

**Public Question Time - County Council 24 September 2024**

	Name of person asking question	Time and date question received	Question
1.	Amy Chesworth	06/09/2024 15.36	<p>The council's decision to base transport eligibility on the "Nearest appropriate school" rather than the "Actual progressive school" for the area is creating significant disparities. Some children receive free transport while others, despite accessing the bus at the same stop as those approved for free transport, do not. There are many inconsistencies in the policy that need addressing, and it is concerning that these were not considered before implementation.</p> <p>This inconsistency has resulted in many parents struggling with the financial implications and undue stress as they manage transport costs. Additionally, there is the worry of children having to make their way to school if unable to pay for the bus due to the high costs per term, forcing them to walk down unsafe, highly trafficked roads at peak times. Furthermore, no assistance has been offered to families facing financial difficulties, nor has any exemption been provided for parents with health conditions that prevent them from driving their children to school.</p> <p>My question to you is, given the impact this policy is having on our village, could you commit to supporting a review of the policy or advocate for additional rules that consider the specific needs of our community? We are hopeful that with your backing, we can find a more equitable solution for all families involved.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this matter.</p>
2.	Lesley Murphy	06/09/2024 18.38	<p>Given that the current school transport policy places a significant financial burden on families living just outside the approved area, affecting both their mental well-being and financial stability, can we urge the council to reconsider the policy for those who are only a short distance away, and relieve our community of this unnecessary hardship?</p>