



Council – 2 July 2020

Notice of Motion – Black Lives Matter

Notice of Motion from Councillors L S Gibbard, R C Stewart, A S Lewis, D H Hopkins, C E Lloyd, J P Curtice, D W W Thomas, S Pritchard, M B Lewis, L V Walton, W G Lewis, M C Child, R Francis-Davies, E J King, A Pugh, E T Kirchner & Y V Jardine

Swansea Council stands in solidarity with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities in Swansea and across the world in their fight for justice in the face of racism in all its forms.

We recognise that symbols of Britain's colonial past exist all around us in the form of statues, street names, buildings and the arts. Some of these have clear links to individuals involved in the slave trade and exploitation of people of colour, and serve as a painful reminder for BAME people of their historic subjugation and ongoing inequality.

Working with our BAME communities, we commit to examine Swansea's geography and institutions, to assess whether or not any names or images should now be removed, amended or displayed differently. This is not to erase our history, quite the opposite, it is about learning from it, and representing it sensitively and respectfully. These efforts must be accompanied by work to better educate citizens on Swansea's history including its role in the slave trade, and place within the UK's industrial revolution and Imperial past.

We also recognise that even today modern slavery and other forms of exploitation still exist around the world and on our own doorsteps and reaffirm our efforts to tackle this abhorrent problem that impacts people from all communities.

We further commit to celebrating and highlighting a greater range of Swansea citizens of the past in the form of blue plaques, statues or other lasting memorials, to include more women, BAME, disabled, LGBT and working-class people.

We are proud of our status as a City of Sanctuary and recognise that this is an ongoing process to ensure that all people, irrespective of their backgrounds, feel welcome, respected and included in Swansea. We will continue to engage with BAME communities to address the wider issues around equality, equity and social cohesion, and strongly challenge racism, exploitation and intolerance in all its forms.

Therefore we ask that council agree to:

Take action, where possible, to remove offending names or public realm items that have confirmed links to slavery or exploitation

Commission a deeper review of place names and public realm items that may have links to slavery and exploitation

Develop resources and accurate information on our links to the slave trade and exploitation as part of the story of Swansea's history in order to better inform and educate residents and visitors to the City.