

**Bromsgrove District Council – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2020**  
**Item 9 - Member Questions**

**1. From Councillor K Van der Plank**

**Question to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services**

“A number of trees have been cut down, in Alvechurch and around the District, over recent months which is extremely concerning when we are facing a climate emergency and should be protecting trees and planting more, not removing them.

Why have these trees been removed? What checks are in place to ensure that trees are only cut down where absolutely necessary and how is this being monitored and reported? What plans are in place to ensure new trees are planted to replace any that are removed”

**2. From Councillor C Hotham**

**Question to the Leader**

“Now that the Bird Box is complete, please could the cabinet member responsible inform council of the final build cost? Thank you”

**3. From Councillor J King**

**Question to the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration**

**Protecting our Green Belt from Government planning reforms**

Are you concerned about the analysis from Lichfields planning consultants which indicates that the number of new homes to be built in Bromsgrove will almost double to 694 a year under the Governments proposed new formula? What will you do to ensure that Bromsgrove’s Green Belt is protected and that new homes are genuinely affordable for local people to rent and buy?

**4. From Councillor R Hunter**

**Question to the Leader**

**Preparing for a second wave of Covid**

How much of the Governments £89,000 ‘Reopening High Streets Safely’ grant allocated to Bromsgrove has been spent and how are we preparing to protect local people and businesses in the event of a second wave?

**5. From Councillor S Hughes**

**Question to the Leader**

**Putting no limit on our climate ambition**

Can you please clarify that it is not BDC’s target to become carbon neutral by 2050 and that in fact we aim to drastically reduce emissions long before then. The motion this council passed last June means that in

Bromsgrove action will not be delayed to 2050 but taken as soon as possible, as is required to save the planet?

**6. From Councillor P McDonald  
Question to the Leader**

After the success regarding extending the suspension of rent evictions, would the Leader write once again calling upon the Government to support: Landlords, letting agents and charities urging the Government to support private tenants with a £270 million fund to help with rent arrears.

At least 322,000 private renters have fallen behind on payments since the pandemic began, according to a coalition of Shelter, the National Residential Landlords Association, ARLA property mark, Crisis, Citizen Advice and Generation Rent. Without the fund it is feared there will be a devastating homelessness crisis.

**7. From Councillor S Hughes  
Question to the Leader**

Can the council leader update on the support the council has given to the Artrix [Holding Trust](#) to date and confirm its intention to continue to engage with the Holding Trust to exercise its community leadership role and secure a future sustainable model of delivery for the venue.

**8. From Councillor K Van der Plank  
Question to the Leader**

Can the leader please update the council on the progress that has been made since the Council agreed the actions in the Fly Tipping motion that I submitted in September 2019.

**9. From Councillor J King  
Question to the Leader**

We are pleased to hear that subsidy for local bus services is set to increase in Worcestershire this year. Could the Leader please confirm how much additional funding has been allocated for services replacing the 202?

**10. From Councillor S Douglas  
Question to the Leader**

Can the leader confirm that this council will be urging the Artrix Holding Trust when considering future management options, to take note of the demise of the previous operator, that the new lease has sufficient longevity, and ensure that any future operator has a robust and sustainable business plan including the ability to invest in Arts development for the future?

**11. From Councillor P McDonald  
Question to the Leader**

I understand that it might be possible for the Rubery Festival to apply for some support with the running costs of the event. Can the Leader confirm the best route for the organisers to take to achieve this?

**12. From Councillor P McDonald  
Question to the Leader**

Would the Leader please request the Holding Trust to keep the Council updated of events.