

Public Questions – Council 24th November 2021

1. How does Bury Council think it is helping the N.H.S. with the Covid pandemic by deploying parking officials from NSL Ltd of Carne House to prosecute older & disabled people, such as

1) myself, 77 yrs with poor mobility, on 15th Oct,

2) the 89 yr old man reported in Bury Times of Nov. 11th, and

3) (as I myself witnessed on 6th Nov 2021) a man escorting a 94 yr old relative, WITH £50 PARKING PENALTIES incurred on the poorly marked, ambiguously noticed and overcrowded Grants Arms Car park outside the Civic Hall Vaccination centre, at times WHEN ALL OF US WERE

THERE TO RECEIVE OUR COVID BOOSTER JABS (with the aim of protecting the health of ourselves and others, and to prevent the N.H.S from becoming overwhelmed) ?”

Thank you. The parking wardens could be better deployed directing & assisting people to park safely, given the difficult & poorly lit setting. Why ever not?

Catherine Lavan

Cllr Quinn

It is the Council’s duty to ensure that car parks are used by the public in a manner that does not negatively impact on their safe operation. Parking out-of-bay can introduce manoeuvring difficulties for other vehicles and can also interfere with sightlines - such things can expose other users of the car park to risks that are not present ordinarily - especially for pedestrians. The Council does not seek to prosecute anyone - it does not target individuals at all. However, it needs to take enforcement action against vehicles that are parked in contravention for the reasons stated.

2. The Borough of Bury is lucky to be home to a recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest award for bravery in HM Armed Forces, yet his achievements and his name are not well known locally.

Would the council consider honouring Private George Peachment VC, Bury sole Victoria Cross recipient by renaming Angouleme Way, currently named after Bury's twin town in France, Peachment Way. "

Owen Dykes

Cllr Gold

Whilst there are no existing plans in place specifically in relation to George Stanley Peachment we would welcome the opportunity to discuss possible means of recognition in the Borough, including those linked into future developments in Bury close to George’s home in Fishpool. George studied engineering at Bury Technical School and became an apprentice steam engine fitter engineer and such discussions would look to include local further education provision and partners at East Lancashire Railway.

3. Can the leader of the Council advise what measures the Council are taking to improve road safety, especially along Radcliffe New Road in Pilkington Park Ward

which has seen many accidents over the years including a tragic death in the summer of 2020.

Anton Slawycz
Cllr Quinn

Subsequent to the tragic incident in 2020, the Council undertook speed surveys [mean speed was 32mph] and also met with Greater Manchester Police to discuss what could be done at this location. As a consequence, GMP are undertaking additional speed enforcement and Bury Council are installing a Vehicle Activated Sign as part of the Road Safety Programme 2021/22 at this site which will also see road safety mitigation measures implemented across many other locations in the Borough.

4. What is the Council's strategy for supporting children in care within Bury schools?

Carol Bernstein
Cllr Tariq

Like all LAs, Bury has a statutory duty to employ a Virtual School Headteacher whose duties are to oversee and promote the education and attainment of Bury's children in care, whether they attend Bury schools or are placed outside the authority. Bury's Virtual School currently consists of the Headteacher, two caseworkers who are qualified teachers, a Learning Mentor and a Personal Adviser for post-16 young people in care. We work with schools to monitor the attendance of children in care on a daily basis and intervene where required, and to support educational outcomes via the statutory Personal Education Plan process. We use Pupil Premium Plus funding to support our children's learning, for example by providing them with individual tuition, laptops, music lessons or other equipment. We provide advice and guidance to schools, social workers and carers and hold regular training events.

5. Anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime cause a lot of concern across Bury. The police have launched Operation Saturn to tackle this. What is the council doing to support the police to carry out Operation Saturn and what is the council doing to help to tackle these issues across the borough?

Andrew Luxton
Cllr Gold

The Local Authority share concerns about Anti-social behaviour and vehicle crime in Bury and are working with partners to address these issues.

We are support Police colleagues with Operation Saturn and have been part of the successful days of action across the borough. Officers and elected members have accompanied the Police on these patrols and agreed to follow up actions working with other agencies such as Transport for Greater Manchester.

Outside of Operation Saturn, we undertake a significant amount of work to address ASB and vehicle crime, including investigating complaints that don't hit the criminal threshold and taking action to address the issues.

We also invest a lot of time in working with young people, engaging them through Youth Outreach teams and delivering inputs into schools. We also run a large-scale early intervention project, which works with young people at risk of being drawn into anti-social behaviour and crime.

Finally, a proposed new three-year Community Safety Plan is currently out for consultation which will also take a strategic look at these issues and identify how we can work together to address them across the Partnership.

6. Private hire & hackney taxi driver's are not satisfied the level of service getting from bury licensing and the Bradley fold mot center they submitted lots of complain with evidence but no actions has been taken to improve the service why?

Muhammad Warraich
Cllr Morris

Thank you for your question Mr Warriach.

I can confirm that the Licensing Service and Council's Testing Station deal with all complaints made about service through the Council's Corporate complaints procedure. Complainants are updated about the findings and outcome of any complaint investigation.

At the current time there are no issues with capacity at Bradley Fold Testing Station who are coping with demand and have no waiting lists for tests. All MOT tests are carried out to the highest professional standards strictly in accordance with the Compliance Test Manual. Complaints regarding the Licensing Service should be directed to the Licensing Unit Manager and complaints regarding service received at Bradley Fold testing station should be directed to the Transport Manager. Complaints will be responded to in line with the Council's corporate complaints procedure. If you have outstanding complaints that have not been responded to then please follow them up in line with the Council's Complaints procedure to ensure a response. Details of the procedure can be found on the council's web site.