

## Public Questions – Council Meeting July 2022

1. Please can the Leader update me on the Prestwich Regeneration plans, while at the same time including information as how the plan may address some of the highways issues including problem potholes in the area?

**Andy Hay**

**This is an ambitious regeneration project. There will be new spaces for local independent businesses to thrive, alongside a mix of high-quality homes, travel hub and family friendly spaces with a real focus on delivering a new community hub that promotes health and wellbeing.**

**The Prestwich Joint Venture is in the final legal stages and will be formally established at the end of July. The Prestwich Joint Venture will progress the the design and planning work, and a draft masterplan will be brought forward in Autumn 2022 which will involve community consultation. It is anticipated that detailed plans will be released in Spring 2023 and planning application submitted for the development in summer 2023.**

**By the end of this financial year Bury Council will have invested an additional £20million in highway maintenance over a 6 year period.**

**To build on the improvements made through this investment we recently announced that a further £10million will be invested in highway maintenance over the next 3 years.**

**As part of this Highway Investment Strategy we have already resurfaced 9 streets in Prestwich since 2020/21 and will surface dress or micro-asphalt 23 streets in Prestwich this year.**

**Due to our continued commitment to improving the condition of our highways a similar number of streets will benefit from this type of planned highway maintenance work for each year of the next 3 years.**

**All of this work is on top of our day to day maintenance of the highway which included repairing around 12,000 potholes across the boroughs Highway network last year.**

2. Project29 is a charity/ community group set up 2006, since its very inception the charity which has always been self funded has been quarantined by the local Council. The trustees and community requires an explanation Why?

### **Supplementary Question**

We tried to raise this issue and requested a meeting with our then MP James frith and despite several requests it was refused. An Explanation is required.

**Anwarul Haq**

Thank you Mr Haq for your question,

I would like to assure you that at no point has your organisation been 'quarantined' by Bury Council and indeed in the last twelve months, the Council has paid Saleem BCR to broadcast COVID related adverts.

Bury Council, working closely with Bury Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance (Bury VCFA) has been at the forefront in supporting communities funding opportunities and help to apply for external funding. In the last financial year, we allocated over £1 million in funding that Community and Voluntary Groups could apply for however our records show your organisation did not apply for any of these funds.

Since 2011, Project 29 has only applied for council funding twice, once directly to the Council and once for council funding through Bury VCFA. I understand, following panel discussions, that you were unfortunately not successful in these applications through a combination of the funds being oversubscribed and other projects more closely meeting the intention of the funds. .

I want to ensure you are getting the correct support and following this meeting, I will ask that Bury VCFA and the East Bury Community Hub Manager make contact with you, to check that you are getting the information about the relevant funding opportunities and the support to apply. In the meantime information on current funding opportunities is available through the following link: <https://www.buryvcfa.org.uk/funding-and-development/>

3. After 5 years of numerous pot holes, which keep reappearing, please can the council put Prestwich Park Rd South on a list for resurfacing? NOTE: I have a list of 33 residents who would like it resurfaced and after speaking to a repair worker on 6th July, he too said the street is best being resurfaced. The pot holes reappear year after year and the impermanent repairs lead to more cost and possible damage to vehicles.

### **Supplementary Question**

If the street is not on any list please can it be added, prioritised and the residents informed? Thank you.

**Andrew Levy – Not present**

**Operations**

All the roads in Bury's Network are considered for inclusion in resurfacing investment programmes by the Highway Asset Management Team. However, they have to be prioritised on numerous factors such as condition, strategic importance, usage, accidents, along with other data we have on them. They are then ranked and estimated to see how many can be included within the constraints of the Budget available at that time.

We are currently working on the priority list for the next Highway Investment Programme, HIS 3, and Prestwich Park Road south will be considered in this

**process. It is expected that this will be finalised and approval for the roads included in HIS 3 will be completed by the end of this year.**

4. Residents in Hawkshaw are concerned about the bus stop markings on Bolton Road, outside and opposite the Waggon and Horses, because they are barely visible due to not being repainted for a considerable amount of time. This has resulted in vehicles continually being parked at the designated stop for buses only. This is causing road safety issues for pedestrians and bus users, particularly for those with pushchairs and mobility scooters.

Please would the Council re-paint both of these bus stop road markings as well as conduct an audit of bus stop road markings across the Borough.

**Charlie Allen**

**These bus stop markings will be renewed - an order will be placed with our lining contractor to undertake this work.**

**Our parking enforcement contractor highlights to us on a monthly basis any yellow lining that needs renewing. I will ask them to pay particular attention to bus stop marking moving forward.**

5. Giant Hogweed is a large, prolific, non-native, poisonous plant and is becoming problematic across Bury. If touched, it burns the skin and makes it more susceptible to sunlight. It is important the public are made aware of the dangers of coming into contact with this plant as well as the Council actively engaging in strategies for its removal.

Please would the Council therefore:

- place notices in public areas alerting the public of the dangers, giving contact details for reporting its presence, for subsequent removal;
- Email Bury schools before the summer holidays, asking Head Teachers to disseminate information alerting parents and children of the dangers of Giant Hogweed.

**Supplementary question** On the "Report It" page on Bury Council website, please can the reporting of Giant Hogweed be made more prominent as a separate bullet point under Parks and Open Spaces because currently it is difficult to find as it appears under Play Areas which is not explicit.

**Glyn Heath**

**Operations**

**Bury Council has an annual spraying programme for invasive and noxious weeds. All Bury Council owned sites known to have invasive and noxious weed infestations are treated twice per year until the weeds have been eradicated.**

**Bury Council also installs warning signage at each of these known locations.**

**We will of course look to pass on information to schools where appropriate.**

**Bury Council's website is currently under review. We will try to ensure that information on Giant Hogweed and other invasive/noxious weeds is easily available.**