

**Council: Tuesday, 12 April 2011**

**Motion 3.1:** Councillor Andrew Harper

Squatting

Council believes that squatting causes untold misery to homeowners and the neighbours of the property being occupied.

While Council deplores the actions of Colonel Gadaffi in Libya, Council notes the problems the current squat in Winnington Close is causing to nearby residents.

Therefore, Council is dismayed that squatting is not illegal in the UK, and that homeowners and the authorities have limited civil recourse against such people.

In fact, Council learns, Squatters themselves actually have some Legal Protection from homeowners, under the Criminal Law Act 1977.

Accordingly, Council welcomes moves by local Conservative MP Mike Freer to make Squatting a Criminal Offence in England and Wales.

Council is heartened to see the Coalition Government appears to be in agreement with such a move.

Council calls on the Chief Executive to write to the Justice Secretary, Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke MP, backing moves to make Squatting a Criminal Offence.

Under Standing Order Part 4, Section 1, 31.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the council meeting.