

**MEMBER QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**  
**Council Meeting – 25 May 2023**

**Question:** 1.  
**From:** Councillor McCarthy  
**Response by:** Councillor Higginbottom (Cabinet Spokesperson Environment and Highways)

**Question:**

Having worked hard with the residents, Safer Neighbourhood Team, Police, Schools and colleagues over a number of years it's been very good news to finally hear that Vicarage Lane is to benefit from "The School Safety" programme.

It's now identified as a site to make changes to and benefit from funding available in the School Safety budget.

For years we've been trying to resolve the parking issues on Vicarage Lane, and the traffic team, after listening to these concerns have come up with a set of proposals to help alleviate the issues. They are currently looking at the restrictions they can use to enable proactive enforcement, which will be put in place once the consultation with residents and the legal process is complete.

When do we expect the consultation and legal process to be complete?

**Information for response:**

Thank you for your question, Councillor McCarthy

We expect the consultation and legal process to be finalised by the end of September 2023.

The Traffic Team is designing proposals to address the parking issues on Vicarage Lane, taking into account the concerns expressed by the community.

The process will have two stages of consultation.

Stage 1 is a consultation with key stakeholders, including Ward members, emergency services, and other relevant parties. The Traffic Team will amend the proposals based on this feedback. Stage 1 will take around four weeks.

Stage 2 is a formal public consultation. The proposals will be presented to the public for their input and comments. Stage 2 will take around three weeks.

If any objections are received, an objection report will be prepared and presented to Cabinet for their decision. Timescales for this process are subject to the Cabinet program, and it may take up to eight weeks for a final decision.

Once the Cabinet approves the proposed changes, the necessary legal procedures will be followed. The order will be sealed by the Legal department, and a works order will be issued to the commercial entity responsible for implementing the approved measures.

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**Question:** 2.  
**From:** Councillor Smith  
**Response by:** Councillor Higginbottom (Cabinet Spokesperson for Environment and Highways)

**Question:**

Council will be aware that for many years I have raised the important issue of flood risk in Low Valley and the Darfield Ward on numerous occasions, in a number of meetings and forums. Not only does flooding have a devastating impact upon the residents and businesses that are directly affected, but it also prevents those who use our roads network and public transport from doing so.

Could the Cabinet Spokesperson please advise on the schemes that have been completed and those that are planned, with expected dates and an explanation of how they will minimise flood risk?

**Information for response:**

Thank you for your question, Councillor Smith

I would like to provide an update on the progress of the Low Valley Flood Alleviation Schemes, specifically regarding the modelling of Bullying Dike and its culverted assets.

As previously communicated, WSP Ltd were appointed to start the modelling process for Bullying Dike, and I am pleased to report the following developments:

In December 2022, a CCTV survey was conducted on two private culverts and the existing Highway Culvert in Station Road.

The survey showed that the culverts are in good working order and no faults were found on the Yorkshire Water systems in Station Road.

A Topographical Survey of the watercourse was completed on 5 May 2023.

This survey looks at the existing watercourse profile and will produce 35 cross-sections for us to look at. These cross-sections will not only offer a clear understanding of the current watercourse capacity but also identify any necessary improvements. The survey also encompassed The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds site, giving us a comprehensive assessment of the area. Results of the survey are expected to be with Officers by Mid-June.

Our ongoing modelling process incorporates various rainfall events, including 1 in 5, 1 in 30, 1 in 75, 1 in 100, and 1 in 100 plus 40% to account for ongoing climate change. These simulations help us to develop effective flood alleviation strategies.

The Environment Agency is set to start modelling of the River Dove. This will explore options for reducing flows in the River Dearne by diverting water offline and storing it upstream. This process is expected to span a minimum of 15 months, aligning with the Connected by Water strategy.

To stay updated on the progress of the Low Valley Flood Alleviation Schemes and related initiatives, I encourage everyone to visit the Flooding pages on Barnsley Council's website.

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**Question:** 3.  
**From:** Councillor Lofts  
**Response by:** Councillor Frost (Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture)

**Question:**

The works for the Dodworth Road Improvements also gave rise to the proposal to install a footbridge from Penny Pie Park over the railway line to Pogmoor. This will be beneficial to children going to and from school, will better link the communities of Dodworth & Pogmoor and make accessing sports facilities easier for all.

Could the Cabinet Spokesperson please offer an update on timescales for construction and completion?

**Information for response:**

Thank you for your question, Councillor Lofts.

Construction of the bridge began in November 2022 and the completion of this project complements and enhances the delivery of the A628 Dodworth Road and Broadway Junction Improvement scheme, which is vital to support our future business and housing growth plans and improve access to our new town centre.

I'm pleased to tell you that the bridge was opened this week on Monday 22 May.

Children from St Mary's Primary School and Horizon Community College attended the official opening alongside representatives from:

- The council
- CR Reynolds, the contractor for the project
- Network Rail
- And The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, who helped fund the scheme.

This is our latest investment into supporting active travel by providing a safe route for people to either walk or cycle on. Adding to the new, improved park facilities [which opened last year](#), Penny Pie Park is now an excellent outdoor space for people to enjoy and we would like to thank residents in the area for their patience and understanding throughout the construction process.

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**Question:** 4.  
**From:** Councillor Shepherd  
**Response by:** Councillor Frost (Cabinet Spokesperson for Regeneration and Culture)

### **Question:**

The Council's levelling up application for the Elsecar Heritage Centre would have given a welcome boost to our already impressive cultural offer, but more important would have been the skills and economic uplift arising from the scheme.

As we all know the bid was unsuccessful and this served to underline that the government's beauty contest approach to levelling up and securing capital investment to be woefully inadequate.

I will continue to push for this investment and would wish to ask the Cabinet Spokesperson if this is an ambition shared by him and what plans there are to secure such investment in Elsecar?

### **Information for response:**

Thank you for your question, Councillor Shepherd.

Elsecar has gone from strength to strength as a visitor destination in recent years, with record visitor numbers, increasing number of businesses and jobs on site and a busy events programme showcasing hundreds of small businesses each year.

The heritage of the village is now recognised to be of international importance too.

Important investment has been secured as part of the Cultural Development Fund to make key improvements to the core heritage centre site, which will benefit local communities, visitors and local businesses. Important funding has also been secured from The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority to boost active travel around the site.

We look forward to engaging with people on the detail of these proposals over the summer.

Ambitious proposals for the former Ironworks site in Elsecar were the focus of our bid to the Levelling Up Fund. A bid which was unfortunately unsuccessful.

It would have meant:

- the establishment of a 21<sup>st</sup> century heritage railway at Elsecar with national tourism appeal
- advanced engineering workshops creating new jobs at the technological forefront of our region's economy
- and a new outdoor event arena space set against the backdrop of the magnificent restored blast wall of the Elsecar ironworks.

More information about our vision will be shared this summer, as we invite local communities, visitors and Elected Members to come to Elsecar and help shape what Elsecar can become, and to help us to make it happen.

We are determined to make the vision a reality. It will take hard work and we will need to attract major investment. We are committed to trying to make that happen over coming years and have already begun to talk to government and key funders about the role they may take in realising this vision.