

Buxton Area Forum, Wednesday 29th March 2006

Questions and Answers

Reference: **01BXN 29/3/06 Traffic concerns**

Question: There is local concern about traffic and parking at the Burbage end of Green Lane as well as Duke Street and Holmfield. With significant development in course of construction and in the pipeline, the central area of Burbage is likely to be busier in the next few years. What steps are the County Council taking to protect the Public against an increasing and worrying Community Safety risk?

Answer: DCC Highways department are now aware of this and are sending an officer to make an initial investigation. Once further information is available, a full response will be posted on the website.

Follow up query: Resident concerned that there is no co-ordinated way in which housing and traffic issues are approached. DCC must have known about Burbage, why has it taken so long for them to address this?

HPBC answer: 1) HPBC produce a Development Plan alongside a DCC transport plan and the two do co-incide.
2) A planning application is always put past the county highway authority and they may be resources available to alleviate the problem on an ad hoc basis. A system is in place.

Comment: There is no strategic look at developments, e.g. the issue in Burbage. Both councils must get together at the start and consider these issues strategically before things get worse.

Reference: 02BXN 29/3/06 Empty houses

Question: Have HPBC/ HPCH considered the use of EDMOs (Empty Dwelling Management Orders), to help the housing problem?

Answer: Yes; central government have allocated funds for these. Legislation now allows for a Compulsory Purchase Order if a property seems to be empty. The houses may then ultimately be available for social housing.

Reference: 03BXN 29/3/06 Parking for new housing developments

Question: Are plans going to be submitted for off-road parking for new housing developments? There is a problem of people parking on pavements.

Answer from Police: Pavement parking was brought up previously, resulting in campaign, 'Pavements are for People'. There is a growing number of cars per house. Local policing teams can tackle these problems; we can raise these as priority issues. We [Police] need to revisit this, as it's come back up again.

Answer from HPBC: Affordable, new housing should have same type of parking provision as any other housing. It's not of a 'lower' standard, indeed, often the opposite. Town centre locations may not always be built with parking provision.

Answer from HPCH: Pre-war properties don't always have parking provision. An environmental review is being undertaken and this includes tackling parking issues; we are trying to increase amount of parking.

Reference: 04BXN 29/3/06 Demographic information

Question: Can we have more information on projected demographic numbers? We need that information to make informed decisions/comments.

Answer: We can put information and link on website (with DCC). *Pending*

Reference: 05BXN 29/3/06 Amenities for new builds

Question: New build houses have garages, but often not big enough, hence off-road parking. Do new houses have enough amenities catered for? What's happening with Haddon Hall? It's an eyesore.

Answer: Have heard of small-garage syndrome, but garages often filled with junk, rather than what they were built for anyway. Government standards aim to decrease parking, but we [HPBC] don't necessarily agree with this.

Local Plan aims to ensure new housing is within walking distance of schools, shops etc.

The former Haddon Hall Hotel had planning application submitted for its re-use last year and we [HPBC] are actively working with owners to secure its improvement and re-use.

Comment: Not everyone as access to website. Want more warning for meetings, so that we can prepare questions in advance.

Buxton Leisure Facilities presentation – please see attached pdf.

After the presentations, a more in-depth opportunity for questions was given in the 'market place'.

Summary of market place sessions

Buxton Leisure Facilities

- General discussion, good feedback about the option processes
- Suggestions on forming other strategic alliances; eg Health Authority
- Discussion around sites other than listed 4
- Examples of Best Practice in the education sector
- Only a few questionnaires submitted – PLEASE HAND THEM IN
- Existing site seems to be favoured; Temple Fields too

HPBC Planning

- Discussion around those struggling to get on property ladder
- Relationship between highways/ new housing discussed
- Nature of affordable housing and accessibility
- Concern over re-development into flats which may not be in keeping with local flavour

HPCH

- Debate around disability issues; how we recognise disability in 'choice-based' letting systems
- No 'average' disability
- Roofing issue; stock condition survey identified necessary milestones to achieve Decent Homes standard.
- Right-to-buy properties still being lost through this system. Council can't build properties so have to look at other ways to provide affordable housing.