

Dear Committee,

Questions for

[South East Local Area Committee - Tuesday 22 September 2026 7.00 pm](#)

My name is Michael Meredith I am a resident of Owlthorpe in the Beighton Ward.

There has been much speculation regarding the hole that appeared under the Supertram on Birley Lane above the Dent Main Colliery.

Health & Safety are some of the main concerns.

Under the freedom of information ACT could you please answer the following Questions:

1. An ACT of Parliament formed the **Coal Authority** in 31 October 1994. The LAW of the Land states that before building over old Coal Mines the approval from the Coal Authority must be given. Did Sheffield City Council Seek approval?
2. The Supertram blue route takes the tram over Dent Main Colliery. Also, Holbrook, Westthorpe, and Birley East collieries are they Safe? If approval was given, could we see the report from The Coal Authority and their recommendations?
3. Michael Heseltine served as the Secretary of State for the Environment at the time. He was involved in the project by throwing out subsequent calls for a public inquiry in April 1991, allowing construction to begin later that year. Were health & Safety issues regarding the Mine workings overlooked when the Super Tram was first built?
4. In 2024 a 200ft sinkhole was found just behind Birley Moor Garden Centre, just across the road from Owlthorpe, the sinkhole leads down to Dent Main Colliery. Could you please supply a copy of the report supplied by the Coal Authority, regarding the 200ft Sinkhole & the subsequent recommendations?
5. Could you supply a copy of work carried out to make the site safe?
6. Will prob holes need to be made across the Supertram?

7. If prob holes show voids under the tracks will gallons of cement ned to be poured in to make the foundations of the track safe?

8. Both Commenters and local residents need to be patient. It takes time for the Coal Authority and Supertram engineers to make evaluations & recommendations. Could the reports & recommendations be made public?

9. An ACT of Parliament formed the **Coal Authority** in 31 October 1994, so in June 1995: when Michael Heseltine returned to the region in his role as President of the Board of Trade to conduct the official opening ceremony for further extensions of the network. Was the **Coal Authority** consulted?

10. Costs; I personally do not think it is fair for the Taxpayers of Sheffield to pick up the bill for repairs. Should the Council ask for the Government and Stagecoach to pay?

Thank you

Kimd Regards

Michael Meredith