

**Buxton Area Forum**  
**Questions and Answers**

**Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

**Pre-Forum questions**

**Question**

The present location is not user friendly especially for those without a car. What happened to the suggestion that the public library should move into the University which is much more accessible? Failing that move what about somewhere within the Crescent (as used to be provided) or within Spring Gardens?

**Answer from Don Gibbs, Assistant Director, Cultural and Community Services Department, Derbyshire County Council**

The current location of Buxton Library was the best site available to the County Council given the extremely unusual circumstances which forced its relocation from the Crescent at very short notice. While the library may not be ideally situated for all customers in relation to the town centre it is a good size, has extensive free parking and is very well used by local people.

In terms of relocating the current building to an alternative site there are a number of other library buildings within the county, which are in much greater need of relocation or refurbishment. Any proposals for relocating Buxton Library would need to fit in with these other priorities and there are currently no plans to relocate the existing library.

**Question**

If we have to stay with the present location could plenty of spaces for parking be reserved for library users close to the doors? Too often we have to walk from the far distance in the car park with a load of heavy books.

**Answer from Don Gibbs, Assistant Director, Cultural and Community Services Department, Derbyshire County Council**

The library is very fortunate to have access to a large shared car park which also serves a range of other service providers. There is good level access, there are designated spaces for customers with disabilities immediately adjacent to the library entrance and the size of the car park means there are always parking spaces to be found. It is frequently possible for customers to find a parking space near to the library entrance but I regret that this cannot be guaranteed given the shared nature of the car park.

**Question**

The focus is on design and place making strategy (whatever that may mean) What attention been paid to the land use which will be incorporated to help people decide upon the "fitness for purpose" of what is proposed?

**Answer (Richard Tuffrey – Business Manager, Planning, Policy and Design)**

The work undertaken to date on the Design & Place Making Strategy was explained at the Area Forum meeting but will also be displayed in an exhibition to be placed in the Pavilion Gardens during the first part of April. The vision and design principles agreed at the workshops to date are not linked to land uses. However, the third and final workshop (5.30 pm, April 27, Paxton Suite) will apply these principles to some key sites. Assumptions will then have to be made about land uses that will be explained at the workshop.

**Question**

As the Spring Gardens area is the greater centre of economic activity in central Buxton and since the government is pressing for greater use of public transport what provision is being incorporated to access public transport to all parts of Buxton as well as neighbouring areas and towns? Should there be a transport interchange in Spring Gardens, not just street side bus stops for some services, rather than in the market place?

**Answer (To follow)**

**Question**

Where is High Peak Borough Council up to with the plans for a new pool?

**Answer (Ben Williams – Strategic Director, Community Services)**

The Council are working with DC Leisure, who operate the pool on the Council's behalf, to refurbish the existing facility. The Council is not in the position to pay for a new pool. To flatten the existing building and then re-build a new one would mean that there would not be a pool available in Buxton for probably two years and the cost would be circa £7,000,000. The Council did try and look at a joint venture with the University of Derby, but all the sites that were reviewed as potential locations have for one reason or another not been feasible i.e. cost too much to acquire, prevented by a Town Green application. It is anticipated that we will have some proposals for the pool before the summer, which we will consult on with local people and existing users. If everything goes to plan, then we would look to start the refurbishment works in the Autumn this year.

**Questions asked at the forum**

**Question**

The library talk was billed as a consultation what and how are we being consulted?

**Answer**

We want to find out what people want from the libraries both users and non-users. Comment sheets and pre-paid reply envelopes are available for you to

comment on library services. The service really wants to hear what people have to say about how services can be improved.

**Question**

It has been mentioned about a proposal of joint working between the High Peak Borough Council and the University to provide leisure facilities in Buxton. Is this still going to happen?

**Answer**

The proposal for the joint provision of leisure facilities between the Council and the University is not going to happen due to a lack of suitable sites and other issues. Therefore the Council is now looking at the current pool and leisure facilities as a way forward.

**Question**

The Paxton suite will be undergoing refurbishments soon is there going to be the provision of a cinema included?

**Answer**

There will not be a permanent cinema included in the plans but the equipment will be available to provide the facility but this would be dependent on demand.

**Feedback** - I currently don't have a tv. Not having a tv means that I use the libraries a lot although I have to say that I have used Buxton library less than any other library I've used before.

**Question**

What evidence do we have that Sainsburys' applications have been turned down before?

**Answer**

Every planning application follows the same process and is put before the Development Control committee and is judged on it's own merit once the plans have been validated.

**Question**

Are there any plans for Buxton library?

**Answer**

There are no immediate plans due to current budgetary restrictions. There are no plans to move or provide another place for the library. There are currently higher priorities in other areas, which need the attention, Belper, Matlock and South Normanton. We are currently looking at the refurbishment of Glossop library and a planning application has recently been submitted. Derbyshire County Council will be taking over the building from High Peak Borough Council. Inevitably the upkeep of the buildings is important to the County Council.