

## Public Questions and Answers at Council 2024/2025

Question (minute) Reference	Date submitted to Council	Question and further information
CL80-24/25	05/03/25	<p>The following questions were submitted by Mr and Mrs Dell and in their absence Mr Webb ‘put’ the questions to Councillor Tom Munro, the Portfolio Holder for Growth.</p> <p>(a) Question submitted by Mr Dell to Councillor Tom Munro, Portfolio Holder for Growth</p> <p><i>“Recently Council publicity advised the public that finally the Council had secured £15 million. Would you please advise on what date the Memorandum of Understanding was signed and by whom?”</i></p> <p>Councillor Tom Munro responded to the question as follows:</p> <p><i>“Thank you for your question. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by the Section 151 Officer on the 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2025.”</i></p> <p>In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.8 Mr Webb put the following supplementary question on behalf of Mr Dell:</p> <p><i>“Everyone welcomes the collective efforts of Council officers and the previous and current MP and the many Councillors who secured the £15m. Mindful of the fragile balance sheets reflected in the soon to be published 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 accounts for both Dragonfly companies, Dragonfly’s request at May’s upcoming full Council for additional funds for the crematorium and presumably their funding request or approval to complete the purchase of the £4 million listed Arromax land in Langwith the capital intensive nature of building development is evident, timescales slip and clearly so do budgets. Where Creswell have 50 years of multi-generational debt due to the rising cost of cement; to quote Councillor McGregor, officers will have been aware of the cost of cement 10 days ago when the MOU was signed. Therefore, construction materials, inflation, employers NI costs etc on the agreed projects are all known, and I am sure are factored into Dragonfly’s costings for each project. Can the Council therefore confirm that no parish or town council or in the case of Pinxton, Church Diocese will be required to</i></p>

		<p><i>secure funding to bridge any budget changes or slippage in any of the projects that the £15 million has been secured for?</i></p> <p>Councillor Tom Munro responded to the question as follows:</p> <p><i>“Thank you on behalf of myself to Mr Dell’s supplementary question a written response to the question will be forthcoming, if you can ensure we have a written copy of the question handed to one of our senior officers. Thank you very much indeed.”</i></p> <p>(b) Question submitted by Mrs Dell and put by Mr Webb to Councillor Tom Munro, Portfolio Holder for Growth</p> <p><i>“Can the Council please list all economic development and/or regeneration projects that are planned for Clowne and/or Barlborough?”</i></p> <p>Councillor Tom Munro responded to the question as follows:</p> <p><i>“Thank you very much for your question, I have a great long list I will read them out as it is important that all members of the public hear it. Mrs Dell will receive a written copy of this list. So bear with me it is quite a long list. The list includes projects which specifically include Clowne or Barlborough or have a positive impact as part of the wider district is as follows:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• Business Growth Grants</i></li> <li><i>• Business Start-up Grants Programme</i></li> <li><i>• Net Zero Innovation Programme</i></li> <li><i>• Pre-start and Business Start Up support programme</i></li> <li><i>• Women in Business Network</i></li> <li><i>• Creative Women’s Network</i></li> <li><i>• Business in Bolsover Business Networking Events</i></li> <li><i>• Bolsover Place Programme and Campaigns</i></li> <li><i>• Capital Investment in the Bolsover Loop, wayfinding and infrastructure</i></li> <li><i>• Letting of Commercial Property within the area to growing businesses</i></li> <li><i>• Supporting the Town Council for proposals</i></li> <li><i>• The Anchor former public house</i></li> </ul>
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CL67-24/25	29/01/2025	<p>(A) Question submitted to Councillor Jane Yates, Leader of the Council by Ms Christine Hope:</p> <p><i>"When will Bolsover District Council be able to report fully to all elected members and the public on their involvement in the current multi million pound financial debt crisis at Elmtown With Cresswell Parish Council?"</i></p> <p>Councillor Jane Yates responded to the question as follows:</p> <p><i>"Thank you for the question, Elmtown with Cresswell Parish Council is being investigated by NALC, the National Association of Local Councils, so it is therefore inappropriate for Bolsover District Council to comment while the investigation was taking place. We don't know how long the investigation is going to take so we can't give a specific date as to when we can report on it. I do understand it is going to be probably by the end of this full year. So, I am sorry I can't expand on that further."</i></p> <p>In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 8.8 Ms Christine Hope put the following supplementary question:</p> <p><i>"Given the supposed extent of the supposed involvement of council and officers are the council prepared to assist the NALC appointed investigative team, Derbyshire Association of Local Councils who are also involved and the Local Government Association who are all now actively together involved in that investigation of Elmtown with Cresswell Parish Council?"</i></p> <p>Councillor Jane Yates provided the following response:</p> <p><i>"Yes, obviously we will be contributing to the investigation as and when we are asked. That is why we can't comment further on it at the moment and we can't compromise the investigation by commenting. But we will be co-operating with it."</i></p>

CL55-24/25	04/12/2024	<p>Question submitted to Councillor John Ritchie, Portfolio Holder Growth by Mr Dominic Webb:</p> <p><i>“Do the Dragonfly Group of Companies, individually or together, present a material risk to the Council either financially or reputationally?”</i></p> <p>Councillor John Ritchie responded to the question as follows:</p> <p><i>“I thank Mr Webb for his question to Council on the possibility of any risks being posed to Bolsover District Council by its wholly owned companies, Dragonfly Development Limited and Dragonfly Management Limited.</i></p> <p><i>As a responsible authority we take seriously our duty in protecting the Council’s interests in everything we do and looking after our wholly owned companies are no different. Indeed given what has happened in Croydon, Thurrock and Nottingham City to mention just three, we are even more on the ball.</i></p> <p><i>The Council manages risk in everything it does. Indeed, there is a Risk Management Strategy and Risk Management Group which oversees the continuous assessment of corporate strategic risks. The Council is also required to publish its Annual Governance Statement and work closely with its external auditors who scrutinise the Council’s finances, governance and decision making very closely.</i></p> <p><i>Full governance arrangements for the Council’s companies are in place and the Council sought expert advice when setting these up to ensure they are fit for purpose. A Shareholder Agreement has been developed and signed, together with a Service Level Agreement. Dragonfly has in place the required Board of Directors for both companies and the Council has the Shareholder Board. The Shareholder Board looks after the Council’s interests and that of our residents because the Council is sole shareholder, it figures that all our residents are also shareholders, with a small ‘s’ if you like.</i></p> <p><i>The Shareholder Board has a role to ensure everything is all right and training has taken place.</i></p> <p><i>Various documents like:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>• The Bolsover District Council and Dragonfly Shareholder Agreement and Service Level Agreement.</i></li> <li><i>• The initial Business Case which was prepared to enable the companies to be established.</i></li> </ul>
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CL19-24/25	22/05/24	<p><u>Question submitted to Leader of the Council, Councillor Steve Fritchley by Andrew Joesbury</u></p> <p><i>Dear Councillors,</i>  <i>Bolsover district has been allocated £15 million from the Government Regeneration Fund.</i>  <i>This is from the 2019 district plan:</i></p> <p><i>South Normanton</i></p> <p><i>6.64 South Normanton is the most southerly of the four towns. It is also one of the poorest performing shopping areas, based on our 2017 Study. Only 1.2% of the whole of the study area's convenience expenditure takes place in South Normanton; the same as in Bolsover; but only a fifth of the spending that takes place in Clowne.</i></p> <p><i>6.65 At 2.1%, the amount of comparison shopping seems strong. However, this includes the East Midlands Designer Outlet; a major out of town clothing and comparison shopping destination; which is likely to be the major part of this expenditure and is divorced from the town centre by around 1.5 miles, the M1 and the A38 dual carriageway.</i></p> <p><i>6.66 Like Bolsover, the most concerning statistic is that South Normanton only retains around 20% of its immediate catchment zone's convenience expenditure. This shows that whilst the centre is not playing a role in attracting shoppers from a wider area, it retains very little of the food shopping expenditure from the centre of the town.</i></p> <p><i>6.67 The Regeneration Framework, identifies 3 main village centre projects:</i>  <i>a) Redesign and re-establish Market Place as the heart of the Village – High priority urban design project and delivery to improve pedestrian movement and experience in the village centre, including improved signage and replacement of the Market Place clock</i>  <i>b) New and enhanced connections to greenways – Development of connections to the Blackwell Trail and upgrades along The Common and Alfreton Road to create a 'shared route'</i></p>

		<p><i>Taken from the Vision Bolsover District 2</i></p> <p><i>The Council's ambition for town centre development is to support and invest in the 4 town centres to make them more sustainable and thriving places for communities to live and enjoy. To improve the physical appearance, provide flexible space to create shopping havens, cafe culture, community venues etc.</i></p> <p><i>To work with our partners (parish councils) to develop the 4 town centres and continue to bid for funding.</i></p> <p><i>Funding is normally not available unless the project is designed, planned, costed and had preliminary planning permission from the stakeholders, otherwise known as being 'shovel ready'. Before the last election councillors from the south of the district were invited to the meeting of the Growth Committee.</i></p> <p><i>The biggest complaint was that the majority of funding went to the north of the district. After some debate the committee agreed that South Normanton should be used as a pilot scheme, with help from the council, to become shovel ready to allow for application for funding as soon as it was available. As proof of the majority of funding going to the north of the district these next points are taken from the In Touch and Bolsover Vision 2.</i></p> <p><i>South Normanton and the south of the district is hardly mentioned.</i></p> <p><i>The mention of South Normanton is that '£600k has been invested for new or refurbished play equipment or improvements to the sports pitches in South Normanton, Bolsover, Tibshelf and Pleasley.' The only thing that I know in South Normanton of is the drainage of the Boundary rugby field, which came out of section 106 funding.</i></p> <p><i>Meanwhile, from the publications</i>  <i>-£1.5m invested in Go Active in Clowne</i>  <i>-Introduction of 2 growth plans for Shirebrook and Creswell.</i>  <i>-£9.6m for the crematorium in Shirebrook.</i></p>
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