

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – COUNCIL 28TH JULY 2021

Department	Question/response
BGI	Do Bury Council value the Holcombe Conservation Area, in the light of their own policies, and also UK responsibilities to the public? Dr F Binns (in attendance)
Response: Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	<p>Planning proposals will result in differing opinions being made about proposals some supporting and some not supporting. Equally Government Appeal Planning Inspectors have also demonstrated a range of views when appeals have been determined.</p> <p>Holcombe is a designated Conservation Area and is also subject to an Article 4 Direction. Both of these are active policy decisions made by the Council to ensure the preservation or enhancement of these special areas. Such provisions enable a close scrutiny to take place in planning terms when a proposal is submitted.</p> <p>Overall, these designations are not intended to cease or stop development from taking place but instead do permit a greater degree of development management to take place when proposals are submitted. The Council as a decision maker is required to consider all material planning considerations in reaching a planning decision including both local and National policy, which may result in a scheme either being supported or not. These tests are always set out in Committee reports and are discussed prior to making any decision by the Council's Planning Control Committee.</p>
Ops	Have you saved the 150000 pound cut co2 cut the miles on your trucks with the new bin routes Sean Hall-Moore (not in attendance)
Response: Cllr Alan Quinn	The new optimised, balanced waste collection rounds were introduced on 21/6/21 and are currently being embedded across the borough. The new rounds result in a reduction of total mileage travelled of approx. 4%. As a result, progress towards the saving and reduction in CO2 is being made.
BGI	Data from Places for Everyone seems to require 165,000 additional homes for 170,000 additional people. Can you explain what appears as massive over-provision? Susan Sollazzi (not in attendance)
Response: Cllr Eamonn O'Brien	The total housing target of 164,881 in the Places for Everyone plan is based on the Government's standard method for calculating Local Housing Need.

	<p>Government policy is clear that local planning authorities should follow the standard method based on the 2014 household projections and should only depart from this in exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>The standard method is not based on household projections alone. It also requires an uplift to account for housing affordability, as well as a 35% cities and urban centres uplift that has to be met within the Manchester City Council area.</p> <p>It is also important to note that household projections show a general trend towards smaller households, both locally and nationally meaning that there is projected to be an increase in the number of households even if the population does not increase. A significant part of the increase in households is a result of the ageing population leading to more 1 or 2 person households, resulting in a need for more homes to accommodate the same number of people.</p> <p>If insufficient new homes are provided, then there is a risk that affordability levels will worsen, and people will not have access to suitable accommodation that meets their needs.</p>
Ops	<p>Why has the council taken down the on-line report page for "missed bins" thus made it impossible for residents to report missed collections except via their local councillor? Andrew Luxton (in attendance)</p>
Response: Cllr Alan Quinn	<p>The facility to report a missed bin was temporarily taken down for a week to manage demand and make sure that residents could speak to our customer contact team for the most up-to-date information as the situation was changing daily. It is now fully active, as is the daily update of missed bins (should there be any). We will continue to update the website on a daily basis and put messages out on social media.</p> <p>Advice for residents in the event of a missed collection can be found via www.bury.gov.uk/missedbin</p> <p>If residents are ever unable to get through on the phone, they can always email the contact centre to report a missed collection, and one of the advisors will respond to them. The email address is customercontactteam@bury.gov.uk</p>
BGI	<p>Leaving aside for the moment the catastrophic impact this plan will have on the greenbelt, much has been made of the creation of 20,000 jobs. I have seen no evidence put forward to support this theory. On what evidence has this figure been based? Has the Council indications from specific companies that they will create x number of jobs in a particular field, or has this figure been plucked at random? What sort of jobs are those to be created - skilled, unskilled? Barbara Wilkinson (not in attendance)</p>

<p>Response: Cllr Eamonn O'Brien</p>	<p>It is important to note that the proposed employment development at the Northern Gateway site is still at a relatively early stage in the planning process and it will take decades for the site to be fully built out.</p> <p>As such, there is no detailed information relating to the end occupiers of the site and exactly how many employees each company will have.</p> <p>However, the estimates that have been made are not 'plucked at random' but are based on an established and commonly used methodology involving employment densities.</p> <p>This methodology calculates the likely job generation from the amount and type of employment floorspace proposed. In the case of the Northern Gateway site, this shows that the site has the potential to generate around 20,000 new jobs.</p> <p>One of the key issues in Bury at present is the quality of jobs available within the Borough. This has led to high levels of out-commuting, with many Bury residents travelling outside the Borough to access better quality and higher paid jobs elsewhere.</p> <p>As a result, we are committed to improving the quality of jobs available to Bury residents and the Northern Gateway site is a key opportunity to achieve this. Indeed, the site includes proposals for an Advanced Manufacturing Park that would help significantly in bringing high quality and highly skilled jobs into Bury.</p>
<p>OCO</p>	<p>Could Councillor Andrea Simpson Please provide me with an update on steps that are been taken to prevent mental health problems during Covid? Andy Hay (in attendance)</p>
<p>Response: Cllr Andrea Simpson</p>	<p>Bury One Commissioning Organisation has worked collaboratively with system partners to ensure that Bury residents have had access to Mental wellbeing support during the Covid lockdown/response phase and continue to do so as restrictions have eased. All universal commissioned Mental health clinical and wellbeing services in Bury have operated throughout the pandemic. Where Covid related restrictions have been enforced for face to face appointments, services have been proactively contacting service users via telephone and other means to ensure continuation of support.</p> <p>Mental Wellbeing support has also been available to staff supporting service users via the GM resilience hub. Regular meetings have been in place with Bury VCFA Mental health partners to ensure that local VCFA services were receiving the necessary support. In addition, Mental health and wellbeing pathways and links have been developed with wider partners such as GP's, Schools, neighbourhood hubs, INT's, clinical services, physical health providers so that anyone in contact with these</p>

	<p>services can be signposted and referred into the appropriate Mental health and wellbeing support available.</p> <p>A dedicated Thriving in Bury Mental Health and Wellbeing page has also been developed on the Bury online directory which Bury people can access to find all the Mental health, support available locally and across GM. A dedicated directory of services to support autistic people and people with learning disabilities and their families has also been developed and available to access on the Bury online directory.</p> <p>Work continues with system partners to ensure that as life gets back to some normality Mental Health and Wellbeing support continues to be provided to those who are already in receipt of support but also recognising and supporting individuals, families, communities whose Mental wellbeing may have been affected as a result of the pandemic.</p>
<p>Supplementary:</p>	<p>A number of new services have also been commissioned locally and across GM to support people such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bury Getting Help Line (Mental Wellbeing support via local VCF partner) - Kooth (Online digital support for CYP) - SHOUT (24/7 support via Text) - Slivercloud (Online digital Therapeutic service) - BAME Support services - 24/7 MH Crisis Line - Peer Crisis Support Service (via local VCF partner) - Bereavement Support
<p>Ops</p>	<p>Why is the Council proposing to spend time and money on setting up the 'Bury Eco Standard' for new build homes and existing homes, when there are already established and widely accepted construction standards, namely PassivHaus for new builds, and EnerPhit for deep retrofit on existing homes, which can be easily adopted and used as the Bury Eco standard, by the Council?</p> <p>Supplementary Question - In respect of the proposed Places For Everyone plan and in line with Bury's Climate Change Action Plan/Strategy. The Modern Method of Construction of new house builds on all new builds in the borough, and taken the Modular construction method, would</p>

	<p>mean fewer deliveries to sites, therefore cutting the carbon emitted from transport, in the borough. Additionally, A WRAP study identified 83% less site traffic for offsite construction compared to site-build developments, which can only be good for the air pollution levels in the borough. Finally, the buildings themselves are more efficient when completed, which again will fall inline with council's Net zero carbon aspirations and enhance the longterm affordability of any new homes. Will the council mandate that any and all new house builds in Bury, be constructed under the Modern Method of Construction to meet both the council's net zero carbon, clean air and affordable housing aspirations? (Philip Smith Lawrence – not in attendance)</p>
<p>Response: Cllr Eamonn O'Brien</p>	<p>In setting the Bury Eco Standard we will certainly be referring to existing standards for both new build and retrofit. We will liaise with colleagues from across the council to ensure that the standard we propose will be the most suitable to meet our needs. If “off the shelf” solutions are suitable, then these will be considered.</p> <p>And in response to your supplementary question...</p> <p>We acknowledge the many benefits of modular construction and see this as part of a zero-carbon future for housing and other buildings in Bury. Our options for delivering zero carbon new build will be explored as we develop our new Local Plan.</p> <p>There is no provision within national planning policy that would enable local policy to mandate a particular method of construction for new houses.</p> <p>However, Places for Everyone includes a strong emphasis on supporting the aim of delivering a carbon neutral Greater Manchester no later than 2038. In doing so, the plan includes a policy setting out an expectation that new development will be net zero carbon from 2028.</p>
<p>BGI</p>	<p>Given there is a regional plan that will significantly over-deliver on the homes needed, why is Bury Council planning to release green belt land? (Madeline McCafferty – not in attendance)</p>
<p>Response: Cllr Eamonn O'Brien</p>	<p>The starting point for housing targets is the Government’s standard methodology for calculating Local Housing Needs and this methodology identifies a need for Bury to accommodate around 9,500 homes up to 2037.</p>

As a joint plan, Places for Everyone allows for a redistribution of housing needs across the nine Council areas. This has enabled Bury to off-set over 2,200 of its need to other districts, meaning that we now have a reduced target of 7,228 – which is 76% of what would be required using the Government methodology.

The existing housing land supply in Bury has enough land to accommodate around 3,800 homes. This supply largely consists of brownfield sites within the existing urban area, including potential development sites within our town centres and other brownfield sites.

It is clear, therefore, that we simply do not have enough land within the urban area or on brownfield sites to meet either the need identified by the Government or even the reduced Places for Everyone target. Unfortunately, therefore, we are left with little choice other than to look at the release of Green Belt land to make up the shortfall.

I should reiterate, however, that if we weren't part of the joint plan, it would be difficult to off-set any of our needs to other districts and it would therefore be likely that we would need to release additional Green Belt land to accommodate the 2,200 homes that we have been able to redistribute elsewhere through the Places for Everyone plan.

It is often argued that Green Belt constraints are sufficient justification for not meeting housing needs in full. However, Government-appointed Inspectors at recent Local Plan examinations and planning appeals have given a clear indication that the principle of Green Belt land release is justified by unmet housing need, highlighting the difficulties of getting a plan in place that does not meet its full housing needs, regardless of Green Belt designations.