

FC57. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(b) **Black Mould Growth**

Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor CR Martin, moved that:-

“The black mould growth on property in the Bonnybridge area is spreading throughout the village generating concerns obviously it’s a sensitive issue for people relating to their properties especially in this economic climate. There is also concern and I share this that more work should be done regarding the health issue. As yet no health issues have been identified. Falkirk Council had been very pro-active since I brought this to full Council some 6 years ago. The aesthetic effect on properties is highly visible, both on private and council housing stock and this is a major issue. There have been a number of public meetings very well attended over the years with presentations done by the local Fungus Action Group. To try and move the issue forward Councillor C MacDonald to the Environment and Community Safety Committee contacted the former public health minister, asking for her to commission a Scottish wide investigation on the effects of black mould. She responded by stating that there would be questionable public health benefit in conducting the type of comprehensive national study suggested relative to the likely cost of such an exercise. Obviously cost is paramount from this statement.

Local MSP Michael Matheson came to at least one public meeting where he stated he has been in discussion with Diageo. But to date I am unaware of what Mr Matheson has actually done to date, therefore in light of the government’s negative response, and the fact that this problem is exacerbating causing major concern, I would move the following motion.

That this council contact Michael Matheson the new public health minister who is also the local MSP asking him to:-

- 1) Update this council on to what he has done to date.
- 2) Because he is very aware of the problem, that he initiates a National Investigation into the effects of Black Mould to our communities ASAP in support of his constituent’s and the wider communities.”

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved that:-

“Council notes that as per the letter dated 20 June 2011 from Falkirk Council’s Environmental Health section to Michael Matheson MSP indicating that action should be taken by the Council but hasn’t.

Council therefore calls on Councillor Buchanan together with his Administration colleagues to instruct officers to take action under existing Environmental Protection legislation using an Abatement Notice for a Statutory Nuisance to halt the problem of black mould and report back to the next full council meeting on the enforcement action taken”.

Following discussion, Councillor Buchanan, with the agreement of the Provost, and Councillor CR Martin, as his seconder, withdrew the Motion and the item accordingly fell.