

Item	Resident name	Question	Answers
8	Mr Dix	<p>I was assured you were going to repeal the gagging rules introduced by the previous regime, specifically, that there would be a 30 minute period to ask multiple questions and that people could personally address the committees. Combined with the removal of residents forums, it looks like resident participation is something you want to avoid. Please will you think again about resident engagement, reintroduce the constitution rules in place in 2018 regarding questions and speeches to committees and think again about the residents forums because the evidence from last week suggests amalgamating them with area committees simply doesn't work.</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, John. I have asked for a wide review of the Council's approach to community engagement and resident participation so that we can deliver on our manifesto pledge to put communities (and sustainability) at the heart of what the Council does. The resident participation rules in the Constitution will be included in that review, however, I sense that you are keen for us to make good on our commitment to scrap the 'gagging rule' that was imposed by the Conservatives which restricted the number of questions each resident could ask to 1 per agenda item, with only two questions allowed orally on each agenda item at the meeting itself.</p> <p>I reiterated yesterday on the Eddie Nestor Radio Show that I would get rid of this gagging rule. So, I will be moving a motion at this evening's Constitution & General Purposes Committee to allow residents to submit unlimited written questions to Committee meetings which will be published for transparency, and to reinstate the 30-minute period to allow councillors and officers to answer as many of these questions orally at the meeting during that period with one oral</p>

			<p>supplementary allowed per question. We will alternate between residents that submit questions on the night to ensure as many residents as possible get to ask questions at the meeting.</p> <p>Any questions that are not answered in the 30-minute period will be at the discretion of the Chair to respond to in writing after the meeting.</p> <p>We will review how this works in the wider engagement and participation review.</p> <p>And rather than reintroduce 'Public Comments' I want to look at establishing a system of Deputations, but this will be looked at in the wider review.</p> <p>In addition to this we have manifesto commitments to introduce regular Leader Listens and Public Question Time events.</p> <p>The Resident Forums under the Conservatives did not work well or reach a wide range of people - often with more councillors and officers present than members of the public. If we are going to put residents at the heart of decision making, then they should be able to bring their petitions and issues directly to the</p>
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8	Ms Musgrove	<p>At a council meeting on the 30th July 2019, the Chair made a speech protesting against the approval by Tory councillors of new 'gagging rules' intended to silence challenge from residents and local bloggers, and to prevent them from taking part in any meaningful engagement with their elected representatives. This has raised a real barrier to transparency and accountability, and devalued the process of local democracy. The Chair has given private assurances that the gagging laws will be dropped, at this meeting, yet here we are, faced with measures that continue the Tories' illiberal actions and their suppression of public scrutiny.</p> <p>How can he justify this?</p>	<p>Thank you for your question, Theresa. I hope I've answered it in my reply to John Dix.</p>