

**Bromsgrove District Council – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021**  
**Member Questions**

**1. From Councillor H. Rone-Clarke**  
**Question for the Leader**

“As the leader is aware, in 2019 this council declared a climate emergency...as we look forward in our quest to tackle climate breakdown, it is important we have our own house in order. In this vein, can the leader report on the number of organisations this council does business with, which invest or profit from fossil fuels and will she pledge to fully divest from them by this time next year?”

**2. From Councillor R. Hunter**  
**Question for the Leader**

“Cashless car parking

What was the outcome of the consultation on ending cash payments at BDC car parks? How many responses were received in support and how many against? Can the Leader now make a commitment to Council that we will continue to allow those who need to pay by cash to do so in Bromsgrove?”

**3. From Councillor J. King**  
**Question for the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling**

“Empty homes

This time last year the Lib Dem Group brought forward a motion calling on Council to stop providing a council tax discount on long term empty homes and to instead charge an additional council tax premium on property owners who keep homes empty (without exemption status). In recent days we have seen reports in the press that the number of empty homes in our district has increased again. Will the council take action on this issue and use the council tax system to encourage property owners to act responsibly?”

**4. From Councillor K. Van Der Plank**  
**Question for the Portfolio holder for Leisure, Cultural Services and Community Safety**

“The night time economy is important for our town centre providing leisure activities as well as business opportunities. However, all too often we hear reports of incidents, often at pub and club closing time which raises concerns for the personal safety of those enjoying a night out. We are also hearing concerns around the health and hygiene impacts for residents living near by who’s properties are often littered with bottles, cans and other unpleasant things.

What is the state (ie numbers, types etc) of crime and anti social behaviour in Bromsgrove town centre? Is this acceptable or does more need to be done?”

**5. From Councillor A. English**  
**Question for the Leader**

“I welcome the £14.5 million that Bromsgrove District Council has recently been awarded through the Government’s Levelling Up Fund to be used to support the regeneration of prime town centre sites. Could the Council investigate the possibility of buying the second oldest church in Bromsgrove, the United Reformed Church on Windsor Street which has been derelict for many years. Surely this is a prime town centre site and could be put to many exciting uses rather than being the sad, eyesore it is now?”

**6. From Councillor C. Hotham**  
**Question for the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Enabling**

“This council has for many years had the opportunity to access a £20,000,000 loan facility. However, the money remains untouched. The regeneration grant of £14,500,000 is welcome but comes with strict spending time limits. Given the council’s history of failure to spend the £20,000,000 for the benefits of residents, please can the Leader give an undertaking that this new money will be fully utilised?”

**7. From Councillor S. Robinson**  
**Question for the Leader**

“Following the removal of the heritage lights on Windsor Street car park, can the portfolio holder please confirm how much money it would have cost to replace the heritage lights with LED heritage lights instead of removing them? Could we also have an update about when will the lights be re-painted?”

**8. From Councillor S. Douglas**  
**Question for the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board**

“Recognising the impact of fireworks in residential areas, can the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Board update council on the progress that has been made with the scrutiny of fireworks, which occurred following Councillor Hunter’s submission of a Motion on this subject in December 2020?”