

**Council – 19 October 2015**

**Public Questions (1)**

<b>1.</b>	<b>Question from Naturewatch Foundation to the Cabinet Member Development and Safety, Councillor McKinlay</b>
	<p>According to Battersea Dogs &amp; Cats Home at least 560,000 puppies are born in Britain each year. The Pet Food Manufacturer's Association estimates suggest a number closer to 800,000. At the time of writing 142 litters are currently listed for sale in Cheltenham by the top five online advertisers.</p> <p>Meanwhile reports such as BBC2's The Dog Factory, BBC1's Watchdog (broadcast 8th October) and those of national animal welfare charities, including Naturewatch Foundation, show a clear link between commercial, volume distribution of puppies and disease, distress and damage to families, communities and individual animals.</p> <p>Given that commercial traders and careful, considerate local breeders will both post adverts which look the same, what can Cheltenham Borough Council do to identify licensable trading and to ensure full adherence to specified conditions thereafter?</p> <p>Also, in the event that prospective puppy buyers in Cheltenham identify adverts or trading circumstances which they believe either warrant licensing, or breach licence conditions which have been applied by Council, how can they best help achieve the high standards local people and animals both need and deserve?</p>
	<b>Response from Cabinet Member Development and Safety</b>
	<a href="#">To be advised at the Council meeting</a>