus the whole area on sustainable food. You could also invite all the schools to do what Edinburgh did with carbon labelling. The council has the power of influence and leading by example, so can the council conduct an impact assessment and look at how the council can influence schools through existing connections and partner organisations.</p> <p>Gemma Middleton</p>
6.	<p>I thank the council for looking into the Plant Based Treaty. It's not just about environment and health. It's also a social justice issue. We must not allow ourselves to be swayed by false justifications such as "I only buy local," and "smoked salmon is the only source of omega 3" and talk ourselves out of accountability. Humane slaughter is a contradiction that we shouldn't be deceived by either. We will be making a strong commitment that will focus our minds if we endorse the PBT. Councillor Jim Dickson, Cabinet Member for Healthier Communities at Lambeth Council, said, "The endorsement makes the direction of travel on food and sustainability clear and identifies it as a priority" Let's do the same for BCP. Can an impact assessment be conducted to scrutinize the issue fully and roll out an action plan? Wouldn't it be a win-win for environment, our health, and animals?"</p> <p>Sasha Jolliffe</p>

7.	<p>As a business owner, I would love to see BCP council endorse Plant Based Treaty. Businesses look to the council for direction and guidance, and endorsing this initiative would positively influence the community and bring us new visitors. Can the committee speak to other towns and cities that have endorsed Plant Based Treaty in order to learn about their experiences please? I do urge the council to be bold. I was disappointed with the council response in July when the leader said they couldn't support a stand-alone initiative. I believe we can. Nothing is actually stopping us. Small changes are not going to be enough given the crisis we face. However a Plant Based Treaty endorsement, which means you are expressing support for it, along with an action plan, is going to set us on the right path.</p> <p>Sarah Abbott</p>
	<p>Response from Cllr Andy Hadley</p> <p>I would like to thank all the members of the public who have presented questions today. It is because of this level of interest that Overview and Scrutiny Committee wished to examine the issue further, and my team have been working on a paper to support that, including talking to other councils who have progressed on this topic.</p> <p>As confirmed at Full Council, we recognise that a change to a plant-based or reduced meat and dairy diet is an important component in reducing our personal carbon footprint, but Cabinet felt that we could not address and therefore endorse the Plant Based Treaty in its entirety. We felt that we should promote and encourage rather than mandate take-up of plant-based options. As acknowledged, our direct influence over schools and commercial outlets is limited. Whereas Government can legislate for mandatory change, our powers are quite limited.</p> <p>Today's meeting enables the Overview and Scrutiny Panel members to review the evidence and debate the form that promotion and encouragement could take. This can then be subject to further consideration by the Cabinet of BCP Council.</p> <p>I hope that the paper, debate tonight, and subsequent work addresses the questions you have all raised.</p>

	Statements
1.	<p>I've just moved to Bournemouth from the North of Wales. Part of the reason I came here is because of the vibrant community and how vegan-friendly it is. I know loads of people visit here as tourists just because of our vegan-friendly eateries up in the triangle. Some cities like Tokyo in Japan have even asked businesses to do more vegan food to attract plant-based tourists. If we endorsed the Plant Based Treaty I think even more people will want to come here from all over the world. It seems a perfect fit for Bournemouth, and I'm asking you to endorse the Plant Based Treaty and then do a world-class action plan.</p> <p>Jacob Baker</p>

2.	<p>I am writing to express my support for BCP Council to endorse the call for a global Plant Based Treaty. The initiative is supported by 200,000 individuals, 3000 groups and businesses and 30 cities, including Edinburgh, Norwich and Amsterdam. When councils endorse Plant Based Treaty it appears to have a mobilising impact, which spurs the council into action. When Amsterdam endorsed it, they agreed to Vegan Fridays in public institutions. I hope Bournemouth can be as focused and bold as this. You've taken the first step by putting it on the council agenda for discussion, I urge you to now turn this into a recommendation for the council to approve an endorsement of the initiative.</p> <p>Amber Lofthouse</p>
3.	<p>I am writing to you to inform you of my full support of the proposed Plant Based Treaty in Bournemouth. I have recently moved to the area, and one of the main attractions for me was the wide range of vegan eateries, groups, and events. Plant-based diets are known to protect the environment, human health, and reduce animal suffering, and the Plant Based Treaty can enable Bournemouth to take action in all of these areas. The treaty is already endorsed by over 200,000 individuals, 3,000 groups and businesses, and 30 cities, showing the high level of interest and support received worldwide. Endorsing the Plant Based Treaty would display how Bournemouth can be a shining light for other towns and cities to also take the pledge as we move towards a fully plant-based system.</p> <p>Hannah Ford</p>
4.	<p>Endorse the Plant-based Treaty</p> <p>Are you doing your best in your personal quest to reduce your carbon emissions? You recycle your waste and ensure that it's placed into bins with correct definitions? You're reducing your flights and you turn off your lights, you cycle to work when you can? What more can you do, you're certain that you are doing enough for one man? But there's something you've missed from your credible list if your diet is milky and meaty You need to do these; eat plants and plant trees to endorse the Plant-based Treaty</p> <p>Animal farming is actually harming this planet we're trying to save We must understand it's destroying the land and the way it's supposed to behave The 'food' of the masses produces the gases that poison the water and air It would be better for you and the animals too if only more people would care Stop all the breeding and change how we're feeding is the plan that should be enforced We can do it with ease, eat plants and plant trees means the Plant-based Treaty's endorsed</p> <p>P G Holroyd</p>

	To be read by Sasha Jolliffe
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