

Council: 26 July 2016

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Brian Gordon

Roles of Politicians at Residents' Forums

Council believes that the Residents' Forum provides an excellent democratic apparatus for members of the public within Barnet to raise local issues according to their choice and engage with Officers regarding those issues.

Council wishes to reinforce the concept that Residents' Forums should be user-friendly and not dominated by politicians, who already have sufficient and direct access to higher echelons of local government.

Council therefore calls for the Constitution, Ethics and Probity Committee to look at modifying the constitution to provide that elected politicians – be they councillors, assembly members or MPs – should not be permitted to submit questions or table motions for discussion at Residents' Forums, although they may still be called upon during such meetings to comment on issues, entirely at the discretion of the Chair.

Under Full Council Procedure Rule 23.5: if my item is not dealt with by the end of the meeting I ask that it be voted upon at the Council meeting.