

**COUNCIL
14 DECEMBER 2016**

QUESTIONS

- a) **“Free after Three” Parking Scheme – Question raised by Cllr Owens on behalf of a resident**

When Labour were in Opposition, they regularly mocked and ridiculed the ruling Conservative group. One regular suggestion you made was to have a "Free after Three" parking scheme. Now you are in power, you have gone all silent. Why don't you practice what you preach and introduce a “Free after Three” parking scheme in council operated car parks?

Response

The Council's existing management and enforcement arrangements on its Ormskirk town centre pay and display car parks are currently being closely looked at, with a view to streamlining and improving the offer where possible. A report is due to be considered at January's Cabinet meeting which will consider offering customers more flexible ways of paying for parking in the town centre. This report will seek to address a number of the concerns of local businesses in relation to parking. It is flexibility for customers to extend their stay in the town, rather than free car parking that has been the main concern of businesses in recent discussions. This is particularly the case given that car parking in Ormskirk is relatively inexpensive in comparison with other towns.

- b) **West Lancashire Roads – Defect Reports – Question raised by Cllr Owens on behalf of a resident**

Is the Council Leader concerned to learn that more defect reports were made about West Lancashire's roads in the first quarter of 2016 than in any other part of Lancashire and more than three times as many as the defect reports made in the best area?

What steps does he intend to take to bring the concerns of West Lancashire's residents about this unfavourable situation to the county council?

Response

As your question implies, the responsibility for highway maintenance is a matter for the County Council as Highway Authority.

West Lancashire has the second highest total length of roads across the County and the reported defects are in relation to the adopted highway infrastructure, which will include roads, footways, kerbs, manholes, street furniture etc . Reported defects are mainly those identified through the County Council's own highway inspection monitoring regime, as well as those reported by the public. Skelmersdale has the largest area of flagged footways to be maintained

across the County and will therefore statistically accrue a higher number of defects in those areas.

The Council is obviously concerned about the number of defect reports made in relation to the adopted highway infrastructure within West Lancashire, however County Council policy is that all reported defects are repaired within 20 days and as such all defects reported in the first quarter of 2016 should have long since been repaired, together with any subsequently reported defects which are now over 20 days old. The Council is advised that although County Council policy is to repair defects within 20 days, in reality most defects will be attended to in 10 days or less.

As I am not aware that there are any inadequacies in relation to the County Council's response to reported defects, I do not consider that the issue raised merits a specific letter to the County Council. However, in any discussions with the County Council both Members and Officers will always to encourage a proactive maintenance regime for the Borough's highways