

Committee: Ordinary Council	Date: 15 th March 2023
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 clear 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 Jan Gearon-Simm has submitted two questions.

1. *“We are now required to provide photographic evidence for our right to vote”.*

Brentwood residents are required to pay council tax.

In the light of this Conservative governments’ requirement, what will Brentwood Borough Council do to enable residents to participate in democracy?

2. *An amendment to the housing bill that is presently awaiting its third reading in the Commons will require landlords to fix health hazards withing strict timeframes.*

This has been prompted by the failure of Rochdale Borough Housing to tackle the black mould in the house where two year old Awaab Ishak lived. This mould caused his death.

England’s housing regulator will be given new powers to conduct inspections issue unlimited fines and charge landlords for emergency repairs.

I believe that his bill only applies to “social housing”?

If there is not a housing regulator in England for tenants who pay rent to private landlords in the free market, does Brentwood Borough Council inspect such properties?

Mrs Pat Smith has submitted one question.

- 1. What is the point of the public submitting objections (or ideas for compromises) to planning applications if they are completely disregarded in every respect and the plans voted through by the administration councillors who won't be affected?*