

Mickleover Residents Meeting

Saturday 24th February 2024

Mickleover Memorial Hall, Station Road, Derby, DE3 9GH
1pm – 2pm

Hosted by Amanda Solloway MP, supported by local Councillor Matthew Holmes

Question 1: What do you think of council funding and the role of local councillors in the decision-making process for local authority matters?

Amanda believes devolution and devolved authorities are good for Derby and the East Midlands, looking forward to more local decision making with East Midlands Combined Authority (EMCA).

Matthew raises that local councillors can offer insight on local issues and ensure that council tax is being well spent. The new EMCA hopes to allow further powers and higher budgets for the local area.

Question 2: What are the plans to tackle potholes across the city and how much does it cost to repair one pothole?

Matthew raises the new pothole campaign run by Amanda where residents can report a pothole directly to her which she would then forward on to the council. The importance of reporting cannot be understated as without this the local authority will not effectively plan road repairs in the city.

Amanda offered to reply to the resident directly about the exact figure for the cost to repair one pothole.

Note

Courtesy of the Government's Network North plan and the 2023 Spring Budget Derby City Council received an additional £842,000 for road repairs in 2023/24 and Network North is planned to deliver an extra £20 million for DCC to use on road repairs over the next 10 years.

Question 3: There is a big problem around parking in the local area, which is potentially dangerous on the main road. Are there any plans to deal with this?

Amanda expresses her discontent over the situation where the local authority will not action a report over dangerous parking until an accident has occurred. She has offered to run a survey in the immediate local area for the resident which would provide an overview of the urgency of the issue to Derby City Council. Importantly, it is not an issue that is quickly resolved, for example in Littleover there were issues with parking which were not solved by adding double yellow lines.

Matthew raised how Cavendish Way and Mickleover Manor Road are instances where the council added double yellow lines, and Chiltern Drive is an example of somewhere that may need more.

Amanda reiterates that these are collective issues that need addressing, otherwise there is a risk that the problem is simply shifted elsewhere.

Question 4: There is a property on Uttoxeter New Road that dangerously obstructs the field of vision for pedestrians and drivers?

Matthew explains that this is something that can be resolved through the council, but if it is private property then the most likely course of action is to write to homeowner to ask them to consider acting on the problems.

A resident raises issues with potholes in this area, which Amanda expressed she is happy to support with reporting and fixing them if the resident sends her office the details.

Question 5: There is a major issue around parking near Murray Park School. Is there anything you can do to help us?

Amanda appreciates from the resident's detailed description of the issue around the school that parking is an issue and is glad that the resident has raised this to her as the local MP. Amanda requested that the resident write to her with the full details of the problem so that she can meet with representatives of the school to address the issues.

Matthew raises that parking and traffic around schools is a perennial problem all over Derby. The council created a safe haven area for Mickleover School which means at school time you cannot enter the zone; this type of measure is far more effective than double yellow lines due to complications with enforcement and safeguarding issues.

Question 6: Why doesn't the Government equally fund all schools in the country so that they have adequate resources to deal with issues?

Amanda said the Government is investing as much money as possible in ensuring schools are well funded and schoolchildren are guaranteed continuous development opportunities until they are 18 years of age. The variation in standard between schools is not just about funding but also the teaching staff and their Ofsted rating. Nationally, the Government is committed to improving the standard of English and Mathematics in schools.

Question 7: Do you think schools are sufficiently funded?

Amanda believes that schools and the education system is getting as much money as possible and per pupil funding is at its highest ever level with above inflation increases courtesy of last year's Schools Bill. The diversification of the education system through T-Levels and apprenticeships demonstrate the complexity of funding.

Question 8: Why aren't housing developers obliged to build more community services such as schools, nurseries, and GP surgeries?

Matthew adds that when Derby City Council is interpreting planning applications for developments, the provisions available are considered on a holistic level. This means that there are, in general, enough places for schoolchildren in Derby already, therefore the construction of new schools is not always necessary in new developments.

Amanda raises the issues of Derby's status as a unitary authority within the geographical boundaries of Derbyshire County Council, which is a separate authority. The issue with this is that a number of developments near and around Mickleover fall outside of the unitary area, leading to a discrepancy between service-users and taxpayers in Derby city.

Matthew mentions that Derbyshire County Council's role in this scenario is to help to fulfil Derby city's housing requirements. He adds that he is on the committee overseeing the latest development in Mickleover, so will action the concerns raised here in the committee.

Question 9: What are the criteria to be eligible for social housing from Derby Homes, as it seems very difficult to be accepted?

Amanda explains the criteria can be accessed on their website, but that the issue with being accepted is due to the fact there simply is not enough housing available in the city. She is actively looking at dealing with rough sleeping as a problem in the city but underscores that this is an issue separate to homelessness.

Question 10: Given the level of student accommodation in the city, can that money not be used for social housing?

Amanda raises that the private capital used for student accommodation falls under the commercial affairs of the University of Derby or other relevant third-party contractors. This is not something she would seek to intervene on.

Matthew joins Amanda in her perspective but raises the importance of new housing developments including a reasonable and proportionate affordable housing allocation. There is an issue now that such affordable housing can be pooled and spread across the city, rather than considered on a site-by-site basis.

Amanda briefly adds that the balancing act between eligibility for social housing and those with complex needs makes the situation difficult to manage.

Question 11: The Government is spending a lot of money on housing migrants that are due to be processed. Is there anything that can be done to deal with this?

Amanda agrees with the constituent that this is a big issue and wants to see action on it as soon as possible. She highlights the importance of giving those that are genuinely entitled to asylum the safe space they deserve, but that the Government is doing what it can to crackdown on illegal migrants.

There is a significant backlog of applications that the Home Office are still processing, but it is vital that this picks up in speed to that it is cleared.

End of Meeting

Constituents with any further concerns or queries are encouraged to write to Amanda at amanda.solloway.mp@parliament.uk.