

Safer living

Capital Trustees Board approves plan to move barns away from housing areas

Mohammed Darwish
TDT | Manama

A proposal to move barns and animal-rearing sites out of housing areas in the Capital Governorate won approval from The Capital Trustees Board yesterday, as members endorsed a plan to shift such activity to serviced land away from homes.

The proposal, put forward by board member engineer Mohammed Tawfeeq Al Abbas, is meant to deal with the spread of barns and the keeping of animals and birds inside residential districts.

It aims to cut harm to public health, reduce noise and pollution, and make neighbourhoods cleaner and easier places to live.

Rules

It would also bring the keeping of animals and birds under planning and environmental rules, while giving breeders alternative sites where they can continue their work in lawful and safer conditions.

Members said the plan would cover all barns, slaughter sites and places used for keeping animals and birds within residential parts of the Capital Governorate, with densely populated areas taking priority.

The board discussed a scheme based on surveying and classifying existing sites, then choosing alternative land and preparing it with water, electricity, paved roads and sanitation. Those sites would be placed away from residential districts.

Transfer

The proposal also calls for a



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“The move would help reduce smells, insects and pollution caused by animal waste.”

— MOHAMMED TAWFEEQ AL ABBAS,
BOARD MEMBER ENGINEER



The proposal aims to cut harm to public health, reduce noise and pollution, and make neighbourhoods cleaner and easier places to live.

phased transfer, with a timetable for moving barns in stages and enough notice for breeders to sort out their status.

Technical and procedural support would be offered during the transition.

After the grace period ends,

the plan calls for updated rules, stricter checks and heavier inspection drives, followed by legal penalties for those who fail to comply.

Consultations

The board also said local par-

ticipation would be needed, calling for consultation meetings with residents and breeders to explain how the plan would work, as well as channels for complaints and suggestions.

Al Abbas said the move would help reduce smells, insects and pollution caused by animal waste.

He said it would also ease traffic linked to unregulated activity, raise property values, improve the look of residential areas and create a clearer, more orderly system for keeping animals.

Coordination

The board recommended that the proposal be adopted as a full executive plan, with coordination between the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture and the bodies concerned to carry it out and meet its aims within Bahrain's sustainable urban development plans.

Health centre ‘stops taking patients’ after evening

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Muharrag North Health Centre stops receiving patients after evening hours despite a 24-hour system being brought in in mid-2022, MP Abdulwahid Qarata said during Parliament's session yesterday, saying residents are still having to seek care elsewhere as new housing areas in the governorate grow.

He said the centre offers general medical care, dental care, mother and child care, early screening, and clinics for diabetes and long-term illness, with about 65 staff working shifts.

“People are being forced to go to other centres after the evening,” he said.

Issue

Qarata said the issue was not a refusal in principle to sending patients to other sites, but the way staff and services were being placed across Muharrag. “The first priority should be

to direct resources and capabilities to the new residential areas in Muharrag,” he said.

He said a full centre had been built in an older area even though “the population density has shifted to newer areas”, and said health planning should keep pace with that move.

He added that more than 2,000 people took part in a public poll calling for the centre to return to round-the-clock service.

Demands

“These demands are still there, and there has still been no response,” he said.

Health Minister, Her Excellency Jaleela Al Sayed, said the ministry puts people's health first and that its decisions are made through studied plans and strategies meant to protect the public interest and keep care joined up across Bahrain. “Decisions are not taken out of stubbornness,” she said.

Garage drain plan passed by Northern Council

Mohammed Darwish
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Water draining from home garages onto streets could be channelled into approved sewer or drainage lines under a proposal passed by the Northern Municipal Council, after members were told the run-off was fuelling neighbour rows, foul smells and damage to roads and pavements.

The plan, tabled by council member Basim Abu Idris, calls for homeowners and owners of residential units to install a dedicated drainage channel within the garage boundary and link it to the sewerage

network or another approved drainage route.

The aim is to stop wash water and other run-off from spilling into public spaces.

Leaks

“We are asking for fixed water drainage to protect citizens, so that they are not held to account when water leaks outside the home,” Abu Idris said.

He said the move would help “protect the social fabric” by cutting disputes between neighbours and shielding residents from municipal fines when water spreads beyond their property.

MPs approve call to cut nursery fees during school suspension

Mohammed Darwish
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A call to deal with fees charged by private nurseries and kindergartens during the suspension of in-person classes passed in Parliament yesterday.

MPs urged the government to step in after parents were charged the same sums despite a sharp change in the teaching children were getting.

The urgent proposal asks the government to regulate fees during the period of suspended

classroom study.

Money

It says money already paid should either be carried over to the next term, counted towards later in-person classes, or offset through a clear scheme to repay parents for the gap between classroom teaching and remote learning.

It also asks for help for teaching and administrative staff during the suspension period through support schemes or partial aid to keep them in work and

“This proposal aims to find a balanced solution that gives justice to families, ensures the sustainability of educational institutions, and preserves the rights of those working in them.”

— MP DR MUNEEB SEROOR



keep the schools open. The proposal was put forward

by Dr Muneer Seroor, Lulwa Al Rumaihi, Basema Mubarak, Ahmed Al Salloom and Mohammed Salman Al Ahmed.

Speaking to Parliament, Dr Seroor said: “In light of the exceptional circumstances that led to the suspension of in-person classes and the shift to remote learning, a real problem has emerged in relation to the fees of private nurseries and kindergartens, as fees continued to be collected at the same cost despite a fundamental difference in the nature of the service being provided.”

Contact

He said early years teaching rested on face-to-face contact in a way that remote learning could not match.

“Early childhood education depends in the first place on direct interaction and on acquiring sensory, social and behavioural skills,” he said. “These are elements that cannot be achieved through remote learning in an adequate way, which creates a clear gap between the value of the fees paid and the level of service actually provided.”

Focus on counterterrorism



A delegation from Bahrain's parliamentary division took part in a virtual seminar organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, discussing how to align counterterrorism frameworks with International Humanitarian Law. It focused on how parliaments can protect humanitarian action. (Rehab Mohammad)

Working mothers of primary pupils backed for home working

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Parliament has passed an urgent proposal calling for working mothers with children in primary school to be allowed to work from home for the time being, as MPs pressed for a stop-gap measure to help families facing strain over childcare.

The proposal, tabled by MP Mohammed Al Balushi and four other MPs, asks the relevant authorities to allow women in both the public and private sectors

to do their jobs remotely if they have children in primary school, so long as work and services keep going.

Al Balushi told the chamber the request was meant to help families through “the exceptional circumstances that could affect family stability and the safety of children”.

He said the scheme should let mothers carry out their work from home during this period, under rules drawn up by the competent bodies to keep a fair balance between work needs and family demands.



MP Mohammed Al Balushi

The paper attached to the proposal says the move is driv-

en by the strain families can face when young children are left at home without direct care during working hours.

It says children in primary school are among those most in need of close and ongoing supervision, which makes it harder for working mothers to juggle their jobs and home duties.

It says remote work in such cases would help give children a safer setting, ensure direct care and watch over them at a key age, ease strain on families and keep work going through flexible arrangements.