

Public Questions

1. Could you please update me on the regeneration for Prestwich

Andy Hay

The Prestwich Regeneration LLP was formally signed on 11th November 2022 and detailed work commenced following this milestone.

Muse, alongside the Council are currently putting together early-stage design briefing and concept information for the development with a view to the swift completion of RIBA Stage 1. The key outcomes of this stage of the development process will be:

- **Feasibility studies**
- **Site information**
- **Site surveys**
- **Draft masterplan**
- **Initial comms and engagement with the Prestwich community and businesses**

2. Back in September, I asked Elton's Councillor Jack Rydeheard to look into why the weeds have not been sprayed this year on Elton's estates, which has left them looking more dishevelled than then need to.

The Council replied and said that "their external highway weed spraying contractor has not been able to carry out this work in June as planned" and "given that we are fast approaching the colder months when weeds will naturally die back, [the Council] have decided not to carry out a weed spray treatment of the highway this season."

Please can the cabinet member clarify whether the council has sought reimbursement for the work not carried out?

Andrew Luxton

There are no costs to be reimbursed. Our weed spraying contractor has not been paid for this years' contract.

3. The waste management department have failed to collect the blue bins on Bury New Road, Ramsbottom in November. Collections should have been made on the 4th and 25th of November, residents bins are overflowing and the next scheduled collection is not until mid December. The website has no provision for recording details of missed collections, no one answers the Bury complaints phone number and when trying to raise a formal complaint, residents are directed to a "Compliments and Comments" page.

When will appropriate action be taken to ensure blue recycling bins are emptied to plan and steps taken to improve Bury Councils customer service and complaints process?

Alistair Scott

Please accept our apologies for the 2 missed blue bin collections in November, which was due to crew error. A crew returned on Saturday 3 December to empty the blue bins once we realised our error. The Operations Manager will be monitoring the next few collections to ensure that you receive a waste and recycling collection service.

If a collection is missed residents can report a missed bin on our web site here [Missed bin collections - Bury Council](#) You can sign up to a Bury Council Account where you can see you history and details of any issues logged and you do not need to enter your address each time making the process easier for residents. You can also see any updates on this page for any delayed collections due to parked cars or any other issues. Residents can also sign up to ebin reminders on this webpage too.

Corporate complaints can be logged on our website using an online form here [Complaints about most council services - Bury Council](#) If the report is a first time report of a missed bin we would advise residents to report their missed bin in the first instance to give us the opportunity to respond/collect the missed bin using the missed bin link above.

The telephone number on our website for complaints is the council switchboard number 253 5000, please see below our average call answer times and % call answered. I have also included the calls answered for operations which includes missed bins too. All calls to the contact centre are monitored in real time and we will allocate our resources across the services to ensure calls are answered as quickly as possible.

Indicator	Target	Aug-22	Sep-22	Oct-22
Switchboard 253 5000				
Total Calls Answered		6957	6764	6330
% of calls answered	85%	97	96	98
average time to answer		20 seconds	25 seconds	15 seconds
Operational services 253 5353				
Total Calls answered		4003	3819	3962
% of calls answered	85%	82	88	94

average time to answer		4 mins 1 second	2 mins 50 seconds	1 minute 21 seconds
------------------------	--	-----------------	-------------------	---------------------

4. Can an update be provided as to progress on the Skateboard facility at Clarence Park?

Samia Farid

Response: STAR Procurement have been engaged with the process due to the nature of the legal aspects of the issue in hand.

Parks & Countryside were given the go ahead to speak to the second placed contractor "Canvas" of which has been carried out and they have met with young people through the youth service as this is what was requested and because we needed to have a new design based on capital funding.

The design is being worked on now as we speak and the Draft will be ready to share with consultees this Wednesday 7th December.

The plan is to have a further meeting, which is booked for the 14.12.22. Following that meeting we should have a final design and we can start to agree dates to start work on the ground etc. March / April 2023 start date was loosely discussed

5. Island Lodge in Tottington is the centrepiece of the Kirklees Valley Trail. It is currently in need of urgent and expensive maintenance. Will the Council, as landowners, support the Tottington and District Civic Society with their project to restore the lodge and support the group's fundraising activities to achieve this aim?

John Southworth

Island Lodge is a highly valued by the communities that border Kirklees Local Nature Reserve and the wider Kirklees Valley.

The structure is over 100 years old and the cost of restoring Island Lodge is likely to be in the region of £0.5m.

The Council is exploring ways in which to pay for the repair works and is keen to work with Tottington and District Civic Society and other stakeholders to raise the necessary funds and carry out the repairs.

6. At the last 'Overview and Scrutiny Committee' meeting (Nov 2022) the council advised that the consultation period for the Prestwich Regeneration project would start mid-November 2022, as this has not started yet will the council advise why they will not now extend the consultation period to the end of February 2023 in order to ensure a 3-month consultation period as per the 3 month plan shared at that Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting?

Supplementary question (if applicable):: When will the council/JV share their communication plan in regards to the consultation period mentioned above?

Steven Devine

It has taken longer than first envisaged to put together a consultation package which meets the needs of the Council and local stakeholders. It has therefore been proposed that the consultation period will be increased. The Prestwich Regeneration LLP will engage with the community and businesses from December to March.

There will be an initial launch from mid-December and a formal launch from mid-January. There will be a series of ongoing engagement activity such as drop-in sessions, website, social media activity, newsletters and a webinar. Dates will be announced during the initial launch. Availability for key stakeholders for in-person sessions/webinars is currently being agreed and a detailed timetable will be published once the arrangements are fully agreed.

7. Can the council advise why Councillors (except for Cllr Christina Tegolo) have shown no interest in joining Prestwich Village Neighbourhood Forum (PVNF), when the legislation and guidance for Neighbourhood Planning clearly states that there would be no conflict of interest. All Councillors can be members of the Forum; indeed, the LGA and Local Government Guidance actively encourages Councillors to become members, to support, assist and positively encourage Neighbourhood forums to become successful.
(<https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/neighbourhood-planning-si-6bc.pdf>)

Given that the Council Leader will no doubt respect the guidance, will they provide assurance that when the Council consults on PVNF, that they will conduct this at the same time as the initial consultation on the regeneration proposals on the same scheduled dates/ time and at the same venues, given this has not yet commenced?

Andrea Turner

For the benefit of Members, it should be noted that an application to create a Neighbourhood Forum for Prestwich has now been submitted to the Local Planning Authority.

As per the legislation, the Local Planning Authority will now have to consider whether the application contains the relevant information and whether the proposed boundary is appropriate. The boundary considerations are important as an established Neighbourhood Forum may seek to undertake Neighbourhood Planning duties within the defined boundary (for example – they may seek to progress a Neighbourhood Plan for that area).

This application is currently under consideration and assuming everything is in line with the regulations, the local planning authority is required to advertise this and invite representations over a 6-week period.

Again, for the benefit of Members, the legislation requires that a neighbourhood forum must have a membership that includes a minimum of 21 individuals who either:

- live in the neighbourhood area;
- work there; and/or
- are elected members for a local authority that includes all or part of the neighbourhood area.

It should be noted there is no requirement to have all three.

It is great to see that local communities are seeking to get involved in the exciting regeneration plans for Prestwich. Whilst it is acknowledged that the boundary for the proposed Neighbourhood Area extends beyond the Longfield Centre, it should be noted that the Joint Venture involved in progressing the regeneration proposals will be establishing a Community Regeneration Group that will involve local residents, businesses, Council Officers and Members. It is considered that this is the most appropriate forum whereby local Members to concentrate their efforts currently, in order to shape and drive forward this key strand of regeneration activity in Prestwich going forward.

In relation to the last point, I am unable to provide any assurance that the consultation on the proposed Neighbourhood Forum and the Town Centre Regeneration proposals will run concurrently. They are separate processes and, in my mind, there is no reason why they would need to be aligned.

Supplementary question (if applicable):: The Forum's initial consultation with the community has revealed residents and businesses primarily do not want to lose the current health and well-being services at the closed Longfield

centre including a large sprung wooden dance floor stage, which could have flexible walls for multi-purpose use, bar, library and exhibition space, health centre. The community require these to be included in the new scheme with additional improvements as a minimum, Can the council confirm this is in the plans costed and approved for the Joint Venture to be created?

This feedback is gratefully received. The plans for the Hub development are very much in the early stages and the team will consult on this widely over the next few months. As such, we are not in a position to confirm design specifics for this proposed building.