

Public Questions

	Questioner /Respondent	Question
1	Carol Bernstein (attending)	<p>Watling Street in Bury West was treated with a surface dressing a couple of years ago. This work is looking inadequate with numerous potholes particularly at the top end. Residents are understandably unhappy about this situation. Can Councillor Quinn provide a reassurance that this unacceptable situation will be put right?</p>
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>Watling Street was micro-asphalted in June 2021. This maintenance technique is designed to extend the lifespan of the existing road surface by approximately 3 to 10 years.</p> <p>Officers are aware of the minor defects on the road and have made arrangements for these to be repaired prior to the end of December.</p>
2	Duncan Holland (attending)	<p>Bury council have not acted in the public interest in applying any restrictions against this company when other councils are taking action to move or remove masts which do not comply with fixed wire to the property rules.</p> <p>Ofcom are now investigating the company that Bury council have allowed to ruin our local areas with excess clutter of poles and advertising cabinets that do not meet local planning rules. Bury planning executives have clearly sided with this company stating the facts Fttp (Fixed to the property) and failed to support local opinion and clearly misled our Last MP stating the masts do not have transmitters or antenna fixed to them which they clearly do.</p> <p>Should Bury council look into how dealings were done between Council Departments and IX Wireless to ensure full transparency has been applied.</p>
	Leader	<p>The council immediately sought external guidance on this issue, and this advice stated that by virtue of the poles and antenna being two different parts of permitted development, that the proposals did not require prior approval.</p> <p>The council in this matter have followed the scope of the law as it is currently laid out and have been transparent in their work, however we are not pleased with the</p>

		<p>situation that this company has placed us in, and we have placed direct pressure on the government and OFCOM to review the legislation.</p> <p>OFCOM investigated, and escalated the matter to the Secretary of State, who discussed the issue directly with the provider.</p> <p>This resulted in the provider being persuaded to apply for prior approval consent and to improve their communication with councils going forward.</p> <p>However there has been no change to the legislation, meaning we are limited in the action that we can take – again, we are making strong communications to the regulator and government on this matter.</p> <p>For info:</p> <p>This question relates to whether or not the recent erection of poles and masts require prior approval (a limited form of planning confirmation) or whether they are deemed to be permitted development.</p> <p>This is a complex area but generally poles are clearly deemed to be permitted development and the grey area, legally, is whether they require prior approval if antenna is subsequently attached to them.</p> <p>Fitting antenna to existing structures is also deemed to be permitted development.</p> <p>The grey area therefore relates to the intentions of companies that erect poles, in knowledge that they will then be adding wires and antenna to these at a later date – i.e. that they should be deemed to be masts from the outset and then require prior approval.</p> <p>- Supplementary asked on IX wireless costs and income to the council</p>
3	Andrew Luxton (attending)	<p>Recently months has seen £100,000,000 allocated to yet more and more developments in the Prestwich and Whitfield area, where even the smallest park is received significant financial regeneration.</p>

		<p>With the cabinet determined to concrete over Walshaw's fields forever, old Kays park in Tottington and Many other areas such as Island Lodge are endlessly neglected for even the most basic needs such as cutting the grass and carrying out essential repairs for years!</p> <p>Thankfully some volunteers have again last week made a huge effort making a great impact on the clearance of several of the paths.</p> <p>When will the 1000's of Tottington Ward Rate payers see some of their hard earned taxes actually spent in the area?</p>
	Leader	<p>The council has invested in large scale regeneration projects around the borough, from Radcliffe to Whitefield to boost our town centres and improve our economy.</p> <p>As I'm sure I don't have to explain, the money to undertake these projects often comes from central government, or from the GMCA, and the grants we receive are often for specific areas, or for specific projects, meaning we can't spend this money anywhere we please</p> <p>I would like to thank our many volunteers for their hard work in cleaning and maintaining community assets like Island Lodge, and I would like to offer my apologies that we are not always able to fund every project or support every group.</p> <p>If we had not experienced massive, sustained budget cuts over the last 14 years - enforced by the party Mr Luxton stands for, we would be in a better position to invest in all our assets, and more of our community groups.</p> <p>- Supplementary</p>
4	Martyn West (attending)	<p>Prior to 2023, Bury MBC and local councillors made bids for funding to improve the Haweswater Underpass, sadly without success. On 10th January 2025 the leader and two council officers signed a document with National Highways which included agreement (Point 41) that improvements were outside the scope of the Simister Island project.</p>

		When asked for comments by the Examining Authority in July 2025, Bury MBC maintained that agreed position (PHH 1.5). Can the leader explain if, and how, this strategy was designed to bring about necessary improvements to that route?
	Leader	<p>Councillors and myself have worked tirelessly to champion this issue, and I am surprised to hear that you are not aware that the Labour Secretary of state recognised the importance of including Haweswater Underpass within the Simister island interchange scheme.</p> <p>Over years, local councillors and the cabinet kept up the pressure on the government to include Haweswater as part of the project, and we have succeeded in this – instead of spinning a pointless narrative, we’ve taken action and secured results for our communities.</p> <p>Bury Council Officers are now working closely with National Highways to develop the details around the improvements to the Haweswater Underpass route.</p>
5	Steve Middleton (attending)	<p>On 13th October there was a road traffic accident involving an Unsworth school pupil on Parr Lane. I understand from Facebook the mother explained her daughter is recovering, but in the words of the mother “As a parent it’s your worst nightmare”.</p> <p>What is the council doing to increase road safety outside our schools so that parents can be confident their children will be able to get to and from school safely?</p>
	Councillor A Quinn	<p>Thank you for your question, as I’m sure you will be aware I have had conversations on this matter with councillors Hook, Rafiq and Grimshaw, specifically regarding the possibility of additional investment to prevent this happening again.</p> <p>Where incidents like this occur, we take feedback from our residents and councillors very seriously, we have a number of projects currently ongoing to improve road safety outside of schools.</p> <p>This years’ programme of work includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph speed limit scheme at Charlton Avenue Prestwich

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20mph speed limit scheme at Clough Street Radcliffe • New zebra crossing on Sunnybank Road • Upgrade of a Pelican Crossing to a modern Puffin crossing on Walmersley Road near Chesham Road; • Installation of new PULSA school crossing patrol warning lights on Radcliffe Road supporting parents and pupils attending Derby High School; and • New Puffin Crossing on Bury New Road, Prestwich near Park View Road supporting parents and pupils attending Park View Primary School. <p>- Supplementary on the hiring of school crossing staff at Sunnybank road</p>
6.	Richard Garland	<p>Please can the Member for Communities and Inclusion confirm that Bury Council is legally compliant with the Single Sex Space provision in Council buildings, schools and colleges - and that Trans Identifying Males are not allowed in such female spaces.</p> <p>I ask as some Public Bodies lack the courage to enforce the Workplace (HS&W) regulations 1992 reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, exposing the taxpayer to financial risk and more importantly women and girls to loss of dignity, welfare and putting them at risk of harm.</p> <p>Others Public Bodies kick the can down the street claiming they are waiting for unnecessary EHRC guidance which still puts women and the taxpayer at risk.</p>
	Councillor Walmsley	<p>The Council has carefully considered the judgement and can confirm we have adequate facilities for everyone to use inclusively and safely.</p> <p>We trust people will use the correct and appropriate facilities as we always have done, the supreme court judgement doesn't change this. We will also follow any guidance once it is issued.</p>