

## Public Questions – Council November 2023

Q1.

A plan of 3 options was produced by Bury Council's own Traffic Manager in 2009 for a second one-lane exit route onto Arley Avenue from the Seedfield site in the event of a future housing development.

Did the person or persons who put together the housing project with Hive Homes (Application HA 69079) ever consider the second access/exit road out of the Seedfield site onto Arley Avenue and if not, why not? – as we have been asking this for 14 years, because as longstanding local residents we **know and witness the congestion and parking problem which already occurs** along Parkinson Street when St. John's Church Hall, Seedfield Bowling Club and the playing fields are in use.

**Tim J. Boaden For Seedfield Tenants & Residents Association.**

**Cllr O'Brien**

A full assessment of the traffic anticipated to be generated compared to the previous school/training facility was undertaken at planning stage. The Transport Assessment considered many highway, road safety and fire safety issues, however, the one-way working being suggested was not considered necessary, due to the traffic levels being generated.

An access via Arley Avenue could not be justified due to the impact this would have on the residents on Arley Avenue that did not experience traffic generated by the previous school or training centre uses as Parkinson Street has always, historically, served as the primary vehicular access to this site.

Q2

Knowing what you already knew about the potential dangers of RAAC considering it's limited life span... what risk assessments did you have in place? **Chelsea Noone**

**Cllr Rafiq**

**Following the LGA guidance in September 2022 and publication of RAACs guidance in Dec 2022 the Council appointed Pick Everard to carry out physical site inspections for RAACs and prepare a report on each school. No maintained schools were found to contain RAACs. After the schools had all been considered an exercise began in September 2023 to consider council buildings and do an initial scoping exercise to see if building leads had any concerns RAACs were present in their building, based on guidance provided. This exercise flagged 3 buildings of concern. It was confirmed that RAAC had not been used in**

**2 of them, but that it had been used in the Market Hall roof. Further work is ongoing to ensure RAAC is not present in any further council buildings.**

Q3

How secure and safe are our stalls at the moment? **Samantha Blackwell**

**Cllr Morris**

**The security of the individual stalls has not changed. The Market Hall is secured as normal when closed. Access to the Market Hall is considerably reduced and access to the Market Hall is supervised when traders need to enter their stall for emergency purposes.**

Q4

Following the announcement last week that £8.3bn will be made available to English councils to tackle the potholes backlog, the AA said that this will make a "considerable difference in bringing our roads back to the standards which road users expect, especially if councils use the cash efficiently", so can Council please explain how much of this money they intend to spend to tackle potholes, how much it is estimated to cost to bring Bury's roads up to an acceptable standard and how long it will take to do so? **Steve Middleton**

**Cllr A Quinn**

**It has not yet been confirmed how much additional funding is to be allocated to Bury Council following this recent announcement. Once the allocation is confirmed officers will develop proposals to invest the funds based on Highway Asset Management principles, which will ensure that the maximum benefit is achieved.**

**It is estimated that approximately £60million is required to bring the adopted Highway network into a good condition.**

**The timeframe required to deliver such a large programme of improvement work is difficult to estimate as delivery needs to be balanced with maintaining traffic flow on an already busy Highway network.**

Q5

As we know, the Council has absolutely no control over inflation but the Council leader is acutely aware of its negative impact across society. A Local Government

Chronicle headline from Sept 2023 stated; “Regeneration schemes worth billions in jeopardy as inflation bites.” Taken inflation can lead to Local Authority regeneration projects being either delayed, scaled back or even cancelled; how does the Council intend to address the costs of inflation on the Millgate and Prestwich regeneration projects which will be costing hundreds of millions of pounds, money which the Council is borrowing, to complete these projects?

**Supplementary question (if applicable):** I will ask the supplementary question on the night. **Philip Smith Lawrence**

**Cllr O'Brien**

**The Council is currently engaged in the delivery of two major capital projects in Radcliffe and Bury, both of which have benefited from Levelling Up Funding from the government. These projects are:**

- **Radcliffe Hub & Market Chambers**
- **Bury “Flexi Hall” and Market**

**£20m in Levelling Up Funding (LUF) was kindly provided to the Council to deliver each project in 2021. As delivery Authority, the Council is required to assemble all land holdings, develop designs and procure construction works for each project and ensure the assets in their completed state function operationally in the long run. The LUF monies represent a fixed grant sum and the government have not offered additional support to any Council to assist with the impact of unprecedented construction material and labour price inflation. It was not possible to foresee the extent to which construction inflation would affect the projects when early stage budgets were set in 2021.**

**Both projects have been subject to significant design challenges due to the impact of inflation since funding bids for Levelling Up monies were approved by government (Autumn 2021). This has necessitated a detailed and on-going value management process. This is a normal process in any construction programme, however there has been a more significant requirement to revisit the design on both projects throughout the development process to reduce the additional costs due to inflationary pressure. Despite this process, inflation has added approximately £7m to the cost of these projects, and requirements to value engineer the design have delayed construction start by prolonging the design development process. Changes to the design have allowed significant savings, however the Authority is limited in the changes it can make to designs as it is unable to affect output requirements agreed with government when LUF funding was awarded. The Council is therefore funding remaining impacts through its capital programme.**

**Projects in Prestwich and Mill Gate are at much earlier development stages and the project teams have been able to take account of the evolving macroeconomic environment when setting construction budgets. However,**

**inflationary pressure remains a significant drag on regeneration project viability.**

Q6

The ruling party propose a motion with regards Health Inequalities Radcliffe has these problems. How is building 3500 going to improve those peoples health with the added strain on Public Services Extra vehicles and the like? This seems contrary to your motion you wish to put forward!

**Supplementary question (if applicable):** Will ask on the day **Alan Bayfield**

**Cllr O'Brien**

**Assuming this question relates to Elton Development and the Places for Everyone plan, it should be noted that we have been careful to ensure that all new development is supported by necessary infrastructure, some of which will bring direct and indirect benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents in the area.**

**In the case of Elton Reservoir, this includes policy requirements to make provision for:**

- **Major investment in public transport infrastructure to enable more sustainable transport choices, including a requirement for a new Metrolink stop and associated park and ride facilities in the Warth area;**
- **A network of safe cycling and walking routes through the allocation linking neighbourhoods with key destinations;**
- **Two new local centres, which will include healthcare and other community facilities;**
- **Other necessary infrastructure such as electric vehicle charging points;**
- **A significant green corridor which will be retained as Green Belt land, that will provide a strategic amount of new, high quality and publicly accessible parkland within the allocation for new and existing residents**
- **The enhancement and the integration of the existing assets at Elton and Withins Reservoirs and the Manchester, Bolton and Bury Canal to create an extensive recreation, tourism and leisure asset; and**
- **Minimise impact on and provide net gains for biodiversity assets within the allocation.**

**We know that we need to provide new homes in the Borough, including affordable and specialist accommodation. The scale of this site will meet these demands with hundreds of affordable homes and a wide mix of house types, sizes and tenures. Providing new and modern housing stock in Radcliffe will in itself help the health of Radcliffe's residents, many of which**

live in sub-standard properties and are struggling to get on the property ladder in the current housing crisis. Coupled with all of the afore mentioned extensive range of supporting infrastructure will help improve the health and well being of Radcliffe in line with the motion.

**Additional info provided by health colleagues-**

**New homes can help to contribute to reducing inequalities, firstly through increasing housing supply and providing more affordable housing options for existing residents can ensure local rents stay affordable. It can also encourage working families into the area who could contribute to the local area through council tax and spending money within local businesses, putting money back into the local economy. The provision of the additional good quality housing is part of a wider approach to support residents linked with local regeneration and a new high school which will all contribute to improve the social, economic and educational outcomes of residents.**

Q7

What rationale was used in reaching the decision that no compensation would be offered to any of the traders. Some of whom are losing thousands of pounds of revenue per week, some of whom will most certainly lose their entire business.

**Karen Simpson**

**Cllr Morris**

**Our lease arrangements with the traders do not cover business disruption, traders are encouraged to hold business interruption insurance. The National Market Traders Federation has also confirmed this industry standard position.**

Q8

Is the market hall roof definitely being repaired and what is the timeframe for the work to be completed? **Gillain Eagle Cooper**

**Cllr Morris**

**We are currently conducting condition surveys and an options appraisal to confirm what works need to place in order for the market to safely reopen. This work has been commissioned and once complete timescales for reopening will be understood and communicated.**

Q9

5 g mast and control cabinets ref 68817

The appeal was approved against the planning committees decision.

The planning department was very surprised that this appeal was approved as the criteria was not met in a lot of the areas. The cabinet and mast colour is going to be light grey which does not meet the colour aspect as per telecommunications infrastructure rules which should be green. The appeal person stated that the light grey mast and cabinets would blend into the trees behind which is not correct and a ridiculous statement to make. From our gardens we can already see 3 green cabinets and 3 wooden poled and soon 15 mtr mast rom IX Wireless and now the appeal will allow a further 3 cabinets and mast from this proposal within a 10mtr area of grass area.

We the residents request that Bury council apply for a Judicial Review before 29/11/23 to overturn or mitigate this decision to ensure this proposal better meets the area. **Duncan Holland**

**Cllr O'Brien**

**An application for prior approval to site a telecommunications mast and associated cabinets was refused by the Planning Control Committee due to concerns around the siting of the structures. The applicant appealed this decision and unfortunately the proposal was subsequently found to be acceptable by the Planning Inspectorate.**

**Whilst it is disappointing that the Planning Inspector did not agree with the Council in this instance, the decision itself can only be legally challenged where it is considered that a serious mistake was made when reaching the decision or that there was a clear procedural impropriety. The decision cannot be challenged merely because we do not agree with it or like the outcome.**

**The Legal Department has advised that there are no grounds for the Local Authority to bring Judicial Review proceedings.**

**(May want to add - any person aggrieved by the decision may challenge the decision so local residents have the right to apply to Court themselves and they would need to take their own legal advice on this)**

Q10

I find it somewhat ironic that this Labour council are tonight going to talk about health inequalities when it appears that it is this council who fail to deal with the health and wellbeing of residents. based on 'where you live'

Please explain why Bury is one of the only councils in this area that does not support

/ provide Marie Curie nurses? Why are residents disadvantaged because they live in Bury?

Also explain why Bury council refuse to provide care packages for elderly residents, who are discharged to 'temporary' accommodation within the Borough because 'they haven't paid council tax' to Bury. **Judi Sheppard (Not present)**

**Cllr Tariq**

**Bury council would not ordinarily commission or provide health services in relation to palliative and end of life care, which is actually a responsibility for the NHS. Whilst Bury may not have Marie Curie nurses it does have a specialist palliative care service provided by our NHS partners and a hospice at home service provided by Bury hospice.**

**Bury Council works closely with NHS partners to ensure services for palliative and end of life care are as good as possible, and we would like to thank Bury Hospice for convening a whole system workshop recently to refresh and revisit all aspects of our services, and to recognise recent progress, including the appointment of a Consultant in Palliative Care at Fairfield General Hospital. I am also aware NHS colleagues are meeting with Marie Curie Services to review opportunities.**

**In terms of care services the council provides services in accordance with the requirements of the Care Act – the legislation governing the provision of adult social care - and must provide care and support to people who are ordinarily resident in this borough. If people move temporarily into our borough then it is not the Bury Council responsibility to provide services but rather the place where the person is ordinarily resident. However I am sorry if Ms Shepherd is having trouble in getting support and if she shares with us some specific details then we will see what we can do to help.**