

FULL COUNCIL

MOTION ON NOTICE

Date of Council Meeting: - 16 July 2026

Title of Motion: - Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988

Proposer: - Cllr R Holloway

Seconder: - Cllr D Sowry-House

Supported by:- Cllr K Wheller, Cllr B Ezzard, Cllr R Legg, Cllr B Bolwell, Cllr B Bawden, Cllr J Jeanes, Cllr A Fuhrmann, Cllr R Major, Cllr S Florek, Cllr A Todd, Cllr S Williams, Cllr R Hope, Cllr J Andrews, Cllr J Atwal, Cllr D Morgan, Cllr G Taylor, Cllr S Bartlett, Cllr C Kippax, Cllr L Fry, Cllr H Hobbs-Chell, Cllr S Clifford

Motion Narrative and Action Required

Our beloved Ginger tabby “Pumpkin” was killed earlier this year by a motorist in the early hours who failed to stop and drove off, it was only another passing motorist who found him in the road and took him to the emergency vets where he was found to have suffered a head trauma. My wife and I were unaware that this had happened until mid-morning when the vet contacted us, and we were both devastated that this had happened knowing that someone just left him for dead. Unfortunately, this has happened to many cat owners across the country and leaves many owners devastated.

Currently Section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 only applies to Dogs, Horses, Cattle, Pigs, Sheep & Goats but NOT cats, Since June 2024 all cats in England over 20 weeks old must be legally microchipped as is the same for Dogs. Recently the Government introduced the new Animal Welfare Act 2025 to crack down on pet smuggling, which of course I fully support. But I find it incredible that the Government is not even considering updating the Road Traffic Act. And yet despite multiple petitions and charities saying this must change, currently the Government says and I quote “difficult to enforce” I find that response incredibly hollow.

As the animal loving nation we are I think it's time that the law should be updated to protect cats and to give cat owners reassurance that motorists should legally stop if they collide with cat.

I ask members across the chamber to please support the following motion to put pressure on Government to change the law by writing to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Motion: -

That this council writes to the Secretary of State for Transport RH Heidi Alexander MP calling for the law to be changed so that cats are protected under section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988.

Whereby motorists will be legally required to stop if they collide with a cat. And to ask the government to set a timetable for this to be discussed in the current parliamentary term.