

Committee: Ordinary Council	Date: 22 January 2020
Subject: Public Questions	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Jean Sharp	Public
Report Author/s: Name: Jean Sharp Telephone: 01277 312655 E-mail: jean.sharp@brentwood.gov.uk	For Information

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, a member of the public resident within the Borough may ask a maximum of two questions relating to the business of the Council providing notice has been received by 10.00am two working days before the relevant meeting.

If the person wishing to ask the question is not present at the meeting when the item is called the question(s) will be deleted from the list of questions to be asked.

Every question asked pursuant to rule 11.1 of the Constitution shall be put and answered without discussion but the Member to whom the question has been put may decline to answer. An answer may take the form of a direct oral answer at the Council meeting or where there has been insufficient time to research an answer, a written answer will be sent to the questioner.

Mrs Jan Gearon-Simm had submitted the following question:

1. *A group of YouTube stars have raised more than \$6m (£4.7m) to plant trees around the world.*

YouTubers have created the #Team Trees project.

All donations are sent directly to the ARBOUR DAY FOUNDATION, a US non profit organisation dedicated to planting trees, which they will plant around the world starting in January 2020 with the aim of completing the project within 3 years.

Will Brentwood Borough Council contact the ARBOUR DAY FOUNDATION, having first identified areas in Brentwood where trees can be planted?

Mrs Patricia Smith had submitted two questions:

1. *What obligation is there upon Brentwood councillors, (and what mechanisms are in place to ensure), that Brentwood Council members respectfully and fully consider and properly answer a resident's questions; that residents can physically easily hear the verbal response in the Council chamber in it's entirety, from where they are obliged to sit (at the back, with councillors sitting at a distance and speaking in a direction away from them); and that members issue a proper (timely) response clearly in writing, and properly, thoroughly, investigate and follow up afterwards the concerns raised in residents' questions?*

2. *Regarding Brentwood Council's complaints system, and the associated Council responsibility for accountability, democracy, and for ensuring the vital independence of any necessary scrutiny of itself, in how it deals with complaints.*

What mechanisms are in place to ensure the objectivity, impartiality and fairness of the Brentwood Council Complaints process? Please explain how the Council attempts to ensure that principles and standards of response to complaints are adhered to.