

To BANES Cabinet 23 Jun 2021

The general theme I am concerned about here is misplaced priorities.

Today I am concentrating on my concerns with recycling and refuse collection, but I come at it with this administration's history of poor and untimely decision making with foreseeable U-turns.

I remind you of the debacle of the 5G masts and us being ridiculed in the national press, with tinfoil hats being on general issue.

The Cleveland Bridge fiasco, which so could have been worked on over the last year when traffic was low, but now with yet another delay due to one person being tested for Covid – if the Scottish Football team can manage it, surely there could have been a way.

This is not to mention the sideways and most recent saga of a lack of planning in respect of the required diversion. To be scrabbling around with nothing in place at this stage just beggars belief. There has been ample time to get it sorted, or indeed discuss and agree with National Government if there was local opposition, as it is a major trunk road.

(I suspect our LibDem MP and LibDem Council do not relish having to deal with a Tory Government, but that is seemingly what they are failing to do in any way effectively.)

I could divert to the sorry saga of the frisbee golf, or the rather sad saga of Tufa field, but thankfully these have also both been u-turned on. The LTNs are being spoken about by others, and all I might add here is that if you're going to close a road to traffic without consultation to encourage cycling, probably the last one in the city you would choose is North Road – the next one I am led to believe could well be Weston Lane It really does make you more than wonder.

I am nonetheless grateful to Cllr Guy who has imported from his time as a Labour Cllr in Telford at least some common sense from the recent past but am still concerned about his own agenda going forward, whether that be from his shifting political allegiances, or perhaps a desire to stand as an MP at the next General election.

In any case and with that background – to our rubbish and recycling...

We were the last City and Unitary Authority in the Country to open up a tip, with the resultant increase in fly tipping.

The ridiculous suggestion of a tip tax to get rid of Household DIY waste, with incorrectly sourced statistics to back up the decision, thankfully now itself binned.

The lack of alternatives or meaningful consultation to closing Midland Road.

It now is fairly easy to get in there on the booking system, but I am yet to be convinced by it. On a number of occasions, I have been the only car in there – previously there was often a queue, no matter what the time. I do ask myself where the missing carloads are going.

The lack of penalising those increased fly-tippers (only 36, or is it none, in the last 12 months) – seemingly down to Covid restrictions on anyone going out to gather evidence. – really!

The increase in failure to execute roadside collection at all – citing lack of drivers. I note you have only just started advertising for these, and no neighbouring authorities are, which either means they don't have such a problem, or they've got their act together better. I also note that you offer less-good terms which is likely to be a major factor.

You are trumpeting sending a greater proportion to 'burning for energy', a 27.8% increase in fact – this is not something to gloat about.

On the last figures available we have dropped from 18th in the country under the last administration, to 34th. With now more fly-tipping and a greater proportion of our recycled mats sent for burning, I cannot imagine we'll be back up there.

So, in summary, I'd ask this administration to

- live up to its's much trumpeted green agenda
- better control and prosecute the increased fly tippers
- Give us some viable alternatives to the Midland Road to consult on and agree in good order
- Swiftly publish the full facts of the recent consultation on recycling booking
- Be less inept