

The Old Chapel Bradford Street Tonbridge Kent TN9 1AW tel 01732 364546 fax 01732 366533

email: info@animalaid.org.uk web: www.animalaid.org.uk

Patrons

Richard Adams
Tony Benn
Chrissie Hynde
The Revd Professor Andrew Linzey
Carol Royle
Peter Tatchell

Daniel Goodwin
St Albans City and District Council
Civic Centre
St Peters Street
St Albans
Hertfordshire
AL1 3JE

30th November 2010

Dear Mr Goodwin

Please find enclosed petitions (signed by local residents), requesting that the City Council backs the Meat-Free Monday initiative.

In May 2009, Ghent City Council in Belgium attracted worldwide media and public attention with an announcement that it would promote one meat-free day a week to encourage the city's inhabitants to reduce their contribution to climate change and, simultaneously, boost their health. According to the United Nations, animal farming is responsible for no less than 18 per cent of human-generated global greenhouse gas emissions. That's more than is produced by the entire transport sector worldwide. In fact, if everyone in the UK had at least one meat-free day a week, it would be the equivalent of taking five million cars off the road.

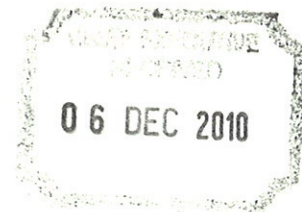
And recently the government's own advisory body on sustainability (the Sustainable Development Commission) has recommended that consumers cut down on meat and dairy produce to fight climate change and reduce the growing number of diet-related diseases.

High meat intake not only has a negative effect on the environment, but it is also harmful to our health because it increases the risk of obesity, heart disease, diabetes and some cancers. This puts an enormous burden on health services. In 2007, the NHS spent £4.2 billion treating obesity.

Since Ghent's announcement, two more Belgian cities, as well as the Brazilian city Sao Paulo, Bremen in Germany, San Francisco in the United States and Cape Town in South Africa have declared a weekly meat-free day, along with universities, schools, restaurants and companies around the world. Sadly, the UK's authorities are lagging behind.

While local authorities cannot and should not dictate, they can play a vital role by way of influence and example, such as by developing initiatives to raise awareness about the issue. **For example, city-wide organisations, including council offices, schools, restaurants and 'meals on wheels' services, could voluntarily agree to serve only vegetarian options on a day of their choosing in a collective bid to help protect the environment and reduce the city's eco footprint.**

Animal Aid would like to suggest the following ways in which we could help the Council to implement this important initiative and promote widespread **voluntary** adoption of a weekly meat-free day.



Meat-free recipes

Animal Aid has recently published a Meat-Free booklet (<http://www.animalaid.org.uk/images/pdf/booklets/Meat-Free.pdf>), which offers a week's worth of tasty, simple, affordable meals. Each recipe will feed a family of four for less than £5. Animal Aid would be happy to allow the City Council the free use of these recipes for the promotion of a meat-free day. We could also offer the booklets free of charge to be made available through any council building including libraries.

School talks

We could help to educate young people on the rationale for such a campaign through local schools. We have an established school speaker service with a UK-wide network of trained, volunteer school speakers who would be available to give talks or run cookery workshops as part of a meat-free day initiative for the city's schools. We already give hundreds of school talks each year.

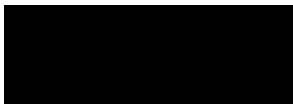
Meat-Free lunch and fayre

Animal Aid would be happy to put on a delicious meat-free lunch for the City Council and/or to organise a free meat-free fayre for the city's inhabitants.

I look forward to hearing from you and please do let me know if there are any other ways in which you think we could help to strengthen this initiative.

For background information on Meat-Free Monday see: www.meat-free-monday.com.

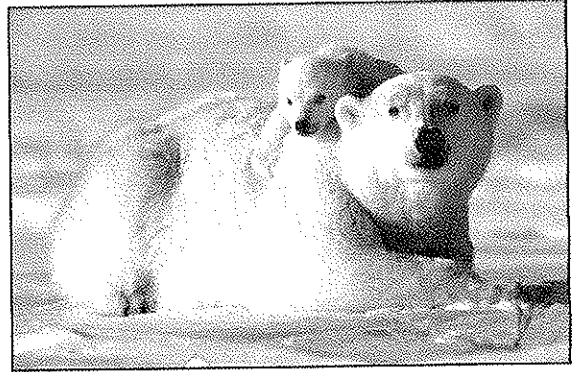
Yours sincerely



Kelly Slade
Campaigns Officer
Animal Aid

St. Albans

Support Meat-Free Monday



Farming and slaughtering animals is now recognised as a significant contributor to today's greatest environmental problems.

As local citizens concerned for the environment, we, the undersigned, would like to see the City Council declare a weekly Meat-Free day to help protect the environment and reduce the city's eco footprint. While local authorities cannot and should not dictate, they can play a vital role by way of influence and example.

Name	Full address	Postcode	Tick for info
		M16 4JY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		M7 7EY	<input type="checkbox"/>
		W10 4JY	<input type="checkbox"/>
		W07 5R4	<input type="checkbox"/>
		W06 4W0	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL4 8PD	<input type="checkbox"/>
		WD17 3BU	<input type="checkbox"/>
		W017 4R1	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 5RN	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL6 9BM	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 409	<input type="checkbox"/>
		M64 28QT	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 6EY	<input type="checkbox"/>

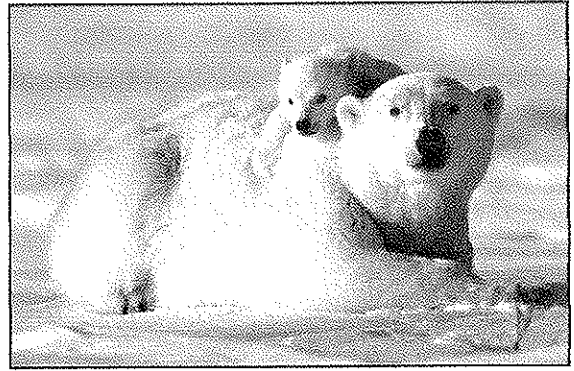


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Name	Full address	Postcode	Tick for info
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		"	<input type="checkbox"/>
		"	<input type="checkbox"/>
		WD6 1HT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		"	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL2 1TD	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
		WD4 8GF	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 4TS	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
		EN2 7ED	<input type="checkbox"/>
		EN2 7ED	<input type="checkbox"/>
		LU6 3WG	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 4DA	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 4EB	<input type="checkbox"/>

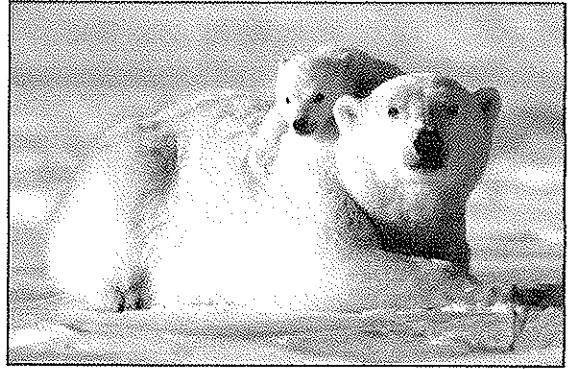


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Name	Full address	Postcode	Tick for info
		WD7 8LU	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 2JG	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 5AY	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 5QL	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL10 9NZ	<input type="checkbox"/>
		SE2 8UM	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL4 0QQ	<input type="checkbox"/>
		..	<input type="checkbox"/>
		LU9 7DJ	<input type="checkbox"/>
			<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL2 2RN	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 5JA	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 5EH	<input type="checkbox"/>
		WD23 3AR	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Name	Full address	Postcode	Tick for info
		WD24 7PA	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 3RJ	<input type="checkbox"/>
		" "	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL2 3DA	<input type="checkbox"/>
		WD4 8ZG	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL4 9DS	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL4 9DS	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 3AQ	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL3 5QH	<input type="checkbox"/>
		" "	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 5NS	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 5NS	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL1 5SA	<input type="checkbox"/>
		AL9 7LP	<input type="checkbox"/>



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