

Buxton Area Forum **Questions and Answers**

Wednesday 4th July 2007

Pre-Forum questions

Question

Can double yellow lines be added on the A6 that runs alongside Ashwood Dale, there is currently double parking and this is an accident waiting to happen?

Answer from Simon Tranter, Traffic Safety Manager, Derbyshire County Council

We are aware of the difficulties on the A6 in Ashwood Dale (Bakewell Road). At the moment however Derbyshire County Council is undertaking the Government initiative to Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) that will transfer the responsibility for parking enforcement from the Police to the Highway Authority. Once the application is approved Local authorities will be able to ensure that parking policies are implemented effectively with consequent benefits to parking flow, better management of overall traffic levels, a fairer distribution of parking places and will enable the local authority to be responsive to the public's needs. However, in the short term we have suspended processing any new Traffic Regulation Orders whilst records and Orders are updated onto a new parking computer system. This is only a temporary arrangement and once this process is complete we will endeavour to investigate implementing further waiting restrictions on A6 Ashwood Dale (Bakewell Road).

Follow-up response provided by Derbyshire County Council

It is considered that the introduction of double yellow lines along the A6 Bakewell Road is more appropriate than an extension of the clearway, which commences from the Morrison's roundabout towards Bakewell. The reason being that on the outskirts of the built up area a 24 hours clearway order may not achieve its intended purpose, as they are open to misinterpretation, often ignored, either deliberately or because of ignorance on the part of the driver. Such restrictions also lead to frequent demands on the Police Authority as Traffic Wardens cannot enforce such orders and therefore enforcement can only be carried out by Police Constables. Double yellow restrictions are much better understood by the public, better respected, and can of course be enforced by Traffic Wardens or indeed by Parking attendants once DCC obtains enforcement powers, should its future application for decriminalised parking be successful.

A previous query also questioned whether a clearway restriction had ever previously existed along this section of Bakewell Road and research of DCC archives found no evidence of such an Order. It should be noted however that for many years prior to the mid nineties the road did fall under the responsibility of the Highways Agency and not the County Council. It is not

therefore felt necessary to research the issue further and it is considered that even if a previous restriction had existed that it was more than likely removed in light of the reasons outlined above.

Question

Macclesfield Borough Council have installed small bins attached to lampposts for the disposal of chewing gum, can some be fitted near Weatherspoons in Buxton and in Spring Gardens?

Answer from Tony Robinson, Business Manager for Environmental Services, High Peak Borough Council

We are aware of the chewing gum problem in Spring Gardens and we regularly (twice a year) jet wash the area. There are particular 'hot spots' such as outside fast food takeaways and we shall be providing chewing gum disposal bins in these areas in the near future. The bins may also incorporate cigarette stub disposal facilities.

Question

When can we expect a Derbyshire County Council/ High Peak Borough Council parking scheme with identical terms, conditions, costs and residents concessions?

Answer from Amanda Watson –(Environmental Services) Derbyshire County Council

The differences arise because the two authorities have different policies for providing parking. HPBC is responsible for their own off-street car parks, so they set the prices, terms and conditions in line with their Councils policies. They are obliged to consult DCC but are not obliged to take on any recommendations. DCC is the Highway Authority and as such puts in parking schemes and restrictions to suit the conditions whilst maintaining a safe highway network. However, it is hoped that with the enforcement being joined together under Decriminalised Parking Enforcement (DPE) that the parking provision and policy will be become more interlinked in the future.

Question

Why were Solar Panels not incorporated into the Buxton Pool roof renewal programme given the ideal orientation of the roof slope and the environmental benefits and energy cost savings that could have been gained?

Answer from Ben Williams – High Peak Borough Council

The long-term future of the swimming pool is not certain. The Council is working with Derby University to see if a joint facility can be developed in the town. The current site is not large enough to accommodate such a development. Therefore, the Council has invested enough money to make the existing pool wind and water tight. The Council is committed to being "green," but that is based on good financial as well as environmental grounds. Solar systems cost a lot of money and the return on that investment would take a number of years to realise, therefore, with the uncertainty around the buildings

future this has not been pursued at this stage. The Council is looking at possible green energy schemes and this could be an area to look at in future.

Questions asked during the forum

Update on the Crescent: Given by Gerald Tommy Derbyshire County Council

Question:

What if the necessary legal documents for securing the project are not completed?

Answer: Gerald Tommy DCC

They make take time but should be put in place.

Update on Pavilion Gardens: Given by Councillor Jonathan Davey

Question:

How will the local community be represented in the discussions on the future of the Crescent?

Answer: Cllr Davey

Community Groups are represented, for example, the Save the Gardens group is made up of residents. Cllr Bill Weston also has a lot of local feedback from residents. Vision Buxton represents residents as well.

Question:

Should there not be greater weighting of resident's views?

Answer: Cllr Davey:

There are many groups that also have residents involved and these groups are involved in the discussions.

Question:

Will there be any divestment of any part of the complex in the future?

Answer: Cllr Davey.

I see the building as belonging to Buxton.

Question:

What is the timetable for the decision on the future of the gardens?

Answer: Cllr Davey

There are short-term things we can do now to improve the profitability. The long-term future probably begins with taking expert advice on what our options are.

Presentation on Decriminalised Car Parking Proposals: Amanda Watson DCC

Question:

I can't park on the street where I live in the town centre. What can be done to help residents?

Answer: A Watson

We can work together to try and improve the situation by considering residents schemes.

Question: Ashwood Dale by the park was a clearway. When was it revoked? If it wasn't why isn't it enforced? The route is important for pedestrians.

Answer: A Watson

I don't know details of the particular road but I will look into clearway order.

Gerald Tommy DCC:

I took this question away from the last meeting and I will follow it up.

Comment: The clearway needs to be enforced.

Question:

The Ashwood Dale Area has potential for accidents and something needs to be done about a crossing.

Answer: A Watson

DCC has limited budget for crossings and it is allocated on need. The priority will be known accident sites. We will look at each location and the options.

Follow-up response from Derbyshire County Council:

The County Council shares the desire for a pedestrian crossing to be provided in this location and as a consequence a bid was submitted for funding from this years budget. Unfortunately, due to the high demands on the capital funding from the Government, only a limited number of schemes could be achieved within the budget provided. It is intended therefore to re-submit the bid for the scheme in the new financial year commencing April 2008. The yellow lines intended for the previous item may of course deter indiscriminate parking from occurring and in the interim the Police will be made aware of the parking on the footway.

Question:

There is a Problem of parking outside sheltered accommodation in Alma St. Can't yellow lines be put in?

Answer: A Watson

We can't just put lines in, as it is a legal process that takes at least six to nine months. From the description a bus stop clearway may be possible in the lay by. But, if emergency access is an issue we would co-ordinate with the emergency services to investigate.

Follow-up response from Derbyshire County Council

Officers will investigate the request for double yellow lines and the outcome reported back to a future meeting.

Question:

Will ring fenced money coming from fines be permanently available in the future or will it be allocated elsewhere?

Answer: A Watson

This can be written into the agreement that the ring fencing remains.

Question:

Will concessionary parking from 10-4pm be in the new scheme?

Answer: Cllr Davey.

Parking and parking charges will be reviewed. The Executive and conservative group want to retain that measure.

Question:

Why are there differential charges between Buxton and Whaley for car parking?

Answer: Cllr Davey

We will review this.

Question:

Who is responsible for on street parking? Is there a named Officer?

Answer: A Watson

The responsibility is still the police until DCC take over. If there is an issue around an on-street paid for parking and enforcement then this should be referred to Environmental Services in DCC.

Anti social behaviour and alcohol. Presentation by PC Sandra Barlow

The Police is making an Application for a Designated Public Places Order. It would apply to certain streets and mean that alcohol could not be drunk on the streets unless done so in a controlled manner. Areas are in within the Town Centre 'Carnival route'. It will be advertised for comment for 28 days. One such order has made a difference in New Mills Town Centre.

Question:

Does this mean a lot of extra signs for people to be aware of area?

Answer: PC Barlow

Yes A4 size signs.

Question:

What about temple fields and possible displacement of drinking?

Answer: PC Barlow

If this occurs we have other powers to deal with disorderly conduct. We could also extend the scheme. Question

Question:

What is being done about under age drinking and selling to minors?

Answer: PC Barlow

We know that there is a lot and we have had an operation to address this. We can take alcohol off young people in the street. 13-20 yr olds in groups need to be dealt with differently. We have a number of different activities to try and engage with the young people and work with them. A lot of it is on Friday night. Trading Standards also try and target this problem.

Question:

What is new administration doing about young peoples activities and what priority is it being given.

Answer: Cllr Davey.

We think it is important. The following presentation answers the question.

Question:

Will powers under this order preclude drinking in public places e.g. opera house or public house?

Answer: PC Barlow

No, if they are doing so sensibly.

Youth Diversionary Activities- Presentation by Rob Wilks – Youth Sports Development Officer, High Peak BC

Safer Communities Through Sport is a Partnership project with 3 year funding for my post. Work to engage young people is ongoing in Buxton with Police, Connexions and the Youth Service. Safer Communities Through Sport activities will go alongside these activities. We are addressing youth engagement through Street Sports. The project will have professional coaches going into areas to encourage young people who don't attend clubs etc to get involved in sport. Police will decide on the areas. The project has worked well in Chapel. Coaches have equipment to work with young people on different sports. The project will start on Friday and go over the summer holidays will then link into a longer-term project over 12 months. If it works then we hope to be able to get funding to sustain it. We want to signpost young people to go further in sport and get involved in other things.

Question:

What age range do you deal with? Is there a gap for 16-18?

Answer: R Wilks

8-16 is the age range for Safer Communities Through Sport. The Youth Service deals with up to 19 yrs old. Fairfield youth centre is for 8-13 so street sports would be good for older ones.

Answer:

We hoped this would be the case and we will be advertising it widely.

Comment from the floor:

I was involved in High Peak Community Housing sessions. DCC cater for 13-19 we work with 11yrs up but don't work with primary school children. At Buxton For Youth we have 40 young people coming along. A Survey was done Countywide and young people were invited to make decisions on where

£1m should be spent. YP wanted provision on Friday night. We sometimes don't get support from residents. DCC have leaflets advertising provision.
R Wilks: we need to work together and not duplicate effort.

Question:

I have young people using the alleyway next to my house because older young people in certain areas intimidate them. Could parents help in a supervisory capacity in the Fairfield Area?

Answer: R Wilks

We have been working with HPCH and police in Fairfield and did a cleanup in the area mentioned with young people. Street Sports will be happening in the Heath grove area subject to risk assessments.