

Buxton Area Forum, Wednesday 21st December 2005
Notes; Questions and Answers

Reference: **01BXN 21/12/05 Buxton**

Question:

- i. Why does the pedestrainised area at Spring Gardens not get gritted in heavy snow and bad ice?
- ii. Why do the car parks behind Sommerfield and adjacent to Marks and Spencer not get gritted?
- iii. Why are all celebrations in Buxton e.g. Christmas lights switch-on, targeted at the top of town and not in Spring Gardens.

Reference: **02BXN 21/12/05 Volunteering**

Question: High Peak Council for Voluntary Service did some research in 2003 and found that in the High Peak, 364,520 hours of volunteering was undertaken assisting members of the community in a variety of ways. Does High Peak Borough Council regard the voluntary sector as value for money and will it be considered as one of the Council's spending priorities

Questions from the meeting:

Q: Buxton water/ Christmas decorations

2 years ago, TZ was selling Xmas trees & it looked joyful, the whole scene, but the Council said 'no', why doesn't the Council encourage this?

TZ: It wasn't the Council, it was the Buxton Town Centre P/ship that organised the whole thing, but there isn't the money in the budget.

Q: Why don't we get more remuneration from Buxton Water?

A: We do, but it goes to keep the Council tax down.

Q: The houses being built in Buxton, do they have play areas built in?

A: Yes, depending on proximity. £30,000 on new equipment doesn't get you that far, people may be better re-directed to existing facilities & improve them. Plus, there would undoubtedly be complaints in the future regarding noise & nuisance.

There are new play areas going in Ashwood Park next year, plans afoot. Should encourage visitors to Buxton.

Q: People park their cars for 2 hours, but can't renew it for another 2 hours?

A: Technically, probably true, but in practice, difficult to monitor.

Q: The 2 hour rule was for when it was free on the Crescent?

A: Yes, that's where it's come from.

Q: If we get lots of people to come & work in High Peak, & builders have to come & build houses for those who have to come & live here, when does the cycle stop?

A: We will ALWAYS need well-paid jobs here; we want to see local youngsters get good quality jobs in the area, so they don't have to move out. We do need to attract quality industry & jobs in the area. There are people leaving the area to work daily, who would rather work here.

Comment: It's not just young people who are affected by this.

Q: Have you ever walked round Pavillion Gardens at night and been intimidated?

A: We understand what you are saying; a large group of young people can be intimidating. But most young people are very well behaved & not threatening.

Police A: We get very few responses from the public re Pavillion Gardens, it's not seen as an unsafe area.

Comment from floor: I believe the situation has got worse; young people drinking alcohol.

Police A: 1) Our perception is based on comparisons with other areas' crime figures, data.

2) We put resources where we think they're needed. Speak to Officer after meeting; beat officers will respond where necessary, particularly about drinking in the streets.

Comment from floor: I've seen youths drinking & shouting for 2 hours, being watched by a CCTV camera that doesn't move. I shouldn't have to complain to the Police when there are cameras there? They should be monitored & moved round at regular intervals.

Police: We don't have enough staff to monitor every camera, they are often fixed on hot spots. Some move routinely, it depends on the location & need. Some can be fixed in areas of recurrent crime for evidence gathering. We still rely on local people to be good neighbours.

Q: Does the Council invest our money?

A: Yes, we have zero bank balance to maximise our assets.

Q: Does the Council have money set aside for maintenance projects, ie the swimming pool?

A: Yes, we do. We acknowledge that the pool is in a sorry state. We do not want to put a large amount of money into investment onto Buxton Pool, if we are going to build a new pool in the near future. Are we better off, pulling it down & starting from scratch? However, it's unrealistic to expect a new leisure complex.

Comment: But you know the roof will need repairing, also tennis courts, do you put money aside?

A: We have an asset management plan, to look after our assets better than ever before.

Q: A club would be expected to put money aside, to match any grant funding for match funding.

Discussion around the use of tennis courts at Ashwood Park and the resurfacing of it.

Q: Why do we pay for a free library service?

A: DCC has figures to show that number of users constantly increasing as is the breadth of service offered.

Comment: Should be decided on basis of need.