

Buxton Area Forum, Thursday 30th June 2005

Notes

Chair: Cllr Barbara Wilson, Derbyshire County Council & High Peak Borough Council

Background – Mike Ashworth, Derbyshire County Council

- Responsibility for roads, buses etc
- Derbyshire County Council's Traffic Manager
- Senior partner on Camera Safety Partnership
- Every 5 years, a transport plan must be submitted
- Brings over £100m into Derbyshire
- Submitting new Transport Plan in autumn (Oct/Nov), an overall framework of what Derbyshire County Council (DCC) is seeking to achieve.
- Public now have opportunity to have a say in this.
- DCC spent over £1.6m in Buxton over last 5 years; also money spent on safety measures
- Carried out town consultations in 2002
- This highlighted priorities at the time, now going through same exercise
- Every year DCC spend £1.5m on supported services
- Invested in local community transport services in Buxton, e.g. 'dial a ride' etc
- Safety Camera Partnership – 115 fixed cameras across county. Business cases for this must be submitted to government every year: no profit comes from this, all monies goes straight to Central Government. Money used for things like accident reduction. Fatal accident in community, costs nearly £1m
- AA looked at riskiest roads & 4 of those lead into Buxton. Use this to look at casualty sites & now look at route treatment & enhancements – how we can improve signage, lining, surfaces etc
- Out of £100m, 50% is spent on road re-surfacing. This needs prioritising; principal roads, roads with heavy traffic flow etc. Realise that we can't address all issues.
- Call centre – takes calls on all sorts of things; winter maintenance; serious defects on roads etc. can send teams out within 24 hours to address those issues. Calls are tracked.
- Increased likelihood of decriminalisation of parking, looking at possibility of taking over enforcement in some areas, from Police
- Parking issues in Buxton; need to stop those from parking where they could use off street parking; want to stop centres from being clogged; want to address issues raised by local residents. It's about striking a balance.
- Invested huge amount in public transport – one of the most comprehensive bus networks in the country; invest in partnerships to offer concessionary travel schemes, e.g. Gold Card with HPBC. Also Young Persons' travel scheme. Issue of rural transport. Want to look at transport usage too.
- Accidents are always a priority; safety is paramount
- Government has highlighted need for local authorities to co-ordinate street works – DCC consider this important.