

Committee: Ordinary Council	Date: 22.1.2020
Subject: Chairs' Reports and Members' Questions	Wards Affected: All
Report of: Jean Sharp	Public
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In accordance with the Council's Constitution a brief written report by each committee Chair covering their area of responsibility is provided for Members' information at each Ordinary Council meeting.

Any Member may ask a Chair a written or oral question on

- (a) any matter included in a Chair's written report; or
- (b) any matter in relation to which the Council has powers or duties or which affects the Council's area and which falls within the area of responsibility of the Chair's committee.

The period allowed for Chairs' reports, written and oral questions and answers will not exceed 60 minutes without leave of the Mayor.

Two written questions were submitted by Cllr Chilvers, as follows:

1. *Last summer, during major building works in Shenfield, wheelchair users were forced to use the main road carriageway to travel as the footpath was completely blocked with no adequate access provided for them.*

Will the Chair of the Planning Committee confirm that Brentwood Borough Council policy will change by the start of the municipal year 2020/21 to ensure that this inequitable and dangerous situation cannot occur again?

2. *During 2019, it was agreed by the then Leader of the Council that all Brentwood Borough Council buildings would display a sign saying "Assistance Dogs Welcome" (as is the law) and any now redundant signage would be removed. Can the current Leader of the Council confirm this is now in place?*

Two written questions were submitted by Cllr S Cloke, as follows:

1. *For over a decade, council meetings were webcast allowing Brentwood residents to watch live or to catch up later and making us a transparent council in this regard.*

In 2017 when the council moved out of the Town Hall temporarily, a motion was agreed - unanimously - that audio recordings would fill the void left due to

difficulties arising from being nomadic. The promise was that visual recording would return.

It has not yet returned and initially this was said to be due to staff training requirements. More recently a casework enquiry has informed us that a decision on its return has yet to be made.

Please can the leader confirm when webcasting will return and that audio recording will continue until that time?

2. *Since Brentwood's street lighting was switched off by Essex County Council, our residents have constantly been concerned that night crime has increased. Liberal Democrat councillors have raised the issue but the response has always been that there is no correlation.*

However, in the consultation response from Essex Police in the agenda for the Licensing sub-Committee on 14/11/2019 the following statement was made:

"Essex County Council have imposed part night lighting in Brentwood, which operates from midnight six days a week. Although it does currently not affect the high street, it could be a hazard to patrons leaving the area to seek public transport and trains nearby during the dark winter nights."

Does the chair of licensing (and indeed the chair for that sub-committee) agree that the concerns of our police force - that seem to concur with those of our residents- should be passed to the Police & Crime Commissioner and ECC to inform any future review and that she will ensure this is done?

Appendices to this report

Chairs Reports for:

Appendix A: Audit and Scrutiny Committee

Appendix B: Community and Health Committee

Appendix C: Environment, Enforcement and housing Committee

Appendix D: Planning and Licensing Committee

Appendix E: Policy, Resources and Economic Development Committee