

CALDERDALE METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

**QUESTION UNDER RULE 13 OF THE
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULES**

Council Meeting: Wednesday, 24 September 2025

Question from: Councillor Hutchinson

**Question to: Councillor Courtney, Cabinet Member with
responsibility for Regeneration and Transport**

It was good to see Councillor Courtney amongst the 200 or so people who gathered to picnic in Manor Heath Park on Sunday 14th September. The Picnic in the Park event was conceived and organised at short notice by Skircoat residents, so that local people could come together as a community to make clear that racism has no place here. The event was a great success.

Would Councillor Courtney like to join me in congratulating the organisers for seeing the project through to such an enjoyable and successful conclusion?

RESPONSE

Thank you, Councillor Hutchinson, for your question and of course I'm delighted to join you, and I'm sure most – I'd hope *all* – colleagues in this chamber, to congratulate the organisers of the community Picnic in the Park event on 14th September. It was indeed a great success; a lovely, warm, welcoming and friendly event attended by a diverse group of Calderdale residents. Welcoming and friendly, as well as resilient, are words I associate with Calderdale, and the community event is much more representative of the actions of the vast majority of Calderdale residents than the appalling racist incident which took part in the same park some weeks ago.

Calderdale's amazing kindness and resilience are summed up perfectly by our vibrant culture of volunteering and community action. We see people of all ages and backgrounds doing their bit to help each other, with a community spirit that's unrivalled. This is reflected in the quick response to this unprovoked racist attack, with volunteers from within the community rallying round and creating something positive and welcoming which, as you say, makes it clear that racism has no place here.

NOTE: Questions under Rule 13 must be in writing and submitted to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services by noon the Friday before the Council Meeting.