

# Oldham Borough Council



## Supplementary Papers Item 8 Public Questions and Answers

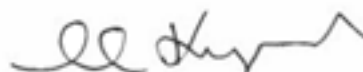
## OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL

To: ALL MEMBERS OF OLDHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
JR CLYNES BUILDING, GREAVES STREET, OLDHAM, OL1 1AL

### Supplement – Agenda Item 8 - Public Questions and Answers

Item No

8 Public Questions (Pages 1 - 14)  
Submitted public questions and answers



**Shelley Kipling**  
**Chief Executive**

Public Questions Full Council 25<sup>th</sup> March '26

| # | From / Date                          | To  | Question   | Proposed Response   |
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| 1 | John Whatmough<br>8/01/2026<br>17:29 | Councillor Taylor – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods | Why has this food hub/allotment been built, without consultation with residents, impacting on a resident's house, a pensioner in poor health, unable to access her boundary hedge and fencing impacting her privacy and adding stress. The council had a whole lot of space on the park to put this on but chose to erect against a homeowner's property, blocking off green space promised as a privacy area, many years ago by a Councillor? | <p>Thank you for your question, Mr Whatmough</p> <p>The food- growing hub at Berriesfield Park is a community- led project designed to support residents, improve local wellbeing and encourage residents to grow their own food. It was publicised as part of the wider park improvement work, but we recognise that some residents wanted further opportunities to engage about the project.</p> <p>After issues were raised, officers met at the site on 17 February 2026 with representatives. Officers were asked whether the new fence could be moved further into the park. It was explained that this was not possible, however to address the resident's concerns, the Council will cut back the hedge to the boundary line, which will create additional space and make future maintenance easier – this proposal was supported.</p> <p>We have also looked into whether this area was ever formally designated as a privacy buffer, and we have found no record of such a designation.</p> <p>The Council is committed to supporting the resident and addressing their concerns, while also ensuring the growing hub continues to benefit the wider community.</p> |

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| 2 | Hannah Roberts<br>14/01/2026<br>11:34 | Cllr Peter Dean –<br>Cabinet<br>Member for<br>Culture &<br>Leisure | 2026 is the National Year of Reading. Could the Cabinet Member report on activities in Oldham so far and outline what else is planned to get people reading across the borough? | <p>Thank you for your question Hannah Roberts</p> <p>We're using the National Year of reading to amplify our amazing library reading offer which includes events and activities for all ages – from theatre to baby groups and everything in between. We've also programmed extra events and activities to encourage people to get into reading.</p> <p>We got off to a flying start with the launch of our reading calendars in January – residents can pick up a calendar in any library to read along with our monthly themes and get book recommendations from the library team. A programme of book displays runs alongside the calendars to make it super easy to find a book.</p> <p>A personal shopper – for books. We launched our book selection appointments for anyone who is looking to get back into reading and would like some guidance. Tell us a bit about yourself and your reading tastes and habits, and we'll find the perfect book for you.</p> <p>The National Year of Reading events programme offers something for everyone including author events, World Book Night celebrations, the Summer Reading Challenge, StoryFest and the Greater Manchester Festival of Libraries.</p> |
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|   |                                       |  | <p>More information is available on the Council's website about Author events, and the events coming soon like</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>World Book Night</b></li> <li>• <b>StoryFest</b></li> <li>• <b>Summer Reading Challenge</b></li> <li>• <b>GM Festival of Libraries</b></li> </ul>  |  |
| 3 | Michael Powell<br>22/01/2026<br>19:47 | Cllr Chris Goodwin –<br>Cabinet Member for<br>Transport & Highways | <p>Oldham Council's response to reported potholes now states that defects assessed as "low priority" will be monitored rather than repaired. Given that a reported and actionable defect can deteriorate rapidly, does the Council consider this approach sufficient to rely on a Section 58 defence if damage or injury occurs? Is the Council concerned that delaying repairs could increase legal and safety risks?</p> <p>Additionally, in light of recent government funding specifically allocated for pothole repairs, can the Council explain whether this change in approach will result in fewer potholes being repaired overall?</p> | <p>Thank you for your question Mr Powell</p> <p>We truly recognise resident concerns regarding highway improvements, that's why this Labour administration committed an additional £2m in capital investment to improve the boroughs road network as part of the 2026/27 budget. This is separate to national government funding that the council receives, which as we outlined at Budget council earlier this month is around £16m worth of highways improvements over the next three years.</p> <p>Our priority is wider road improvements and resurfacing to prevent defects.</p> <p>The impact of the additional investment will become clear in the coming months when the weather hopefully improves allowing works to begin.</p> |

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|   |   |  |   | <p>The Council's Highway Safety Inspection Policy is based on regional and national guidance and follows a risk-based approach where priorities are determined following inspection and assessment by qualified safety inspectors. Response times for reactive repairs range from 2hrs to 24 hours for emergency or urgent works, whereas defects which have been assessed as having the lowest risk may not have a job raised for repair, but will instead be reviewed regularly and picked up as part of a planned highway maintenance programme. Any deterioration detected by the monitoring regime will be treated as an urgent / emergency repair.</p>     |
| 4 | <p>Samuel Hollis<br/>04/02/26<br/>17:08</p> | <p>Councillor Taylor – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods</p> | <p>Could the appropriate Cabinet Member clarify the approved uses at Clough Manor Hotel &amp; what enforcement action the Council is taking to restrict activities to those uses? Local residents are very concerned about the damaging impact on the local environment, road safety &amp; repeated attempts to expand uses unsuitable for this site.</p> | <p>Thank you for your question Samuel.</p> <p>I can confirm that the former Clough Manor Hotel (now known as the W Apart Hotel) has an approved use as a hotel (use class C1).</p> <p>However, part of the building was granted permission for 6 residential apartments (use class C3) last year, and so this permission can be implemented subject to the conditions on that permission being discharged.</p> <p>In terms of enforcement, a Section 215 notice was issued in August 2025 for the removal of the mounds of earth and re-instatement and re-seeding of field to front. the notice has not been complied with thus far, and so the council are</p> |

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|   |   |  |   | considering a prosecution related to this non-compliance.   |
| 5 | Shona Farnworth<br>10/2/26<br>18:49     | Cllr Abdul Jabbar –<br>Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate Services & Sustainability | A new £1 billion-a-year <a href="#">Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF)</a> launches in April 2026, replacing the Household Support Fund to provide multi-year, local council-administered assistance for essentials, including emergency cash for financial shocks. This long-term support targets vulnerable households with food, energy, and cost-of-living help. When will this be available in April and to make sure the funds also go to UNPAID CARERS in Oldham | Thank you for your question Shona.<br><br>I can confirm that our £1 million Crisis Payment Scheme as part of our Crisis and Resilience Fund offer will be live in April. Wherever possible and subject to the requested information being provided, Crisis Payments will be fully assessed within 2 working days. This swift response means we can support any resident including Unpaid Carers who experience a sudden financial shock to receive timely support.<br><br>Unpaid Carers who receive Housing Benefits or Universal Credit will also have the option to apply for a Housing Payment as part of Oldham’s Crisis and Resilience offer. Half a million pounds has been set aside to support residents to meet shortfalls in their housing costs. I’m pleased to share that this will also be available in April. |
| 6 | Roger Blackmore<br><br>18/2/26<br>15:11 | Cllr Chris Goodwin –<br>Cabinet Member for Transport & Highways                        | Please could a senior Oldham Council officer support local Councillors who have asked for an on-site meeting to review the effectiveness of traffic calming and pedestrian safety measures in the Station Road area of Uppermill. Residents have observed the frequency with which the 20mph  | Thank you for your question.<br><br>Highway safety is a major priority for this Administration, and this is something that we have continued to support - originally as part of the '20's plenty' motion that was agreed at full council and subsequently through a range of additional safety improvements and traffic calming measures across the borough.  |

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|   |  |  | <p>limit has been ignored and are convinced it is only a matter of time before there are serious accidents. Pedestrians including visitors to the doctors' surgery are particularly vulnerable as there is no pavement provided where Station Road approaches Smithy Lane.</p>   | <p>A traffic calming and permanent 20 mph speed limit scheme for the Uppermill Area was consulted on in 2024. However, there was a general lack of support for the scheme from residents and therefore the proposals didn't progress.</p> <p>Taking on board the feedback from the community, a redesigned scheme was consulted on, formally advertised and has now been approved. The amended scheme introduces improvements to crossings within the village centre including a new Zebra Crossing near the Museum car park. These works will be implemented in the coming year.</p> <p>Funding from the original scheme is still available, the Council will liaise with the Parish Council and residents on the possibility of introducing further traffic calming measures on side roads in Uppermill and details of these schemes will be shared in due course.</p> |
| 7 | <p>John Shelley</p> <p>18/2/26<br/>18:37</p> | <p>Cllr Barbara Brownridge – Cabinet Member for Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing</p> | <p>Whilst we welcome the pause to the closure of Chadderton Park day centre, what happens now? All parties are now in limbo regarding this. Is there a time scale that Miocare/the Council are working to and what factors will affect the final decision. Will all stakeholders be advised on any decisions in a more</p> | <p>I very much understand and share Mr Shelley's concerns. I asked Officers of the Council to step in when it was becoming clear of the concerns of service users and their relatives. At that point we asked for a pause to the whole proposals until matters were fully understood.</p> <p>Miocare staff are reviewing the options with a view to completing that work by 5 June and therefore are in a period of extended review and consultation.</p>  |

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|   |  |   | <p>professional way compared to previous correspondence?</p>   | <p>We have asked for that review to look closely at current occupancy and demand for the service, the needs of current service users, possible alternatives to this type of day provision, costs to refurbish, and the impact of any change in provision on the people who attend and their families.</p> <p>It is our expectation that Miocare will ensure that there will be several opportunities for those affected to be directly involved in this process. The first of these will involve MioCare meeting with families throughout March to capture views and experiences.</p> <p>Once that work is complete I have asked for proposals to come back to the Council to review and consider</p> |
| 8 | <p>Luke Goss</p> <p>19/2/26</p> <p>04:01</p> | <p>Cllr Chris Goodwin – Cabinet Member for Transport &amp; Highways</p> | <p>Why does Oldham Council planning/transport not support the installation of in the floor EV chargers on street and pavements outside of people’s homes? These are chargers installed into the pavement/street for houses that don’t have a driveway. So that residents can still own and charge their EVs. They are flush to the ground and maintained by installation companies and paid for by the</p> | <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>The Council does support the installation of cross-pavement EV charging channels especially in locations where residents do not have space for home charging points in their front yards/gardens/driveways. We are keen to ensure residents can make the transition to electric vehicles if they wish to do so, and to benefit from the cheaper home charging rates.</p> <p>To support all residents with improved access to EV charging, Oldham Council is working closely</p>  |

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|   |  |   | <p>resident. They are safe and cause no trip hazard. In a society where we are trying to encourage EVs and reduce air pollution this makes no sense”.</p>   | <p>with the GM Combined Authority to roll out the programme and expand EV chargers in areas where residents don't have easy access to off-street parking – this increase in publicly accessible EV charging is a priority for the Council and the City Region.</p>   |
| 9 | <p>Jeff Garner<br/>23/2/26<br/>12:20</p> | <p>Cllr Chris Goodwin –<br/>Cabinet<br/>Member for<br/>Transport &amp;<br/>Highways</p> | <p>Oldham Council has been approached by Network Rail in compiling a Construction Traffic Management Plan to address diversions in relation to the closure for several months of the A627 Oldham Road at Greenfield Station bridge for the TransPennine upgrade. Has the Council approached the Emergency Services to ensure that the diversions will not affect their regulatory response times during the months this main road will be closed? Has the Council considered supporting requests for National Rail to provide a temporary Bailey Bridge so that diversions will not be necessary and school, business and residents' journeys will have shorter delays?</p> | <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>The TRU is a major national rail upgrade which sees the trans Pennine route electrified. The scheme will include works at a number of locations within the Saddleworth area. One of the main areas of work will see the replacement of the A670 road bridge at Greenfield Station.</p> <p>One of the Councils first requests to Network Rail was to provide a temporary bridge during the replacement of the existing structure. However, the local topography and geometric layout of the highway network mean this is not possible. Network Rail, their design team and contractors will work with Oldham Council and all emergency services on the planning in implementation of diversion routes to minimise the impact on blue light services. This work is ongoing, and details will be shared once agreed.</p> |

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| 10 | Jim Beresford<br>2/3/26<br>14:45 | Cllr Chris Goodwin –<br>Cabinet<br>Member for<br>Transport &<br>Highways | <p>Why does the Council continue to issue parking tickets to Disabled Blue Badge Holders on Sheepfoot Lane when it is clear there is not enough adequate parking available for these people when attending hospital appointments.</p> <p>I would also like to ask why the council do not issue parking tickets to car owners parking illegally on Broadway during school terms outside the Oldham Academy North and illegal parking on Oldham Road at the junction of Middleton Road when there is adequate parking nearby</p> | <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>One of the main aims of parking enforcement is to ensure highway safety. Where highway or utility works take place, sometimes, parking enforcement operations are amended to ensure that the areas are kept clear so work can be completed quickly and effectively, and therefore, minimising the overall impact of the works.</p> <p>In such circumstances, a Temporary Traffic Regulation Order prohibiting waiting and loading is implemented. This is the case on Sheepfoot Lane to support the major United Utilities sewer works. The order is required to ensure the length of Sheepfoot Lane is kept free from parked vehicles that would obstruct access to the works area.</p> <p>Once the works have been completed, the restrictions will revert back. With respect to the wider issues of illegal parking across the borough, the Parking team proactively visit all sites and take necessary enforcement action.</p> |
| 11 | Carita Smith<br>5/3/26 13;22     | Cllr Chris Goodwin –<br>Cabinet<br>Member for<br>Transport &<br>Highways | <p>I write to register dismay at the state of local roads, especially noting Carr Lane. Any repairs to the road have been of a poor standard. We are a community interest company, day service for adults with additional needs, based at the Satellite Centre, Greenfield. We have records of</p>   | <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>This administration recognises resident concerns regarding highway safety and particularly the issues shared by Ms Newton.</p> <p>The Highways department has only recently received significant new data following the full Annual Engineering Inspection (AEI) of the entire</p>   |

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|    |   |  | <p>repairs which have become necessary to our vehicles and believe there is as a direct correlation between the state of the road and the damage to vehicles.</p>  | <p>highways network in Oldham (800km +) to help assess the current overall road condition across the borough – this is in addition to the ongoing inspections by Council engineers who inspect all roads across the borough throughout the year for reactive defect repairs to keep the roads as safe as possible. This assessment informs the capital delivery programme for 2026/27.</p> <p>Based on preliminary assessments, it is the intention to recommend including resurfacing of Carr Lane in the new financial year’s programme of highways surfacing works – the full programme is not completely collated and will go through the cabinet approval process in due course.</p> |
| 12 | <p>Tom Penketh<br/>5/3/26<br/>23:23</p> | <p>Councillor Taylor – Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods</p> | <p>Residents across Oldham feel the council is taxing more while delivering less on basic services. Roads remain riddled with potholes, drains go unblocked for months, weeds and litter build up, and parks appear neglected. Even when government funding is available for road repairs, there seems little urgency to utilise. Cuts to environmental services have had impacted despite assurances. Many residents also believe investment and enforcement focus mainly on Oldham Town Centre while</p> | <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>This administration recognises the importance of a clean, safe and welcoming borough. Is it for this reason that a number of programmes have been implemented, all of which aim to deliver ongoing, sustainable and meaningful environmental improvements across the borough.</p> <p>This started with the decision to bring the weed spraying contract back in-house after the private contractor failed to deliver to agreed standards. Since that time, we have invested significant sums in equipment, training and materials to address the issue of weeds. Teams are already out weed</p>  |

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|  |  |  | <p>district areas are overlooked. Can the administration explain what this budget will do to improve the essential frontline services residents say matter the most?</p> | <p>spraying for this season, and we are confident that we will address this issue.</p> <p>The Don't Trash Oldham programme was also launched again in Nov 2025 and the environmental benefits of cleaner community spaces are clear to see. This programme continues to deliver local priorities across the borough.</p> <p>Similarly, this administration also invested in a dedicated gulley cleaning programme, which will, at the end, ensure that each of the 47,000 gulleys on the highway is cleared. To date, over 25,000 gulleys have been cleaned and a significant number identified for repair or 'dig-out. Those that were missed as part of the first round (due to access issues) are being revisited on a ward-by-ward basis.</p> <p>With respect to the highway network, all inspections are completed in accordance with national guidance and urgent repairs are done within 2 or 24 hours. The Council has successfully met national funding requirements, and all funding received, has been allocated to schemes for delivery – it is for this reason that the Council qualified for additional national funding.</p> <p>Parks across the borough are maintained to an excellent standard, and this is reflected in visitors attending and enjoying the greenspace. Linked to this, the Council is also taking its bio-diversity responsibilities seriously, and as a result, where</p> |
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|    |  |  |  | <p>the location is suitable, this Council allows naturalisation to support flora and fauna.</p> <p>In summary, this administration remains committed to improving the greenspace and environment in Oldham – this is clearly evidenced in all the work completed and planned across the borough for the future.</p>   |
| 13 | <p>Don Robertson<br/>12/3/26<br/>15:39</p> | <p>Cllr Barbara Brownridge<br/>– Cabinet Member for Adults, Health &amp; Wellbeing</p> | <p>Could you confirm that the delivery of this budget saving has not been rolled into another budget reduction measure eg ASC-BR26-024 MioCare Management Fee Reduction? its savings target by the <b>same amount</b> that the closure of Chadderton Hall Park daycare was going to save? At scrutiny on 23 Feb this measure was going to deliver £325K of savings, despite both documents being referred to at Version 1.0? ASC’s total budget reduction has remained unchanged at £3.116 million which means that I’m worried that the closure is still planned but has just been rolled inside another measure? There is no mention of the closure in ASC-BR26-024, so please can you confirm that this measure (024) or any other does</p> | <p>Thank you for your question. As Members will be aware, the service continues to operate within a highly challenging national context, shaped by increasing demand, complexity of need, and significant cost pressures across both the local authority and our commissioned provider market. At the same time, the Council has a legal duty to deliver a balanced budget each year, and therefore, must identify sustainable savings while continuing to protect essential care and support for Oldham residents. The Council asked Miocare to pause any proposals regarding Chadderton Hall Park until matters were more fully understood. Miocare is now working on that request and should be returning back to the Council in June. The proposal for Chadderton Hall Park is not rolled into ASC-BR26-025</p> |

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|    |                                     |  | in no way authorise the closure of Chadderton Hall Park Daycare in the financial year 26/27?  |  |
| 14 | Dhanyaal Rashid<br>19/3/26<br>08:54 | Cllr Chris Goodwin –<br>Cabinet<br>Member for<br>Transport &<br>Highways | <p>What steps is the Council taking to ensure that highways maintenance is effectively prioritised within Werneth Ward, and what urgent measures are being implemented to address the backlog of reported road and footpath defects? Additionally, will the Council commit to carrying out full and durable resurfacing</p> <p>where required, rather than temporary or inadequate repairs, to ensure long-term public safety? Given the severity of these issues and the frequency with which they have been reported, I urge the Council to take immediate action to review all outstanding cases and ensure they are assessed and resolved as a matter of urgency.</p> | <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>All 800KM of the borough's road network is inspected in accordance with national guidance. Where urgent defects are identified, on the road or the footpath, they are repaired within 2 or 24 hours. Some defects are monitored over a longer period and subject to programmed repair rather than the urgent repair timeframe outlined above. The above approach is applied consistently across all wards, including Werneth.</p> <p>As outlined in the 2026/27 budget, this Labour Administration will invest an additional £2m in capital spending on highway maintenance across the borough. This is in addition to government grant funding that is received. This investment will allow larger scale repairs where there are several defects in need of maintenance in a close vicinity. The Council will continue to monitor the network consistently and undertake repairs where needed.</p> |
| 15 | Mohammed Imran Ali                  | Cllr Chris Goodwin –<br>Cabinet<br>Member for                            | Werneth residents are concerned about abandoned cars in council carparks, which they believe contribute to low-level crime and  | <p>Thank you for your question, Mr Ali.</p> <p>The Council share's your concern about inconsiderate residents abandoning private</p>   |

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|  |  | <p>Transport &amp; Highways</p> | <p>a sense of neglect. They are asking the Cabinet Member to clarify the reporting process for these vehicles. Residents are also keen to understand what protocols are in place to ensure the prompt removal of these abandoned cars. Werneth residents are reporting blocked gullies that haven't been cleaned in 6-8 years, despite contacting local councillors. Frustrated by the lack of action, they sought independent advice confirming the neglect. Residents are now demanding the council take immediate action and publicly disclose all information regarding gulley cleaning schedules and dates on the council's website.</p> | <p>vehicles in communal car parks, and therefore, reducing much needed parking spaces. Where this is the case, such matters can be reported to the Council and the matter will be investigated, and, where supported by evidence, vehicles will be removed.</p> <p>With respect to gullies, the council implemented a boroughwide cleaning programme last year – as part of this programme, all 47,000 gullies will be cleaned on a ward-by-ward basis. To date, over 25,000 gullies have been cleaned boroughwide, and this includes gullies in Werneth ward, where one visit has been completed - the team will be returning later this year to complete all the gullies that were missed due to access issues or undertake repairs on those that need it. Council teams will liaise with local ward members and there will also be engagement from District Teams when re-visits take place.</p> |
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