

## Public Questions

	Questioner/ Respondent	Question
1	Andrew Riley	<p>Why did the council not carry out the works to Market Street while the road was closed for tunnel repairs last year? Surely this would have made both financial and logistical sense. Closing the parking along Market Street for coaches visiting the supposed "Jewel in the crown" of Bury after closing it last year will impact stall holders like myself.</p> <p><b>Supplementary question:</b> Who was responsible for allowing this to happen and has anything been done to ensure this sort of mess won't happen again.</p>
	Councillor Quinn	<p>The Market Street Bridge scheme and the Active Travel scheme are separate projects with different funding, approvals and constraints.</p> <p>Concurrent delivery of both projects was not feasible due to the nature of the projects and as maintaining safe, continuous access to the college during term time is essential.</p> <p>The bridge works were urgent and safety-critical, so we programmed delivery in advance of the Active Travel scheme.</p> <p>The bridge works were completed on 19 October 2025. With Christmas approaching, we felt it was important to reopen Market Street to support businesses and town centre trading during the festive period and scheduled the Active Travel scheme to commence immediately thereafter.</p> <p>The coach drop off and pick up area on Murray Road is unaffected by the construction works will remain operational throughout. Coach parking has been provided Wellington Road.</p>

2	Andrew Luxton	<p>Can the leader of the council please contact highways and see if there is anything they can do to rectify the almost non existent road markings and rapidly deteriorating road surface along a good proportion of Chapel Street Tottington?</p> <p>The safety marking and the statutory junction and road marking are almost gone. The join in the middle of the road is rutting and the surface is quickly braking apart from Holcombe road to the bust stops on Chapel Street causing many pot holes that are merging.</p>
	<b>Councillor Alan Quinn</b>	<p><i>Officers are aware of the condition of this section of Chapel Street and are considering its inclusion in the 2026/27 resurfacing programme, subject to available funding.</i></p>
3	Charlotte Hunt	<p>Can I ask the Leader what plans exist in the Ramsbottom town plan to make key streets such as Manchester Road, Bolton Street, Kay Brown and Bridge street safer for pedestrians and residents?</p> <p>There are concerns regarding speeding, blocked gully's which have led to a build up of leaves of the path, signage for HGVs being inappropriate and of course pot holes.</p> <p>It should be noted that Litter picking Ramsbottom and the team of volunteers work tirelessly to keep our street clean they among many resident's have highlighted these issue.</p>
	<b>Councillor Alan Quinn</b>	<p><i>Thank you for your question, and I would like to thank the questioner and volunteers of Ramsbottom for their efforts in keeping the streets of this wonderful town clean.</i></p> <p><i>I would also like to thank our Ramsbottom councillors, who have been working tirelessly to advocate for their area, and have made the needs of their residents clear to officers and myself throughout the process of planning for Ramsbottom.</i></p> <p><i>Through our Highway Investment Strategy, we were able to resurface Crow Lane in Ramsbottom town centre in 2024, further contributing to the long term improvement of local infrastructure.</i></p> <p><i>Our proposals for Ramsbottom, funded through our £2.3m CRSTS allocation, include improvements on Bolton Street, Kay Brow and Bridge Street. We intend to share our revised plans for Ramsbottom with the public in February/March of this year.</i></p>

		<p><i>The overall aim of the programme is to enhance safety and connectivity for all highway users, with a particular emphasis on creating better, safer routes for pedestrians and cyclists.</i></p>
4	<b>Steve middleton</b>	<p>In light of ongoing budget challenges, will the Council commit to investigating the use of cost-effective AI-driven solutions to improve efficiency and reduce costs, as outlined in a recent proposal by Bury Independents? Other authorities are already leveraging cost-effective AI to streamline processes and deliver savings without cutting essential services. Can Bury Council confirm whether it will explore similar opportunities and report back on potential benefits and risks?</p> <p>The council already leverages Microsoft products and could introduce a Microsoft Copilot AI pilot scheme to try it out at relatively low cost.</p>
	<b>Councillor Thorpe</b>	<p>Bury Council is a forward thinking organisation committed to using AI where it is applicable to illicit cost savings and efficiency gains.</p> <p>We are so forward thinking that the questioner may have missed the fact we have been using Microsoft Co-Pilot and Magic notes for well over a year now!</p> <p>We are continuing to review the opportunities AI will give us to save money, balancing that with the cost of AI implementation and real world savings.</p> <p>We're also a member of a central office for AI which works pan-GM on looking at opportunities for at scale AI implementations.</p> <p>Each technology is investigated on by its merit, and inline with data protection and ethical considerations and we can report back when these technologies are introduced and the expected return of investment whether that be in efficiency or direct cost.</p> <p>We remain committed to investigating, trialling and where appropriate, integrating the latest technologies to improve our service to residents.</p>

5	<b>Richard Garland</b>	<p>The bus lane here runs for around 150yds northbound between the Police Station and Morrisons. It is too short to serve any useful purpose, is completely abstract and doesn't seem to achieve anything. It causes rush hour congestion through Whitefield causing an increase in traffic fumes and particulate pollution whilst the lane itself lies empty. When not in operation during the day drivers are reluctant to use it as the one further towards Bury is an all day bus lane. The lane also causes difficulty for emergency vehicles leaving Whitefield Police Station going northbound and faced with a wall of traffic in the outside lane northbound.</p> <p>Please could consideration be given to a review of its effectiveness and the potential benefits of having it removed and better traffic flow at peak times on this arterial route.</p>
	<b>Councillor A Quinn</b>	<p>I recognise there has been some disruption in this area unconnected to the bus lane, as works to improve the road have been ongoing, which has contributed to higher-than-average traffic congestion.</p> <p>The bus lane still serves a purpose, as TFGM regularly reviews the bus lanes across the conurbation, and removes bus lanes where they impact the good flow of services or have a detrimental impact on the surrounding area. This bus lane continues in place as it provides a benefit to bus journey times.</p> <p>Even limited stretches of dedicated bus priority can remove key points of delay, helping services run more punctually and making public transport a more attractive option for residents, commuters, and visitors. This in turn supports wider goals around reducing congestion, improving air quality, and encouraging sustainable travel.</p> <p>However, we will ask TFGM to review this bus lane in the near future, to ensure it is still providing positive benefits for the area and to transport in our borough</p>
6	<b>Luke Broadfoot – not attending</b>	<p>The Drinkwater Park project where I live is dragging on and on, and shows no sign of concluding. Myself, my neighbours and other residents have seen significant impact on our lives, with our water shut off and discoloured several times in the last year. We have had little to no information on what the project is, and what the timeline is for its completion.</p> <p>Please can the relevant Councillor give a detailed timeline for the expected conclusion of the project, and look into</p>

		what can be done to limit day to day impact on nearby residents?
	<b>Councillor Quinn</b>	<p>Thank you for your question</p> <p>Drinkwater Park is leased by the Forestry Commission, and does not fall under the control of Bury Council</p> <p>However, as a courtesy our officers have investigated the matter and can share that United Utilities are performing works to construct a new sewer, linking the wastewater processing facilities at Clifton and Prestwich.</p> <p>Flows are currently being managed above ground by means of an overpumping set up throughout Drinkwater Park to maintain the flow of sewerage, which is checked and maintained throughout the day by United Utilities</p> <p>This project will complete in December 2026.</p> <p>In regard to your issues with water quality - the works should not impact on clean water supply, and United Utilities are investigating the matter, and I would urge you to contact them through their normal channels</p>
7	<b>Mike Hankins</b>	Bury Council's current contract with Six Town Housing was due to expire on January 31st 2026, however, this council has extended the contract by a further twelve months in order to complete the winding down process. Can clarity be given as to how much money the contract extension will cost?
	<b>Councillor Cummins</b>	Six Town Housing LTD are a separate legal entity to the Council following the transfer of the housing stock to the Council. Six Town Housing LTD hold a small number of homes the company receives landlord services from Bury Housing Services under the SLA. As per the report the value of the SLA was £100,850 2025-26. Six Town Housing LTD and Bury Council will negotiate a revised price for the services which will reflect increase staff costs from Bury Council.
8	<b>Julie Southworth</b>	Following two recent road traffic accidents at the Summerseat Village end of Bass Lane, where the same resident's property was severely damaged, could we please have an inspection of the junction to see how safety improvements can be made?

	<p><b>Councillor A Quinn</b></p> <p><i>We introduced a 20mph speed limit on Bass Lane in 2015, accompanied by a range of road safety measures including warning signs, dummy speed cushions and enhanced road markings. These interventions were designed to reduce vehicle speeds and improve overall safety for all road users.</i></p> <p><i>Our records show that only one slight injury collision has been reported on Bass Lane in the past five years. This low number strongly indicates that the road is operating safely and that the measures implemented have been effective.</i></p> <p><i>However, once full details of the latest incidents are received, officers will carry out a further inspection of Bass Lane. If additional safety improvements are deemed necessary, we will seek to implement them where appropriate, subject to the availability of funding.</i></p>
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