

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE NO. 15 QUESTIONS – QUESTIONS BY MEMBERS

Notice of the following questions has been received in accordance with Council Procedure Rule No 15:

1. Question to the Executive Member for Planning from Councillor Thusu

“At the last full council I proposed a motion whereby the Borough Council as the lead planning authority played an active role in ensuring the future residents were protected from leasehold or as some have termed fleasehold. After much debate there seemed to be common consensus that the council would be willing to undertake a cross party working group to look at what can be done to protect our future home owners. Would the relevant portfolio holder be willing to update myself and other councillors on how they propose this to be taken forward?”

2. Question to the Executive Member for Environment from Councillor Fitzsimon

“I am a frequent visitor to Stanborough Lakes over the last five years and a lot of people come from some distances to go there. I have been concerned recently by the lack of maintenance in some areas which can be Health and Safety issues. The wooden decking area next to the hut on the south Lake has some large holes in it and one of the surrounding steel bars to prevent access has become very loose. There are three areas as you come out of the underpass to access the North Lake of brick paving that are broken and are a trip hazard. Can I ask if the Cabinet Member for the Environment aware of these issues?”

3. Question to the Executive Member for Planning from Councillor Kingsbury

"Given the new Labour government's push to increase development and the pending local plan review in Welwyn Hatfield, can the portfolio holder clarify the government's references to 'Grey Belt' and provide examples of Grey Belt land within the Borough?"

4. Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Jones

“The Liberal Democrat Party noted the recent announcement by the Labour Government to restrict eligibility of Winter Fuel Payments to only those in receipt of Pension Credits (and other benefits) and believe this criteria is too restrictive. Many people affected by this change have also been given insufficient time to budget for the winter ahead.

With the Energy Price Cap due to rise by 10% in October as well, many pensioners in Welwyn Hatfield could potentially fall into fuel poverty. The low take up of pension credit is deeply concerning and this Council has a role to play in increasing awareness of benefits such as Pension Credit to ensure people are aware of the support they are entitled to.

Could the Joint Administration assure residents that an awareness campaign to maximise uptake of pension credits can be initiated to help as many of those affected as possible?”