

Public Questions: 11 April 2018

Would Council join me in thanking the organisers and sponsors of the successful community event of Bury Pride, and continue to support Bury Pride for future years? **Natasha Franklin**

Answer:

We are absolutely delighted with the success of Bury Pride 2018, and would definitely want to extend our thanks to the organisers and sponsors.

Particular thanks should go to key employees who were instrumental in organising the event, including David Catterall, Tony Malone and his team within Civic Venues and Bury Council's LGBT+ Employee Group – chaired by our own Natasha Franklin, who was recently awarded the Stonewall Lesbian Role Model of the Year for 2018.

Thanks should also go to other Council staff – particularly including the Fostering and adoption Teams, OD, Carers Engagement and the social development team, Team Bury, Six Town Housing and Traffic.

Thanks should also go to the POG youth group, the Police, Foundation Events and The Joshua Wilson Brain Tumour Charity for marshalling the parade and Secure Medical Services for the first aid response team.

Also we would like to thank our sponsors and supporters Bury Market, Russell&Russell, Bury Business Lodge, Super Josh, UNISON, Mill Gate, Village Hotels, J W Lees, , The Best of Bury, Ambition for Aging, Annabelle's Challenge, TransForum Manchester, Barnardo's, The Bubbly Box, Samaritans Bury, Canal Street, Groundwork, Puregym, Sparkle, Biphoria, Born, and Cancer Research.

1850 free tickets for Pride were requested online, and 2350 people registered interest in the event. Over 50 different organisations and charities were involved on the day, through stalls and sponsorship, and around 700 people joined in the Walking Rainbow parade.

The event was a huge success, and we have already committed to supporting Bury Pride 2019 which will be on Saturday 13th April 2019.

2. In light of the statistics (below) from an RAC report in the state of the roads, can the leader inform me of any proposed plans on lobbying the government to better fund Bury Council to enable improved maintenance of our roads? -

Capital spend on local road maintenance lowest over last two years since 2001/2002 despite continued increase of number of cars on the roads

Highways maintenance block grant from central gov falling in recent years by 18% in real terms between 2011 to 2015

LGA analysis predicts 35% further reduction in highway maintenance budget by end of the decade

Suggestion that road tax receipts should be invested in roads maintenance was supported by 4 out of 5 people in LGA poll

A McCaul

Answer:

Local Authorities face a lot of criticism about the state of roads, so the fact that an independent and well respected organisation like the RAC has recognised the root cause of the problem is cuts to Government funding is significant.

In Bury we are adopting an innovative approach to overcome this with our £10 million investment in highways, however this will only go part way to addressing the needs of the highways infrastructure.

We will lobby the Government for additional funding – whether that is from Road Tax, Fuel Duty or any other Treasury funds.

In our response to the “Fair Funding Review” we made a number of points about highways, congestion, and air quality, which are probably our biggest challenges after Childrens and adult Social Care.