

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

TUESDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2011

PUBLIC QUESTION ON THE THEME

1. QUESTION FROM ROY BOSWORTH TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT

The electrics in the garages at Brenchley Gardens were updated 18 months ago and the power was cut off for re-wiring. Electricity has not been reinstated, neither the council or the utility company will take responsibility for this problem. Could I ask for your help in getting this matter resolved?

RESPONSE

As part of the Brenchley Gardens decent homes works programme, renewal of the existing wiring up to the main intake cupboards was to take place.

These works were considered appropriate as we were upgrading the estate lighting to current standards by adding 8 new column lights, and the works to the garages fell within this scope.

As part of the consultation process we invited representatives of the TMO committee and the TMO estate manger to monthly team meetings.

At one of the initial meetings it was explained that the housing management team at the TMO would be responsible for contacting EDF and arranging for the switch over to the new intake.

Subsequently it transpired that EDF discovered that the former set up had some major problems, such as;

- a) Some garages were receiving free electricity as there were no meter relating to them.
- b) Other meters did not relate to the garages they were supposed to.
- c) There were several outstanding charges for electricity used.

The delay is due to confusion about whose responsibility it is to ensure the works are carried out quickly. Therefore, to move things forward, the investment team, housing Management and the TMO are working together to make sure the situation with the electrical connection is resolved satisfactorily.