Public Questions

	Questioner/ Respondent	Question
1	**Gina Penfold (attending)**	I am writing with great concern about the work about to be undertaken by United Utilities on Parr Brook also known as on Chaddy Field / Sunnybank woods (by local residents) off Sunnybank road. This park is the ONLY green space in Unsworth and is extremely important to the local community. Friends of Chaddy field is a group which was set up in January of this year. We are passionate about getting our park back to a standard that the community can come together and enjoy. We have been lobbying the council and also members of the group have been working tirelessly in clearing areas of the park. We have made some progress with a new bridge and new benches. Our main priority is to improve the paths to allow access for the whole community as at present they are unsuitable for wheelchairs, mobility scooters and prams. The main reason I am writing to you is that the path from the Sunnybank Community Centre down to the bridge absolutely needs to be suitable for wheelchair access. This is in the very large section that United Utilities plans to build on. They will be taking a large section of our only green space but haven't as yet promised anything in return for payback. We are asking for a path for the public to be put in from Sunnybank road Community centre entrance to run all the way to the bridge. We would like to have a platform built into the slope at the end of the path which would act as a viewing platform for wheelchair users. This would have such an impact on the community and enable people to come together. The whole park is absolutely desperate for resurfaced paths and United Utilities could help us with this as we are giving them a large piece of our only park. Please can you take this into account when you finalise the plans and contracts with United Utilities? It would make such a difference to many lives.
	Councillor L Smith	Thank you for your email and for highlighting the valuable work being undertaken by the Friends of Chaddy Field group to improve and promote this

		important community green space. Council officers and elected members have been engaging with United Utilities about potential works to improve the paths within Chadderton Fields. A community meeting with United Utilities is being held at Sunnybank Community Centre on 25 November 2026 at 6:30pm. The meeting provides a good opportunity for the community to raise this again directly with United Utilities and seek an update on how the proposed improvements can be taken forward. The Council recognises the importance of Chaddy Field to the local community and will continue to engage with United Utilities as plans progress.
2	**Jonathan Moss (not attending)**	Many grids and gullies are blocked throughout Bury, some of these are long standing issues. When I've logged blocked grids on main roads through the council portal I will often receive a well rehearsed reply stating single issues aren't looked at, cleaning will be done on the next cycle. Unfortunately neither the public nor any councillors know when or where the next cycle of cleaning will take place. In the interest of transparency and accountability I'd like to request the council start publishing online when and where the gully wagons have been and where they are scheduled to go next
	Councillor L Smith	The gully service performs approximately 60 to 100 cleansings per day depending upon site access / parked cars. While cyclic programmes are to the fore there are deviations from planned routes to action urgent flood risk instances. In the interests of service flexibility and operational resource it is not proposed to publicise routes.
3	**Zadok Day (attending)**	Residents on Higher Lane and Egerton Road are regularly blocked into their own driveways by parents parking around Higher Lane Primary School at drop-off and pick-up times. Cars parked across dropped kerbs, on corners and on pavements are also putting children at risk as they walk to and from school during these

		peak hours. What action will the Council take to address this, including increased parking enforcement at school times, and will it consider measures such as a School Street scheme or dropped kerb protection markings, in consultation with residents and the school?
	Councillor L Smith	Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs) will be deployed to monitor parking issues associated with school drop-off and pick-up times and will take enforcement action where vehicles are parked across dropped kerbs. Parking on pavements and near junctions can only be enforced where appropriate restrictions and road markings are in place; otherwise, obstruction matters fall to Greater Manchester Police. Before taking action on vehicles parked across dropped kerbs, CEOs are required to establish whether the vehicle belongs to the resident or is causing a third-party obstruction. We will explore the potential for interventions on Higher Lane and Egerton Road, including whether a School Streets approach may be appropriate. As the Road Safety Capital Programme is fully committed this year, no scheme is currently programmed, but opportunities will be considered as part of future programme development.
4	**Nicholas Haslam (attending)**	As Bury East's councillor and Cabinet Member for Housing Services, how will you ensure the new Housing Strategy prioritises more affordable homes and estate improvements in our high-deprivation ward, rather than letting current budget pressures delay them?
	Councillor A Arif	The Housing Strategy identifies Bury East as an area of high housing need and commits to increasing affordable homes, particularly social rent, alongside estate and neighbourhood improvements. While financial pressures remain a challenge, investment decisions will be guided by evidence of need and strategic priorities. The Council will maximise the use of Right to Buy receipts and bring forward suitable Council-owned land wherever possible to support the delivery of new affordable homes and estate improvements. However, the biggest constraint on delivery remains the availability of suitable land. As Cabinet Member for Housing Services, I will continue to ensure Bury East's housing and regeneration needs are prioritised, supporting affordable housing delivery and estate improvements rather than allowing them to be delayed solely by short-term budget pressures.

5	**Luke Broadfoot (attending)**	Sinkholes have recently appeared in Prestwich, including on Heywood Road, posing a serious risk to public safety. Can the Cabinet Member explain what caused the sinkhole on Heywood Road and whether the Council has any plans to carry out a survey of roads in the area to identify similar risks and prevent further sinkholes from appearing?
	Councillor L Smith	United Utilities accepted responsibility for the collapsed sewer that caused the sinkhole on Heywood Road and undertook the necessary repairs. The Council monitors highway conditions across the borough and, where sites are located in known poor ground areas, Ground Penetrating Radar surveys are undertaken before resurfacing works are carried out. Historical mining records and other ground condition information are also used to inform investigations where appropriate, with any necessary action taken based on the findings. Ground Penetrating Radar surveys have been undertaken on both Heywood Road and Heys Road. The Council will continue to assess locations based on identified risks, highway condition data, intelligence from utility companies and reports received from residents.
6	**Janice Taylor (attending)**	What is Bury Council's policy where a parent, carer or other responsible adult becomes aware that a child or young person may be expressing an intention to commit an act of terrorism or showing signs of radicalisation, and what action does the Council expect that adult to take in relation to safeguarding and Prevent?
	Leader	Safeguarding Against Hateful Extremism, as with all other forms of safeguarding, is everyone's responsibility. If someone has a concern about anyone (of any age) that they are susceptible to, or showing signs of being radicalised and drawn into extremism, it is important that safeguarding concerns are highlighted. The Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Early website and Support Line (0800 011 3764) offers advice and guidance, including signs of radicalisation to look out for, case studies and information on how to share those concerns. This includes referrals through to Prevent, which seeks to intervene early and ensure that people who are susceptible to radicalisation to terrorism are supported as they would be under safeguarding processes. The

		Council website outlines the Prevent referral process, the national referral form itself alongside the contract detail for the Greater Manchester Police Prevent colleagues should anyone require any guidance or assistance. As with all safeguarding and community safety activity, if there is an immediate threat to life this should be reported immediately through 999.