



Update on the September 2008 Buxton Area Forum

The Buxton Area Forum is one of 4 Forums covering the High Peak area. These meetings are open to everybody living or working in the High Peak and provide the opportunity for residents and businesses to question, debate and influence local decisions.

Your Council Tax

In the last round of area forums we discussed your priorities for Council tax expenditure in 2009/10. Residents were invited to look at 19 different 'themes' for expenditure in small groups. These were:

- Affordable decent housing
- Support people to live independently
- Vibrant town and village centres
- Highways, roads and transport
- Activities for children and young people
- Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime
- Tourism
- Clean Streets
- Strengthening a sense of community
- Improve qualifications, skills and job prospects
- Access to services

Residents were then asked to prioritise their top five themes. The top five priorities were identified as:

- **Affordable decent housing**
- **Educational attainment**
- **Improve qualifications, skills and job prospects**
- **Improve health and wellbeing**
- **Reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime**

These have been fed back into the budget and planning process for each agency to identify its priorities over the next three years.

Going Local

The Council has set aside £20,000 for environmental improvements in each of the forum areas over the last two years, under a scheme called Going Local and is continuing the scheme this year. Regular updates on the progress of projects are given at each forum. We will update you on some of the projects during the meeting. Please give us more suggestions on the feedback form.

The Going Local panel have approved the following projects this year in response to your suggestions:

- Additional sessions for the summer sports scheme at Harpur Hill
- Contribution towards the Fernydale grasslands project
- Corbar Woods footpath restoration project funding

Buxton Issues update

The Crescent – The investigative works (ground conditions) are being carried out in three stages. The first two stages are now complete and the third stage will be starting shortly. This will involve further drilling and digging to show ground conditions to enable full detailed designs to be drawn up.

Pavilion Gardens – Following the Cafe refurbishment, the second phase of the Great Hall refurbishment should be complete by the end of March. The new area will house the Tourist Information Centre, and Art Gallery and a gift boutique.

Buxton Swimming Pool – The Council has signed up to the National Free Swim initiative for under 16s and over 60s, starting from 1 April for the next 2 years. Initial work has started to look at the future refurbishment of the Buxton Swimming Pool.