

ELECTED MEMBER QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 30 NOVEMBER 2022

1. Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“Will the Cabinet Member commit to ensuring that all new bus shelters will be pollinator friendly with living roofs and further commit to ensuring that old bus shelters are replaced with pollinator friendly bus stops when they reach the end of their life cycle?”

2. Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“As winter approaches, what new or additional measures has the Council introduced to minimise the need for short term and repeated repairs on cold weather damage, such as potholes, on the roads of Derbyshire?”

3. Question from Councillor E Fordham to Councillor C Renwick, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment

“How many tonnes of waste has Derbyshire County Council handled over the five years that has gone to landfill and recycling respectively?”

4. Question from Councillor J Woolley to Councillor J Patten, Cabinet Member for Childrens Services and Safeguarding

"Would the cabinet member update me on the recent focussed visit to the council's children's social care services by Ofsted and the outcome of their visit?"

5. Question from Councillor M Foster to Councillor C Renwick, Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Environment

“Can the Cabinet Member comment on the recent announcement that the moratorium on fracking has been reintroduced by the Prime Minister and what this means for Derbyshire?”

6. Question from Councillor P Smith to Councillor N Hoy, Cabinet Member for Adult Care

“Looking at the long-term future of the Newhall Day Centre and the Blooming Marvels Garden (which are situated in my Division), would the Cabinet Member for Adult Care consider this important community asset becoming a Community Hub if there were sufficient local interest and, can the Cabinet Member also confirm that the Bungalow will remain open for the foreseeable future?”

7. Question from Councillor W Major to Councillor B Lewis, Leader of the Council

“Using a hotel at a motorway junction to house asylum seekers isn't an ideal location, particularly as it's away from key services as well as the groups and charities that would be able to offer support. It is one thing using hotels in cities like Glasgow, Manchester, etc but placing a large number on the edges of small towns has the potential to cause significant issues of community cohesion.

Could the leader highlight the concerns this Council has about the choice of location and how those concerns were communicated to the Home Office?”

8. Question from Councillor N Gourlay to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“What progress has been made in repairing the A57 Snake Road in Hope Woodlands after the landslips of February 2022?”

9. Question from Councillor G Kinsella to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“The Welsh Government has just agreed to introduce new 20 mph zones. Research from the Transport Research Institute (TRI) at Edinburgh Napier University shows that 20 mph default speed limit in Wales will save £100m in the first year, as deaths and injuries are reduced. This adds to the growing weight of evidence that 20 mph zones:

- Reduce accidents
- Reduce pollution
- Stimulate active travel
- Increase health and well-being

Against this, the Council’s reliance on an aging DfT study and the solitary Padfield trail look increasingly unreliable.

In the past Cllr Athwal response to questions has focused purely on safety issues, but what weighting does he give to the other benefits and when will he agree to the widespread introduction of 20 mph zones where there is strong community support?”

10. Question from Councillor J Dixon to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“Many people use the Fix My Street app to report pot holes, lights out, blocked drains etc. It is an easy app to use, automatically identifying which council is responsible for the problem, it uses GPS to identify the precise location of the problem and allows people to take photographs and also enables them to follow up the issue. I’ve used it on many occasions and have promoted to members of the public. However, a resident contacted me recently to say that DCC is no longer accepting reports from third party apps such as Fix My Street. Can you confirm if this is the case and, if so, why?”

11. Question from Councillor J Dixon to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“There is currently a new housing development on Marlpit Lane in Bolsover. To facilitate the development, this main route into the town has been closed for months, not just for cars but more recently for pedestrians too, for whom there is no safe alternative route. Many residents feel that the time given to the developer to do the necessary works required has been excessive. What pressure has been brought to bear on the developer to ensure works are done in a more timely manner, rather than at a speed that suits them?”

12. Question from Councillor P Rose to Councillor J Patten, Cabinet Member for Children’s Service and Safeguarding

“Following recent publication of the Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse led by Alexis Jay, what lessons has this Council learned from the Report and, how will policy and actions reflect those lessons learned? Bearing in mind, as the Report states:

‘Within statutory agencies with direct responsibility for child protection there was too little emphasis on the complex and highly skilled work of child protection; decisions about children were not unequivocally based on the paramount interests of the child; multi-agency arrangements still lack focus on child protection; There is still not enough support available to both child and adult victims and survivors; that child sexual abuse is not a problem consigned to the past and, the devastation and harm caused by sexual abuse cannot be overstated – the impact of child sexual abuse, often lifelong, is such that everyone should do all they can to protect children.’”

13. Question from Councillor R George to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“What has Derbyshire County Council done to minimise disruption to residents in and around Whaley Bridge caused by repairs to the rail bridge over the A5004 in the town centre and associated road closures?”

14. Question from Councillor R George to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“When will work commence to resurface the Shallcross Incline in Whaley Bridge?”

15. Question from Councillor R George to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“When will work commence to repair Footpath 1 in Chinley, Buxworth and Brownside Parish and what is being done to maximise access to the route in the meantime?”

16. Question from Councillor R George to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“How long on average is it currently taking for Traffic Regulation Order applications to be made and carried out in Derbyshire?”

17. Question from Councillor P Rose to Councillor K Athwal, Cabinet Member for Highways, Assets and Transport

“I note the recent decision to prohibit motor and horse drawn vehicles from Crow Lane on the road between Chesterfield and Brimington Common, with the idea of making it a part of the active travel route through Chesterfield to the hospital.

I wonder, has the Cabinet Member for Highways tried cycling up the road? In fact, have any of those involved in making the decision tried either cycling up or down this very, very steep road?”