

GMB hails 'first step to saving Belfast Zoo'



GMB union has hailed an amended council motion as ‘the first step to saving Belfast Zoo’.

This morning the Strategic Policy and Resources committee agreed to scope future investment for the long term sustainability of the Zoo along with the surrounding area.

Belfast Zoo, in existence for more than 86 years, was facing the possibility of closure after Sinn Féin Cllr Conor Maskey tabled a motion at the start of February that would potentially mean the closure of the historic site .

An amendment was tabled at the committee this morning by Alliance – supported by all parties except Sinn Féin – that will allow consultation with the relevant stakeholders, including trade union and the



public, on how it can be secured and improved for future generations to enjoy



Alan Perry, GMB Organiser, said:

“While this is welcoming news, it is just the first step to saving the zoo. The hard work is only beginning.

“We must now work together to find a long term, sustainable solution for Belfast Zoo and the surrounding area.

“Inaccurate reports from elected representatives about how animals were being kept and treated left our members shocked.

“They were devastated that their professionalism as zoo keepers – and their dedication to the animals in their care – had been called into question.

“We sincerely hope that today’s decision means that it is clear closure is not an option and that this will be a huge relief to our members.”

Press office

07958 156846

press.office@gmb.org.uk

Member requiring help?

Click to contact your local GMB Region

info@gmb.org.uk

