

COUNCIL

16 MARCH 2021

MEMBER QUESTION TIME – Part 2

Questions submitted in accordance with Standing Order 12

39. **Councillor Geoff Winnard**

Is the Portfolio Holder now in a position to publish the accounts for the Bingley Music Live festival held in 2018? If not when will this information be made available? It was reported in the media that the event made a loss of around £300K but to date no detailed information has been provided as to reason for such a large loss to the public purse.

Response

The published accounts are available in the Council's Statement of Accounts for 2018/19. It is true to say that the event did not meet the target budget at the time and this was reviewed and a number of issues were identified that contributed to the overall financial position, which included reduced ticket sales, leading to reduced concession sales; the performers, infrastructure and management costs were higher than expected due to high demand for bands and their availability on the weekend. As you will be aware and due to the potential risk of future financial pressure on the Council the event was cancelled for the following year. A private operator has now organised the Bingley Weekender in Bingley and we believe there is a plan to organise the event in future years once the COVID restrictions are removed, which will continue to provide a large music festival in the district.

40. **Councillor Zafar Ali**

Could the leader of the Council please provide the residents of Central Ward Keighley with the assurance that Council will develop and implement an effective policy regarding removal of Fly-tipping, dumped outside resident' homes and also maintaining Street Planters that are in derelict state and present a grave health hazard to residents.

Response

I believe the fly tipping that Councillor Ali is referring to is residents placing bagged waste for collection and fly tipping of domestic waste outside residents' houses and adjacent areas. This happens predominantly in areas where there is a transient community and a large turnover in people vacating their properties. Currently, this is a problem that wardens and the waste advisory team try and solve by raising awareness of the Council's policies on recycling waste and to inform residents that side waste is not permitted. Following this type of work, areas comply for a short

while but in some cases the situation quickly returns due largely to residents leaving an area. Officers then have to repeat the awareness process again.

Over the next month officers from both Neighbourhood services and Waste services will be undertaking some intense work in these areas to gather more intelligence to gain a better understanding of behaviour with regards to waste in these areas and also where, when and who is contributing to the problem. In addition to ascertain whether there are better ways of working for our waste and street cleansing operations. Staff will be particularly looking at side waste and black bin liners just left on the kerbside or grass verges. In particular, the amount of black liners that are deposited before the day of collection, on the day of collection and how long it takes before many bags appear again. It is felt that greater intelligence will be key to sorting these issues out to formulate targeted awareness campaigns, enforcement where necessary and possibly changing how our two services work in the future.

The planters have already been reported to us and we are planning to renovate them in the near future.

41. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

Domestic violence is on the rise - we have a number of ethnic minority communities people who are struggling to access services that meet culture and language requirements. What are we doing to ensure this is provided?

Response

During Safeguarding week, the district's new Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence strategy was launched. The strategy can be found on the Safer Bradford Website (<https://saferbradford.co.uk/community-safety/domestic-and-sexual-abuse>). Some of the key commitments within that strategy highlight where we are in the district and in what areas we will focus our work to improve the lives of those who are or have experienced domestic abuse. We feel we have safe, innovative and relevant services in the district to support any victim who needs help. We recognise however that we need to be better in using our data to check who is not asking for help and being proactive about creating pathways into support. We have a commitment to transforming services to be inclusive to all. One group that we will focus on and mentioned in the strategy being refugees and asylum seekers. The strategy also provides a focus on using the lived experience of those experiencing domestic abuse to shape services and procedures in addition to creating a community response to recognising and responding to domestic abuse and sexual violence. All of this will help us to address the needs of those who currently face barriers to approaching services to ask for help.

We are extremely lucky in our district to have a dedicated and responsive charitable sector that provides support to victims, their children and to perpetrators. Services are both commissioned and non-commissioned and actively seek out funding to meet gaps and needs. There are some specialist services that focus on specific types of victims and one of those focuses on BAME women and girls, another provides support for men of all ethnicities. Staff teams are diverse and can often offer communication in different languages and to meet the need in a way that is

culturally sensitive. There is still work to do as often securing staff from Eastern Europe is more difficult and there is more to do to create pathways for older people within the population. Our perpetrator program recently secured some Home Office funding to develop a culturally sensitive program delivered by peers to people from South Asia. We are working with Health partners to reach older populations and to create opportunities for them to ask for help.

We have recently carried out a needs assessment in the district to support us to comply with The Domestic Abuse Act. In that process meeting the needs of those with no recourse to public funds came through as being an issue in our district. We are aiming to use some of our new resource in the district to meet the needs of those victims. We have also just completed a consultation on the statutory guidance that highlights the need to clarify how the Domestic Abuse Act applies to those with no recourse to public funds.

Finally, as we work as a partnership on our locality approach to domestic abuse to create our new community focus we are creating our pilot approaches in a way to ensure that we test what works for different communities so that we can differentiate our approaches to ensure that no victim is left behind.

42. Councillor Caroline Firth

Councillors wrote to the portfolio holder recently to request the council seeks independent counsel advice about the proposed incinerator in Marley, Keighley East. We think there are discrepancies about the number of HGVs going in and out of the site. Thank you for agreeing to seek external advice. How long does this advice request usually take to come back?

Response

The specialist planning counsel advice has now been received. It supports the stance taken on this matter by the Local Planning Authority (LPA), in that the LPA cannot rely upon references in the Environmental Statement to control HGV numbers, furthermore if the LPA had considered that it must control HGVs, then such matters should be by separate condition.

HGVs were not restricted by the LPA, as it was considered that there were no significant highway safety or any adverse AQ implications, that would warrant limitations on HGVs. The site is situated on a dual carriageway, with a fair capacity, and with the highway improvements and required AQ mitigation (e.g. electric minibus, electric charging points, low emission strategy) the LPA considered this sufficient.

43. Councillor Debbie Davies

Can cycle lanes be marked as multi use so as to include horse riders and mobility scooters in a similar way that bus lanes are also used for taxis?

Response

That is not permitted under the Traffic Signs and General Directions Manual, but there are other measures officers can take such as warning signs for horse riders or

pedestrians. For example, officers are currently engaging with the British Horse Riders' Society over locations of concerns in Bradford with a view to installing information placards about horse riders in the vicinity. There are no permitted signs for mobility scooters as they are not a registered highway vehicle.

44. Councillor Debbie Davies

On Council Tax bills there is a breakdown for Council Tax, Fire Authority etc. and for those of us with parish or town councils it just says 'Local Precept'. Could this be made clearer in future years e.g. saying Baildon Town Council or whatever as I've had a few people questioning what this is so no doubt other people are also unaware of its meaning?

Response

We have used the generic term 'local precept' on all Council Tax bills for many years, partly to limit the development work required as precept titles change or new ones are created.

It is possible to identify and display each separate precepting area e.g. 'Baildon precept', although at present there is a character limit on the bill which would prevent us from displaying the full name of all preceptors - for instance, we could not display 'Keighley, Bogthorn, Exley and Oakworth precept'.

We will explore the possibility of extending this and of using a preceptor's name, and the likely cost. In the meantime, we will look to adding an explanation of 'local precept' to the 'Council Tax bill explained' leaflet that is issued with all bills.

45. Councillor Debbie Davies

Could the Portfolio Holder advise why the council is calling for new traveller sites in the Local Plan when the existing ones have spaces and does the traveller site at Esholt pay for itself, or if not, what does it cost the Council annually?

Response

The Council has a statutory duty set by Government to assess, identify and plan to meet the district's housing needs, including those of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople. When plan making, local planning authorities are required by government to identify and update annually a five year supply of specific deliverable sites and to also identify a supply of specific, developable sites or broad locations for the following plan years.

The Regulation 18 Draft Local Plan (2021) sets out the council's approach to 'Accommodation for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople' in Policy HO8: Sites for Gypsies, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople.

An updated Gypsy and Traveller and Travelling Showperson Accommodation Assessment (GTAA) (2021) was undertaken as part of the evidence base informing the draft Local Plan. This provides latest available evidence to identify the accommodation needs of Gypsies and Travellers and Travelling Showpeople across the District. The GTAA analysis considers potential additional supply of pitches

through turnover on public pitches, potential expansion/intensification of existing sites and potential new sites.

The need identified in the latest GTAA is expected to be met through the identification of formal site allocations in sustainable and accessible locations to ensure that a sufficient supply of pitches is delivered to meet identified needs.

The costs and income against the sites at Mary St and Esholt are not separated due the way in which the budget is recorded however there is no annual cost to the Council as spend is offset by the income.

46. Councillor Debbie Davies

What was the outcome of the resolution from Full Council in July 2018 to investigate the merits or otherwise of setting up a local lottery?

Response

A response was provided in February 2021 to the Councillor.

The Council resolved in July 2018 “to instruct the Chief Executive to investigate the merits and otherwise of setting up an online lottery, as pioneered by Aylesbury Vale District Council, to raise funds for non-essential but much valued community services”.

In late 2020 a desktop review was completed, including reaching out to West Yorkshire finance colleagues and SIGOMA.

This identified a number of authorities have implemented a Community Lottery (not local to Bradford). The sums raised are generally small. The view is a Community Lottery works best in smaller defined ‘communities’, where the benefit is held in that community; but this results in smaller proceeds. The lottery is delivered best by specialist partners, but the setup is administrative and needs dedicated input and resource from the Council.

The desktop assessment concluded the proceeds after payment of prizes and administrative costs would be negligible.

47. Councillor Debbie Davies

What progress has been made on the future of 40 Browgate, Baildon which has now been empty for a number of years?

Response

Further to previous updates provided to Members on the background to this property by Estate Management, 40 Browgate, Baildon is a bungalow held by the Council as Corporate Trustees of The Baildon War Memorial Charity. The property can only be let to people who meet the Charity’s conditions being elderly and infirm people of lower financial means with good character who live in and around Baildon.

The Property became vacant when the last resident passed away and has remained vacant because the property requires a programme of substantial works and repairs

to make it fit for habitation. The Baildon War Memorial Charity does not have sufficient funds to undertake the works required.

Estates are still working on resolving the legal issues with transferring the bungalow at 40 Browgate to a third party charity, but this has been delayed as the Haig Housing Charity who had been identified as a suitable charity to transfer the property to has stalled due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic and how it has affected the Charity, as well as a recently appointed new Chief Executive at Haig Housing. Estates officers are now in contact with Haig Housing and hope to re-commence discussions on a transfer of the property. As soon as acceptable terms are agreed, officers will submit a report to the Regulatory and Appeals Committee seeking approval for the transfer.

48. Councillor Debbie Davies

How much initial funding is being put into Citizen Coin and once set up is it designed to be self-funding?

Response

The Citizen Coin is funded through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and is one of 70 plus test and learn projects within the Bradford for Everyone programme to increase participation and volunteering.

The Citizen Coin is in its fourth iteration; an initial investment of £30,000 was provided in year one to develop the app and to cover the cost of the license (£10,000), penetration test as required by the Council (£3,500) and staff development support (£17,500). An additional £53,000 was provided in year 2 of which includes two salaried workers at £25,000, marketing costs, licence and yearly penetration test and roll out. The app currently has over 400 volunteers registered, over 75 retailers and 40 rewarding partners.

The app itself hasn't been designed to generate any income. The Stronger Communities Team will be recruiting a Volunteer Services Coordinator which will oversee the continuous development and promotion of the app. We are seeking additional funding from the Community Renewal Fund and contributions from other programmes and services. Other local authorities are also interested and as these are recruited the cost will reduce for Bradford. The app is currently funded up to July 2022.

49. Councillor Vanda Greenwood

Will the portfolio holder join me in welcoming the £25m secured for Shipley through the Towns Fund and outline the plans for how it will be invested?

Response

The £25m investment offer as part of the Towns Fund programme is brilliant news for Shipley. It represents a fantastic opportunity to help boost the local economy following the pandemic and at the same time, support the longer term economic growth and prosperity of the town through jobs, skills, training and educational opportunities for all.

The case for investment was made through a detailed Town Investment Plan overseen by the Town Deal Board; a collaboration of private and public sector and community representation; ensuring community and business voices were involved in shaping the proposals. It's great to see key stakeholders coming together on the Shipley Board to promote and champion the town and its assets and opportunities so passionately. The investment will seek to ensure Shipley is a well-connected and sustainable location; where people want to live, study, work, shop, play, visit and invest and with a thriving town centre that builds on its distinctiveness as a place and strong community spirit.

The projects are wide-ranging in their scope and include:

- Improvements to Shipley Market Square and to ensure the town centre is well connected and accessible to the surrounding areas; this will include improving walking/cycling links and public spaces such as streets, squares and parks.
- A fund to restore and repurpose buildings and redevelop sites for commercial and residential use.
- A Community, Art and Future Technology Centre – to support and develop skills for local employment and entrepreneurship including the development of digital skills.
- Shipley Library Enterprise Hub which will involve upgrading the exhibition space in Shipley Library to showcase local entrepreneurs, craftspeople, makers and small businesses including support, mentoring and training opportunities, networking events and workspace facilities.
- A Health and wellbeing hub - offering wide range of integrated support services to educate and support people with the tools to improve their health and wellbeing.
- Shipley Sustainable Community Hub - offering volunteering, social community events, wellbeing and personal development opportunities alongside more targeted access to specialist and creative facilities and equipment.
- Capital assistance to business growth - supporting small businesses to grow and adapt and diversify in a changing climate
- Wrose Quarry Wetlands - Regenerating the heritage site at Wrose Hill/Quarry, including adding accessible footpaths, improving biodiversity by creating new wetland features and tree planting, adding new recreational features.

The next stage is to develop a detailed business case for each project, with up to 12 months to do this. In doing so, we will invite local communities and businesses to help to shape the business cases.

Additional Information

The projects listed above are all of the projects submitted. We bid for £27.36m and were offered £25m so have £2.36m to find in terms of savings. The recommended approach to this will be to reduce a number of projects in terms of value.

50. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Can the Portfolio provide an update over the flood alleviation works at Mill Hey, Haworth?

Response

DEFRA's current capital flood programme runs between 2021-2027. Already included in the capital programme is a project for Haworth. This study will investigate the causes of, and potential solutions to, flooding in the town and how these solutions can be delivered.

Bridgehouse Beck that flows beneath Mill Hey is classified as Main River and is under the authority of the Environment Agency (EA). The EA are leading on the flood risk management scheme with the Council's Land Drainage team supporting the project team providing local knowledge and understanding. These large public funded capital schemes take a number of years to develop where a large amount of appraisal work is necessary to ensure the evidence base and review processes are as accurate as possible. One of the larger work items is the development, testing and review of a new hydraulic flood model for Bridgehouse Beck. This piece of work has recently been completed by the EA's framework consultant and has also been assured by the EA's data and evidence team. This is a key milestone in the progression of the scheme.

The next phase of the project is to scope and commission a business case for the project. This is due to be in place by the autumn whereby the consultant can progress the business case to determine a preferred option. The development of the business case and the preferred option will be carried out in consultation with local residents, businesses and wider stakeholders where necessary. We expect that the business case will be ready for submission to DEFRA by the end of the financial year.

Following the business case development, if a viable capital scheme can be identified, this is not likely to be delivered until midway through the current capital programme (2021-2027). I understand this timeframe will be of a concern but the Council will continue to progress the study with the EA as quickly as possible.

51. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

When are the wall works due to be fully completed on Halifax Road between Cross Roads and Keighley?

Response

We anticipate that all the works between Cross Roads and Keighley on A629 Halifax Road will be fully completed by March 2022 by the very latest.

52. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Can the Portfolio Holder advise what are the rules for campervans parking overnight and which locations they are permitted to park up at?

Response

In regard to camper vans, as a road vehicle, as with all vehicles, as long as it not in breach of any parking restrictions then they are permitted to park on the highway.

Our Highways team have confirmed that they are not aware of any residents' schemes which restrict certain vehicle types from having a permit such as a weight or size. It is up to the resident to choose what type of vehicle they use and if a vehicle is taxed and tested it is permitted to park on a road.

If any vehicle is causing an obstruction where there are no traffic regulations in place, for example, yellow lines or limited waiting times, then this should be dealt with as a Police issue. Other valid reasons to take Police action would be if the vehicle is causing an obstruction to sightlines, if it is driven without MOT and/or insurance (emphasis on being driven). Untaxed should be reported directly to the DVLA.

53. Councillor Richard Dunbar

June 28th was the 52nd anniversary of the Stonewall riots – a moment that sparked the modern day Pride movement. Will the Leader list the work we do internally and externally as a Council to show solidarity and pride with and in the LGBTQ+ community in our district?

Response

The Stronger Communities Team, which delivers the Bradford for Everyone programme, ran campaigns over LGBTQ+ History Month. To support this campaign:

- We provided a supportive video statement to Cllr Richard Dunbar, which was used as part of the virtual flag raising ceremony;
- As part of the Anti-Rumour and Critical Thinking Campaign we launched a video on LGBTQ+ communities, this can be viewed here <https://youtu.be/jZOG7nWxz4U> It has had over 420 views and has reached over 920 people.
- A webinar was delivered on LGBTQ+ and diversity advantage where individuals from the LGBTQ+ communities talked about their experiences on 23rd February from 10-12pm. This was included as part of the 283 Pride events that took place.

In addition, we regularly:

- As part of 'People Library' seek stories from a wide range of communities; included is Danish born Ruth Nielsen, as she explains a sense of purpose she's found through her involvement with Keighley Pride; <https://bradfordforeveryone.co.uk/life-is-a-journey/>.

Delivering a range of workforce training on diversity, inclusion and equality. As of 23rd June we have had over 330 people booked across different sectors both from frontline staff and leaders across the system. The range of programmes and workshops can be viewed here from Unconscious Bias training to Inclusion and Diversity Leadership. <https://bradfordforeveryone.co.uk/workforce-training-programme-2021/>

54. Councillor Kyle Green

What steps are being taken to improve the three 'inadequate' children's homes?

Response

We have two children's homes that are graded as inadequate and where Ofsted registration is currently suspended.

In relation to Owlthorpe no children are currently living there. We have taken this opportunity to have the building completely refurbished.

A new manager with experience of managing a good home is now in place to lead on the improvement plan with support from our Deputy Service Manager. A comprehensive action plan is in place which has been shared with Ofsted and which was scrutinised by our Regulatory Inspector when she conducted her midway visit. This action plan relates to improvements in documentation, procedure and practice and also additional training for the staff team in respect of specific safeguarding issues. We would hope to be able to resume operations in the next few weeks after consultation with Ofsted and a review meeting is being held to formally consider signing the action plan off as complete.

In relation to Valley View the decision by Ofsted to suspend registration is much more recent and we are still dealing with the impact of this on the children and the staff team. Valley View was already subject to an action plan to raise standards and there have been significant challenges with recruiting staff to that particular home. Ultimately the action plan has failed to deliver the improvement that was needed and consideration is being given to the future use for the home.

55. Councillor Kyle Green

How does the council intend on preventing access to Ilkley Lido and Ilkley Riverside Parks for vehicles that enter the areas illegally?

Response

The Council is installing a range of measures including fencing, earth mounds, and a height barrier. The height barrier will prevent unauthorised over height vehicles from progressing beyond the site entrance on Denton Road.

56. Councillor Richard Dunbar

Could the Portfolio Holder explain what work we did to celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month in the district.

Response

The Stronger Team/ Bradford for Everyone carried out the following activities to celebrate Gypsy, Roma and Traveller history month in the district.

- Engagement with the traveller community revealed that Gypsy, Roma and Traveller was too much of a broad heading to look at the needs of the diverse communities and celebrate their histories.
- Bradford for Everyone posts on Social media were created for this month
- Travellers video shown as part of the 'Diversity of White People' online event as part of our Critical Thinking project on 29 June.
- We have also completed a Roma Strategy, which involved contributions from over a hundred members from the community and 90 organisations; this strategy will help public sector agencies better engage with Roma communities and shape services to meet their needs.

In addition to the above, on 5 July Councillor Dunbar and the Stronger Communities Coordinator visited Traveller sites at Mary Street and Esholt to speak to Traveller communities about their conditions and issues with a view to following up with increased engagement with them. It is proposed that the new staffing appointments in Stronger Communities will pick up on the communities of interest support we offer across the district including Gypsy, Traveller and Roma communities.

57. Councillor Fozia Shaheen

As many people 30 plus have lost their jobs due to the pandemic. Apprenticeships have an age limit on them – what are we doing to ensure these people who may not have many skills and were on low paid jobs have opportunities.

Response

Apprenticeships no longer have an age limit to them and can be completed as long as the person applying does not already hold the qualification linked to the apprenticeship role. For example, an Apprenticeship Admin Role has the Business Admin Level 3 qualification linked to it; if the person does not have this qualification then they would be eligible to apply for the apprenticeship. These criteria are applicable to all apprenticeships from Level 2 up to Level 7.

58. Councillor Joan Clarke

Could the Portfolio Holder, clarify for me the means by which developers' compliance with conditions attached to planning approvals is monitored and secured, especially in cases where the Council's Building Control service is not used?

Response

The onus and responsibility for compliance is very much on the developer and the owner of the development to fulfil the requirements of all conditions attached to their planning consent. In those cases where the site is inspected by the Council's Building Control section we have the opportunity to know when a planning condition has not been implemented and then have the ability to challenge and/or enforce

compliance. As you mention, however, there is also the option for developers to use a private building control inspector under the legislation that was brought in by a Conservative government. Unfortunately many house builders in Bradford and other districts in Yorkshire choose to go to such Approved Inspectors for Building Regulations compliance so the link between the two parts of development is lost.

59. Councillor Rebecca Poulsen

Would the Leader of the Council confirm whether the Council intends to pursue Stonewall Workplace Equality Index accreditation?

Response

The Council is preparing a submission for the UK Stonewall Workplace Equality Index. This has support and encouragement from our LGBTQ+ Staff Network, Champions, Equality Partners and Senior Leaders. Work on the submission has already proven invaluable in checking organisational policies are communicated using appropriate language and in highlighting areas that require further work.

We are committed to ensuring inclusivity to all our staff through fair policies and practices that enables a diverse workforce to come together to deliver services to the diverse people and communities that we serve. The more representative we are of those people and communities, the more we understand them and the better able we are to deliver cost effective services.

60. Councillor Jeanette Sunderland

What steps is the Council taking to regulate the increasing number of dog walking businesses?

Response

We are aware of growing concern about what is seen as a proliferation of dog walking businesses and how public space is used. We are actively reviewing whether some form of licensing will help manage the situation so our public spaces remain accessible and enjoyable for all.

There is currently no legislation that requires dog walking businesses to hold any registration or accreditation, however the legislation that is applicable to all dog owners is equally applicable to persons operating dog walking businesses. The general legislation around ensuring high standards of animal welfare apply, as does more specific legislation that is enforced by the Council's Dog and Neighbourhood Wardens such as microchipping requirements, the prevention of dog fouling, ensuring that dogs do not stray and remain on leads as required by dog control public space protection orders.

If complaints are received then the Council will employ an educative approach applying the excellent guidance offered in the Professional Dog Walkers Guidelines which are, in turn, endorsed by the Dogs Trust, RSPCA and Pet Industry Federation.