

## **APPENDIX A - SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR MAJOR ON BEHALF OF COUNCILLOR GARDNER - WRITTEN RESPONSE**

### **10.5 SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR MAJOR (ON BEHALF OF COUNCILLOR GARDNER) TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH & HOUSING – COUNCILLOR CORTHORNE**

Councillor Major, by way of a supplementary question, asked whether Councillor Corthorne agreed that the Council needed to lobby the Government to strengthen the rights of tenants. Councillor Corthorne responded that care was needed as the action being taken was a routine business transaction. He advised that he would give the matter some thought and provide Councillor Major (and Councillor Gardner) with a written response.

#### **Response:**

Councillor Corthorne advised that the issue raised by the North Road evictions related to private developers and private landlords. There was a balance that needed to be struck between encouraging a vibrant private rented sector for the benefit of local residents and safeguards for tenants when properties were sold. The Council needed to ensure that tenants had security of tenure but, at the same time, the Council did not want to see regulation that worked against the ability of private landlords to provide a good supply of homes in the private rented sector.

The key point though was that of security of tenure. The current tenancy laws had been in place and working well for around 25 years, striking a good balance between tenant security and landlords' ability to finance the buying and selling of property.

It was always unfortunate to hear stories of evictions and the Council would always work with tenants and landlords to minimise these. The Council's Homeless Persons Unit was not seeing a high number of illegal evictions or enquiries of that nature in North Road.

Councillor Corthorne did not therefore think that at present, it was necessary to lobby central Government for changes to the law. However, the situation was being closely monitored and the issue was being raised at networking meetings across West London and with London Councils to see if there was evidence of a trend that might cause the Council to reconsider.