

## Public Questions – September 2023

1. Can the Leader explain the poor state of the Borough's pavements and roads?

Clark Davidson

Figures provided by the OECD have outlined that £4bn was spent in 2006 on UK local road maintenance compared with £2bn in 2019. This contrasts with Sweden, Denmark, the United States, Japan and New Zealand, which have increased spending by around half over the same period.

The LGA has also stated that despite additional funding delivered in the budget this year, latest predictions from the Annual Local Authority Road Maintenance (ALARM) survey found that councils face a record £14bn road repair backlog.

Bucking this trend, Bury Council have invested £20million into additional highway maintenance over the past 6 years with a further £10million to come over the next 3 years.

This additional funding has been necessary to address the shortfall in funding provided by central government and to improve the condition of our highway network, which is critical to the borough and its residents.

2. At last Council, I asked whether the council would be doing anything to remember My Friend and former leader Mike Connolly

Andy Hay

**I have spoken with Ian and he has confirmed that there has been no request from him or any other members of Mike's family to remember Mike in any other way than what has already been done.**

**As past Leader his name is on the Board in the Town Hall Council Chamber and as Past Mayor his name is on the Board outside the Council Chamber.**

**The Council also assisted Ian, Mike's partner with his wish for a bench to be placed in honour of Mike at Clarence Park Lido which he and Mike's friends and family can visit.**

**Ian has said that there is no further need nor wish for anything else.**

3. The residents of Watermill Gardens, Kersal Vale Road, Prestwich, referred to as postcode M25 9SZ are listed under Bury Council in Bury, BL9 0SW. However, we have been given an M7 postcode which is a Salford postcode. We urge the council to implement the postcode to reflect M25 in Prestwich correctly as all residents pay council tax to Bury Council who are liable for all issues within the community. Salford are not liable for anything within this boundary. The homes were marketed through Cube Homes and Plumlife as Prestwich. Everything via social media references Prestwich, and we were promised when buying these homes they are in Prestwich M25.

I expressed these concerns with Cube Homes and MP Debora Green on a recent site visit and was advised that in order to have the correct postcode confirmed, you are required to go off the nearest sorting office to where you live. The Salford sorting office is 2.9 miles away. The Waterloo road sorting office is 3.0 miles away. The Prestwich sorting office is 2.0 miles away.

As a result of this, the postcode of M7 is incorrect as we are not living in Salford.

The sorting office shows as matter of fact that we live closer to the Prestwich office and not the Salford office. As the evidence is there, it shows that all residents living on Watermill Gardens should be located under Prestwich and should morally be given the correct postcode.

Please can you look to make this change happen? It would be in everyone's best interest if this was rectified and we would be extremely grateful for your help in taking this forward to ensure this correct justification.

Laura Heaney

**The Council is not responsible for the allocation of postcodes – this is solely the responsibility of Royal Mail.**

**There is an address and a postal address. The Street Naming and Numbering section allocate addresses to properties in**

**accordance with national guidelines and the approval of the Council Gazetteer Custodian.**

**Royal Mail allocate the postcode to these addresses, thereby making them postal addresses.**

**Any perceived problem with the postcode of a property MUST be taken up with Royal Mail.**

#### **Not present**

4. What are the council doing to hold to account TFGM and the mayor on the extremely poor performance and unreliability of the Bury Metrolink line? The line is constantly down or has communication or ticketing faults and this is impacting our local economy as people avoid using it. In August it was down 4 weeks in a row with a journey from Salford to Bury taking 2 hours on one day. People are faced with extended journeys making them late for work or appointments or we local families are having to pay for taxis as it is so poor.

M Sutcliffe

Response drafted and shared, will be on website following the meeting.