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| Committee: Ordinary Council | Date: 16 th March 2022 |
| Subject: Public Questions | Wards Affected: All |
| Report of: Claire Mayhew – Corporate Manager (Democratic Services) | Public |
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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.

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. Time for all questions from members of the public shall be restricted to 15 minutes in total. At the expiration of that period of time, any questions which have not been asked shall be answered in writing and the answer placed with the minutes.

Mrs Pat Smith submitted one question.

1. *How does the Council's constitution prevent a slide into political extremism (for example extreme right or left wing attitudes and behaviour) by the administration? What are the checks and balances? Are they being applied?*

Mrs Susan Kortlardt has submitted two question.

1. *Essex County Council has placed addressing the climate challenge at the heart of its strategic priorities. As there are four Essex County councillors covering Brentwood Borough, presumably they support the key steps published in the Essex Climate Action Commission's report 'Net Zero by 2050', with Step 1 including all new builds to have solar panels from 2021, with 25% of all roofs having solar panels by 2030.*

Could Brentwood lead the way by achieving this target sooner by fitting all its estate with solar panels in the next eighteen months?

2. *I note, from the recent report of Essex Climate Action Commission, that 49% of carbon generated in Essex is transport-related, of which 90% is from vehicle use, that the number of battery electric vehicles in the UK has tripled in the last two years and continues to grow strongly.*

I understand that Brentwood Council decided 3 to 4 years ago to install 40 public electric vehicle charging points (PEVC's) across Borough-owned car parks, but that this total has now been reduced to 20. Also, according to this report, there are still only 7 PEVC's in the Brentwood area, the second lowest in Essex. Only Castle Point has fewer, with 3.

In light of this extremely weak performance, I should like to ask what is preventing the Council from delivering on its commitment? I am sure that the 3 Brentwood Council members who also sit on Essex County Council, Barry Aspinell, Lesley Wagland (Cabinet Member for Highways) and Andy Wiles will want to ensure that ECC's support for more sustainable travel options is given proper priority.