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Chairman and Members of the Council
cc. All other recipients of the Council agenda

Your contact: Peter Mannings
Tel: 01279 502174
Date: 14 December 2020

Dear Councillor,

COUNCIL - 16 DECEMBER 2020

Please find attached Public and Members' questions under the following agenda items, some of which had not been received at the time when the main Agenda was published for the above meeting:

6. Public Questions (Pages 3 - 4)
To receive any public questions.
7. Members' questions (Pages 5 - 8)
To receive any Members' questions.

Yours faithfully,

Peter Mannings
Democratic Services Officer
East Herts Council
peter.mannings@eastherts.gov.uk

MEETING : COUNCIL
VENUE : ONLINE MEETING - ZOOM
DATE : WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020
TIME : 7.00 PM

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PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Question 1

Mr David Royle, representative of the Bishop's Stortford Climate Change Group, to ask Cllr Jan Goodeve, Executive Member for Planning and Growth:

Several major housing developments have been approved and are now being built. Both physical quality and the energy performance of the schemes clearly require careful monitoring. This would ensure compliance with planning conditions and statements of intent forming part of the planning permission documentation. There are two separate but overlapping fields of monitoring:

1. Planning permission monitoring: to check developers are complying with the approved drawings and conditions.
2. Building Control monitoring: to check whether energy efficiency targets are exceeding Building Regulations Part L.

Could you please clarify what arrangements are in place for:

- Early and regular monitoring of the build-out of new homes against the permissions granted, in order to provide assurance on the delivered design, quality and energy sources of housing in new developments, and to impose any necessary enforcement steps in good time to influence the rest of the development.
- Building Control service monitoring compliance with stated energy performance targets.

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COUNCIL – 16 DECEMBER 2020

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Question 1

Cllr Ben Crystall to ask Cllr Graham McAndrew, Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability:

More than a year after declaring a climate motion, East Herts Council still has no visible message on its website giving residents advice on measures they can adopt to reduce their carbon footprint.

Given that East Herts Council plays a leading role as influencer in the district, and the fact that adding a page of guidance on the council website would have minimal cost implications, isn't the Executive Member for Environmental Sustainability concerned that East Herts Council is missing out a simple but crucial step in providing its residents with actionable guidance on cutting their own, and the district's, carbon emissions?

Question 2

Cllr Norma Symonds to ask Cllr Peter Boylan, Executive Member for Neighbourhoods:

I am very concerned about the impact that Covid 19 may have on our homeless in the District. Losing your home often through no fault of your own, and at any time in your life is totally devastating. What is East Herts Council doing to support families and individuals at this very challenging time?

Question 3

Cllr Ian Devonshire to ask Cllr Geoffrey Williamson, Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Financial Sustainability:

The Hospitality Sector throughout this country is suffering badly from the economic effects due to the restrictions being imposed to protect the public from Covid-19. Can the Executive Member please tell us how this Authority is helping to support the hospitality sector, including hotels, bed and breakfast and leisure accommodation, who have been under some form of restriction since March of this year.

Question 4

Cllr Mione Goldspink to ask Cllr Jan Goodeve, Executive Member for Planning and Growth:

Is it true, as was reported recently in a local newspaper, that the Builders of the new houses on the Old Goods Yard Site in Bishop's Stortford, have abandoned the Carbon Dioxide reduction prediction of 24%, and have now settled on a tiny 3.2% reduction? The original prediction was included in the overall Planning Application for the site, which was granted with conditions. A revised prediction, for 3.2%, was submitted in 2019. I believe that this has not yet been approved by the Council, but, the building works are none the less going ahead. Can the Executive Member please tell me what level of CO2 reduction has been accepted, and is it compatible with this Council's stated ambition of making the whole of the district Carbon Neutral by 2030?

Question 5

Cllr Tim Page to ask Cllr Jan Goodeve, Executive Member for Planning and Growth:

Buyers of new build properties in my ward have brought alleged building control breaches to my attention. Building Control compliance is often undertaken by approved inspectors who are engaged by developers. Could the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Growth clarify how this work is monitored and enforced, across the District, and if the enforcement regime also covers compliance with planning conditions.

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