

Scrutiny Climate and Place 20th March 2024 – Public Questions

	Annexe A – Public Questions
Name of person submitting	Questions
Nick Hall	<p>PQT 1.</p> <p>Good morning – my name is Nick Hall. I am a Pilton Parish Councillor. Today, I am speaking in a personal capacity about Glastonbury Festival Traffic Management</p> <p>As you may recall from when I spoke in January, some members of our community, including myself, have raised a number of issues with the management of traffic associated with the Festival.</p> <p>Most of those issues have not been addressed by the Festival operating company Glastonbury Festival Events Ltd (GFEL). Hence we are relying on Somerset Council to encourage GFEL to engage.</p> <p>In recent years there hasn't been direct contact between our community and the Somerset Council's traffic management team. Mr O'Dowd-Jones' commitment to have that team come and speak to our community is much appreciated. We need to progress this meeting to ensure we can have an impact on this year's Festival.</p> <p>I still haven't heard back from the traffic management events team on the issues of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Temporary Traffic Restrictions Orders and the insufficient consultation on public roads and footpaths.○ Potholes and large-scale road degradation○ Impact of offsite events/campsites○ Reducing the traffic through Pilton village. <p>I very much hope that responses can be provided in the near future.</p> <p>Two other questions that I raised in my speech in January were not answered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Is there an intention to create a publicly available de-brief report on Glastonbury Festival highways and traffic issues?

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	<p>2. Regarding the Strategic Traffic Management Plan (STMP) - condition of Planning Approval 2022/2458/FUL. The applicant has now submitted this STMP for approval. I have some reservations – it doesn't address air quality along the routes and doesn't assess the risks to non-car users. However my biggest concern is that a very large area around the Festival site is 'controlled' by GFEL (in conjunction with Somerset Council and the Police) by a Traffic Management Plan (TMP) that is not publicly available. Would it be possible to make available a public version of this TMP?</p> <p>NJH 14 Mar 2024</p>
<p>Response</p>	<p>Lead officer verbal response to be given at the meeting.</p> <p>Full written response to be distributed within 5 working days of the meeting</p>
<p>Eva Bryczkowski</p>	<p>PQT 2. TURN WORDS INTO ACTION NOW</p> <p>Holding full council meetings at Canalside Conference Centre is totally non environmentally friendly. For example, from Glastonbury, where there are no trains, the 75 bus to Bridgwater is every hour. I can catch the bus to Bridgwater for free with my bus pass. But Canalside Conference Centre is not held in the centre of town, and is awkward to get to. So I drive, spend money on petrol, (councillors/officers get petrol expenses), this adds to extra cars on the road, carbon emissions, and polluting the environment. Surely a more environmentally friendly place can be found by the council? I generally prefer to turn up in person because it's nice to get to know councillors, and I learn a lot from this. I don't mind paying for petrol for that reason alone. But what about people who are poorer than me?</p>

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Also, as is my democratic right, I believe in turning up to support lobbies when appropriate:

QUESTION ONE

Councillors and officers, can you immediately, as soon as possible, research more suitable and environmentally friendly places, where people can catch buses to them, avoiding carbon emissions?

QUESTION TWO

Somerset is a predominantly rural area. The council is, I understand, subsidising some bus services.

For me to get to Musgrove Park for an early appointment, the 29 bus leaves every two hours from my bus stop on the outskirts of Glastonbury.

Then I need to change at Glastonbury town hall.

In the centre of Taunton I need to change again, and get on the number 22 bus to Musgrove Park hospital.

For an early appointment at 9am it is impossible to go by bus.

Bus drivers told me that since the other bus repair sites have gone, if a light bulb goes or gearbox needs repairing, the bus needs to go to Wells anyway to get it sorted. Thus passengers miss whatever appointments they have in Taunton.

The 29 bus used to go all the way from Wells to Musgrove Park, and the college.

Councillors,

If you are still going to subsidise certain bus routes, and be less Taunton centric, please consider influencing First Bus, or other companies, get them to use common sense and have the 29 bus go back to starting from Wells and going all the way to Taunton, particularly Musgrove Park hospital.

Please will you subsidise this as soon as you are able to?

QUESTION THREE

Regarding the cost of living crisis, I presume councillors wish to avoid incurring extra expenses being loaded onto less well off Somerset residents?

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	<p>When I, or anybody else in a similar position, needed to get to Musgrove for an early appointment, which could not be changed, I had to use Community Transport.</p> <p>This cost me £28 cash before petrol prices went up, when I had downbeat nystagmus, so couldn't drive.</p> <p>If outpatients are kept in longer than two hours, the price doubles, thus costing £56.</p> <p>a) If you really care about especially poorer Somerset residents, will you please consider subsidising the 29 bus to arrive in time for early appointments?</p> <p>This is not a divide and rule situation, other small places and towns matter too. But catching three! buses from Wells to Musgrove Park is ridiculous, and needs to be rectified if you really care about the environment.</p> <p>b) Some local authorities are taking private bus companies back into public ownership.</p> <p>Will you start researching how to do this, bring your findings back to the Climate and Place Scrutiny Committee, and propose this option to full council as soon as possible please?</p> <p>Otherwise, all the sentiments expressed towards poorer people, and about environmental issues are only just words.</p> <p>And your promises will be merely aspirations, unless they are fulfilled, in order to avoid the environmental catastrophe that is already happening.</p> <p>Eva Bryczkowski (Council tax payer and Unite the Union member)</p>
Response	Lead officer verbal response to be given at the meeting. Full written response to be distributed within 5 working days of the meeting

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