

Public Questions January 2023

1. What help can the council provide to resolve ongoing match day car parking issue in a small new development Cul de Sac Street - Singleton Drive. **S Jussab**

Councillor Quinn

Unfortunately a permit parking scheme couldn't be considered for this location as all properties on this road appear to have private driveways. It is not council policy to introduce permit schemes on roads where residents have private driveways.

2. It is now over 2 years since the first consultation meetings were held for the Heaton Park Low Traffic Neighbourhood. It is over 10 months since the in person 'draft design drop in' event & over 8 months since i asked my Labour Ward Councillor about this, without response. Can you please give details of when the final LTN design will be published and when work will begin on the Heaton Park LTN?

Supplementary Question: I requested a formal review into FOI Request Decision FOI13748 on 21st July 2022 (regarding the Heaton Park LTN). I contacted Bury Council again on 20th November 2022 to ask when this review would take place. I have had no reply. Can you tell me when the review will be carried out and why it has taken almost 6 months for this to happen. **Mr P Liggins**

Councillor Quinn

The aim of the Heaton Park Active Neighbourhood project, delivered by Sustrans and Arup on behalf of TfGM, was to create safe, attractive streets through reducing speed and volume of traffic.

A series of engagement events including online workshops, drop-in events and social media posts took place. This was to develop the proposals with the local community via a public consultation on the proposed changes for this area.

The consultation took place in March 2022, with two options for the scheme presented to residents. Both options proposed to provide a bus gate on Whittaker Lane and two further vehicle filters, while Option 2 proposed to introduce a number of additional filters. The overall response rate was 23 per cent of the 2,766 households surveyed. The bus gate on Whittaker Lane and the road filters had mixed support with no majority either way. The pedestrian crossings were popular; however, they are dependent on the introduction of the scheme as a whole, therefore cannot be introduced separately.

A decision has been taken by Bury Council therefore not to progress the scheme at this time due to lack of public support. The data and

information gathered through the surveys and workshop can still be used to support a future scheme if desirable.

FOI 13748 was responded to in July 2022 – the response given was -
‘These emails are business sensitive and therefore can not be provided

3. The Council recently announced online that it was continuing with its programme to replace streetlights in Bury's streets with energy efficient street lighting columns.

But after months of my reporting of streetlights that aren't working, how can Bury's residents, especially those in Elton, have confidence in the Council's ability to light up the roads in the dark? **Andrew Luxton**

Councillor Quinn

Street Lighting fault repairs are completed as quickly as our resources allow – our target is within 10 working days of being reported. Some repairs can take longer, cable faults for example, and repair times can slip when we experience a high demand on the service, usually around Winter time when the dark nights are upon us. Our current repair time is 10.2 days after receiving the report.

If you could kindly provide specific locations where faults have not been repaired in a timely manner I will investigate these and come back to you.

4. For 6 years it has been argued that central government targets have been driving the inflated housing targets for Bury which are not mandatory! I'm sure we can all agree that they were incorrect and a better plan is now required. Bury Folk along with many other groups have challenged this nationwide. Will this council now take the opportunity to pause and reconsider like so many have done around the country pending changes in national policy? **Stephen Cluer**

Councillor O'Brien

On 22 December, the Government published consultation documents setting out its proposed approach to updating parts of the NPPF. The consultation runs until 2 March, and these are currently under consideration.

In terms of the Submitted Places for Everyone Plan, the Planning Inspectors that have been appointed to consider the plan have confirmed that the proposed consultation changes are indeed that – proposed changes that are being consulted on. As such, they do not hold the same weight as the adopted NPPF. The Inspectors have also

indicated that they intend to carry on with the examination of the Places for Everyone Plan as currently programmed in the context of the tests of soundness set out in current NPPF.

Therefore, just to be clear, whilst the Government has proposed amendments - these are not immediate changes to Government policy and we must wait until the consultation process runs its course. This is the view of the Planning Inspectors, who have indicated that the Examination process will need to consider the final content of any revised NPPF in due course.

It is worth noting, that as previously discussed at length in this chamber, that it is only through working jointly with the other 8 Places for Everyone authorities we have been able to reduce our housing target to 76% of the target that has been set by the Government's in their standard methodology – and this is a methodology that the current consultation does not propose to change.

(Leader may want to say something positive around Northern Gateway)

5. I made a complaint regarding the conduct of a Councillor in May 2021 regarding the conduct of 2 of them. I have still heard nothing despite repeated e mails from myself to the CEO of the Council, Democratic Services and others
This doesn't exactly bode well for transparency does it? **Alan Bayfield**

Monitoring Officer to respond

6. When BMBC have to put in place a local plan will they agree to stop selling brownfield sites/land, retain them and agree Joint Ventures to provide social homes to rent built to PassivHaus Principles, and also transfer the in-fill sites in Bury to community housing groups? These in-fill sites could have up to 6 homes or 9 flats built on them, again social housing to rent, and be operated by community housing groups in Bury? **P Smith Lawrence**

Councillor O'Brien

The submitted Places for Everyone plan expects all new development to be net zero carbon from 2028, and our 2021 Climate Action Strategy sets an objective of ensuring all our buildings are carbon neutral by 2038. Bury's Local Plan will also consider further planning policies that would be applicable to all residential developments.

The Council's brownfield housing delivery programme prioritises previously developed land that is suitable for residential development and seeks to match local housing needs with investment opportunities and accelerating development of new homes. We will continue to assess the most appropriate means to bring sites forward on a site by site basis but any land disposal must meet the obligations of the best value requirements of s123 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Where possible and viable, when housing development is on Council owned land, we will seek to achieve higher eco standards ahead of changes to planning policies and Building Regulations. For example, this is what we are seeking to achieve through the proposals on the Seedfield site, which will seek to deliver a range of eco-friendly principles including

- **low energy solutions on the 22 affordable plots**
- **all plots having increased u values – complying to the new Part L Building Regulations**
- **EV charging points on every house**
- **a drainage strategy that will incorporate SUDS.**

7. Recent inquiries by Bury Green Party into the progress of the Heaton Park Active Neighbourhood suggest that the Council intends to scrap the scheme entirely, purportedly due to insufficient engagement with the consultation. However, comparable schemes elsewhere show that favourable comment and feedback tends to be generated following initial implementation, especially where, as here, schemes are implemented as trials that can be tweaked in situ for optimum results. Can the Council therefore disclose its alternative strategy for reducing rat-running, improving air quality and creating cleaner, safer and more inviting streets for residents, especially the many non-car users, in this area?

Supplementary question (if applicable): Given its proximity to central Prestwich, how does the abandonment of the Heaton Park scheme square with the Council's claims to want to focus on active travel in the upcoming Prestwich Village regeneration? **Nick Hubble**

Councillor O'Brien

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A decision has been taken by Bury Council therefore not to progress the scheme at this time due to lack of public support. The data and information gathered through the surveys and workshop can still be used to support a future scheme if desirable.

The Council is currently drafting a Boroughwide Transport Strategy which will identify our proposals for encouraging active travel, improving air quality and making neighbourhoods cleaner, safer and more inviting streets for residents. The strategy will be consulted on in February 2023 when residents, businesses and other stakeholders will be invited to engage with the strategy and feed into its development

8. I have received a complaint from a resident who is unable to access the Hartley Gardens park on Palatine Road. "Kissing gates" have been installed at the entrances to some parks in Bury, to stop scrambler bikes from accessing and racing around the parks. Unfortunately, in an attempt to stop this anti-social behaviour, the council has denied access to some mobility scooter and double buggy users. Disabled persons and those with reduced mobility issues have the right to non-discriminatory access to public spaces. Will the council reconsider the use of these types of gates and look into alternatives which will allow everyone to enjoy our parks? **Charlie Allen**

Councillor Quinn

The kissing-gates at Hartley Gardens have been in place for many years and were installed to the design standards of the time.

Officers ensure that improvement projects at our greenspaces are designed and constructed to meet the current inclusive mobility standards where possible. I will arrange for the kissing gates at Hartley Gardens to be checked against current standards and if necessary brought up to current standards when funding becomes available.

9. Question is could the council provide me with an update on Prestwich regeneration? **Andy Hay**

Councillor O'Brien

The Joint Venture will shortly be undertaking a consultation process on the initial plans for the regeneration plans at Prestwich. This will be carried out as follows:

Public Consultation	16/12/2022 [soft launch] – 17/03/2023
Regeneration Liaison Group	24/01/2023
Public drop-in	29/01/2023
Longfield Centre Tennant drop-in	01/02/2023
Public webinar	01/02/2023
Prestwich Village Community Workshop	20/02/2023
Faith Liaison Group	09/03/2023

These events are supported through information circulated via the Internet and through links to social media.

Following the completion of this activity, the team will undertake development of the RIBA Stage 2 (Concept) design, a process which will run from March to June.