

Full Council – 30th June 2008

**Motion selected for debate by Councillor Bob Blackman,
Leader of the Conservative Group**

Combating Knife & Gun Crime

This Council expresses its deep concern at the high number of reported cases of knife and gun crime. This Council expresses further concern that reports suggest that 1 in 4 young people carry knives on the basis of providing self defence.

This Council notes that many incidents of knives being used in fights take place in or near to licensed premises.

This Council believes that preventing the carrying of knives and guns is the only certain way of preventing their use and the only way of halting the tragic unnecessary loss of life. This Council supports all measures taken to halt the spread of carrying guns and knives including educating young people on the tragic results of using knives in fights. However, this Council believes that the carrying of knives as concealed weapons can only be eliminated by clear and unambiguous punishments for so doing.

This Council therefore believes that there should be clear, mandatory prison sentences for all those caught carrying knives, that there should be a mandatory prison sentence for anyone who uses a knife to endanger another human being and that these sentences should be rigorously enforced. Young people will then be clear that society judges it wrong to carry knives and that they will be severely punished if they choose to do so.

In addition, this Council calls for enhanced powers of stop and search for the police and a reduction in the bureaucratic workload of form filling to allow police more time to help remove the growing menace of knives in our society.

This Council calls for a review of the admission arrangements at licensed premises to consider more measures to prevent people carrying knives from being admitted.