

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS**  
**Council Meeting – 27 July 2023**

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

Question:

Within the borough how many electrical vehicle charging points have there been installed by BMBC, its partners, and other business?

Where are the locations, and at each location how many are there, and again, at each, what was the financial cost, and who paid it?

At the Highways depot on Smithy Lane, in its car park are a large number of electric vehicle charging points, what are the procedural arrangements and conditions for their use by council employees, and the public?

**Information for response:**

Thank you, Mr R, for your question.

We currently have 64 charging bays that are publicly available across the borough. We'll be extending this to 72 in August 2023.

In addition to the 72 public chargers, we also have 34 bays being used by Barnsley Council fleet vehicles across the borough.

Chargers fitted privately can be located easily via zapmap. This shows all the locations of accessible chargers across Barnsley: <https://www.zap-map.com/live/>

The locations of the chargers installed by the council are:

**Barnsley Council chargers for our fleet vehicles**

- Smithies Depot, Smithies Lane, Barnsley – 30 x 7KW charging bays
- Barnsley Crematorium, Ardsley, Barnsley – 4 x 7KW charging bays

**Barnsley Council chargers for public use**

- Queen Street Car Park, Goldthorpe – 4 x 7KW charging bays
- Churchfields Car Park, Barnsley – 6 x 7KW charging bays
- Sackville Street Car Park, Barnsley – 4 x 7KW charging bays
- Shrewsbury Road Car Park, Penistone, Barnsley – 4 x 7KW charging bays
- Elsecar Heritage Centre Car Park, Elsecar, Barnsley – 4 x 7KW charging bays.
- Bank Street Car Park, Cudworth, Barnsley – 4 x 7KW charging bays.

- The Glassworks Car Park, Barnsley – 6 x 7KW charging bays.
- Wombwell Park and Ride Car Park, Barnsley – 4 x 7KW charging bays.
- Summer Lane Car Park, Wombwell, Barnsley – 6 x 7KW charging bays.
- John Street Car Park, Barnsley - 2 x 50kw charging bays and 6 x 7kw charging bays (due to open August 2023).
- Church Street Car Park, Darton, Barnsley - 4 x 7kw charging bays
- Mark Street Car Park, Barnsley - 6 x 7kw charging bays
- West Road Car Park, Pogmoor, Barnsley - 4 x 7kw charging bays
- Market Gate Shopper Car Park, Barnsley - 2 x 50kw charging bays 6 x 7kw charging bays.

The chargers at John Street, Church Street, Mark Street, West Road and Market Gate were all funded by a government grant through the Get Britain building fund. This was a joint bid with the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority. Funding of £275,384.98 was used to install these most recent chargers.

All other chargers, including the ones used by Barnsley Council fleet vehicles, were funded via The Office of Low Emission Vehicles, Energy Saving Trust and the council. The total was just over £300,000 and was funded by each party equally, meaning £100,000 came equally from The Office of Low Emission Vehicles, Energy Saving Trust and the council.

The chargers at Smithies Lane Depot are solely used for employees using fleet EV vehicles. They're not available for employees' personal use or public use due to their high demand for fleet use.

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**Question:** 2.  
**From:** Mr R  
**Response by:** Councillor Franklin (Cabinet Spokesperson Core Services)

Question:

On the council web site for employment within the council, in a number of jobs, it makes reference to government guidelines on social distancing, to which applicants have to accept.

What are these social distance guidelines, and do they apply not only at work, but also in public areas?

**Information for response:**

Thank you, Mr R, for your question.

We currently do not operate any social distancing rules within Barnsley Council. An error occurred recently that affected a number of adverts. This was due to the use and resubmission of an outdated template containing information related to social distancing that had been created and used during the height of the pandemic.

The issue has now been resolved, and any incorrect information has been removed.

Our recruitment team will monitor templates to make sure they remain up to date with developments that impact upon our recruitment approach.

We apologise for any confusion this may have caused.

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**Question:** 3.  
**From:** Mr H-B  
**Response by:** Councillor Higginbottom (Cabinet Spokesperson  
Environment and Highways)

Question:

Recently it was pledged by this council that an additional £2 million, on top of funding for highways already planned this year, would be available to combat the plight of potholes and damaged roads across the borough. Could the relevant Council Officer or Spokesperson give an update on when the works for Spark Lane, Mapplewell, as planned, are due to commence?

**Information for response:**

Thank you, Mr H-B, for your question.

The proposed works on Spark Lane in Mapplewell are currently programmed to take place in October 2023. This is subject to no variations or amendments to the programme that may be required for operational reasons.

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**Question:** 4.  
**From:** Mr H-B  
**Response by:** Councillor Higginbottom (Cabinet Spokesperson  
Environment and Highways)

Question:

The condition of the roundabout at Blacker Road / Park Close is fast deteriorating and simple 'fillings' are not adequate to maintain its roadworthiness and due to the nature of the patchworks involved, is becoming quite unsightly. This roundabout will not survive another winter without immediate repair. Could the relevant council officer or Spokesperson offer an update of why this hasn't been scheduled for repair this year and use their responsibility to get a more permanent and longer-lasting solution in place for this roundabout sooner rather than later?

**Information for response:**

Thank you, Mr H-B, for your question.

Blacker Road is inspected monthly, and if any actionable defects are identified, the necessary repairs are ordered at that time. This junction was inspected on 4 July 2023 and no safety interventions were identified.

The location is not currently part of the 2022/23 Highway Maintenance Programme. However, the location has been earmarked by our Highway's Department for an engineering assessment which will take place in August 2023. The outcome of this will determine what level of intervention and repair is required.

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**Question:** 5.  
**From:** Mr A-H  
**Response by:** Councillor Higginbottom (Cabinet Spokesperson  
Environment and Highways)

Question:

On the fringe of Barnsley, neighbouring Wakefield is Woolley Village which is often forgotten about. The conditions of the pathways, especially down Low Row are crumbling, dangerous and likely to cause injury to people. Due to the nature of the old terrace housing in this area, many of the house's drainage empties into drains on the pathways which are blocked with debris from broken and crumbled pathways leading to excess surface water. This is increasing the deterioration of the footpath. Could the relevant council officer or spokesperson visit the area to make an assessment on the condition of the pathways and roads and report back with a series of actions to remedy this issue and ensure the area is safe for the residents who reside here?

**Information for response:**

Thank you, Mr A-H, for your question.

Low Row was inspected on 4 July 2023. Some minor pothole repairs to the footway were identified and works have been ordered. Low Road footway has been referred for assessment this year, with a view for inclusion in future years' programme, subject to prioritisation.

The gullies referred to in the question only accept run-off from the roofs of adjacent properties. These gullies are therefore private and the responsibility for their maintenance lies with the applicable property owners.

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**Question:** 6.  
**From:** Mr H-B  
**To:** Executive Director Public Health and Communities  
**Response by:** Councillor Cain (Cabinet Spokesperson Public Health and Communities)

Question:

As we fast approach the summer months, we know that across Darton East, anti-social behaviour increases, especially around our park and recreation areas. Last year, and to some extent into this year, anti-social behaviour has involved damage to play equipment, play surfaces and seen events such as small fires and bin fires. The area council has funded a single camera in Mapplewell park. Anti-social behaviour continues to plight the area and most recently, it took several members of the community, of which we are all very grateful for, to clear up after young people, celebrating the end of their exams, by mass littering, smashing bottles, and leaving empty cans spread across Mapplewell Park. Can the relevant officer or spokesperson update the residents about what is being put in place to prevent anti-social behaviour from occurring and what additional resources could be available should the need arise so that everyone can enjoy the parks and recreation areas?

**Information for response:**

Thank you, Mr H-B, for your question.

We know that antisocial behaviour can have a profound impact on people and their communities.

We recognise that there are challenges with antisocial behaviour, especially during the summer months, and this has affected several locations and public spaces including Mapplewell Park.

We always try to prevent problems happening in the first place but when they do, our Joining Forces teams (Safer Neighbourhoods Service and Neighbourhood Police Team) will try and respond to stop escalation.

We encourage people to report any concerns and share any information they have which could help with developing better intelligence of the nature and impact of problems. The teams also engage with people through PACT (Police and Communities Together) meetings and pop-up engagement events.

The antisocial behaviour tactical action plan helps to galvanise and guide responses. The plan draws from a range of services including Targeted Youth Support, Neighbourhood Wardens, the Police and PCSOs and is applied according to the nature of the antisocial behaviour.

As for Darton East and Mapplewell Park, the Joining Forces teams have proactively supported work in the area to try and tackle these problems including:

- installing CCTV to deter and detect problems in the park
- increasing patrolling by uniformed officers at times when problems are most likely to happen
- building a clearer picture of the people involved and the people affected to allow more targeted interventions.

It's encouraging that antisocial behaviour rates continue to fall in Barnsley, and we compare positively with our neighbouring areas. Our Joining Forces, integrated partnership model of community safety, has also been showcased as good practice by Her Majesties Inspectorate for Constabularies and the Home Office.