

Central Area Forum, Wednesday 14th September 2005

Questions and Answers

Reference: 01CNT 14/09/05 **CCTV cameras**

Question: What role do you see for CCTV cameras?

Answer: There are 31 cameras in High Peak, 9 in New Mills, much of the information can not be shown to the public, but the police use the cameras regularly, 24hrs per day. 17 public order incidents per week are reported by camera operatives, as well as monitoring missing person reports etc. The CCTV cameras are the eyes and ears of the High Peak and the service is currently under review. Police have a pro-active regime of monitoring CCTVs, even if it doesn't always appear so, eg at New Mills bus station. Police will take back questioner's concerns regarding this.

Reference: 02CNT 14/09/05 **Speed limits**

Question: On the A6105 between Birch Vale to New Mills there is a particularly bad patch of road between the Waltzing Weasel Pub and the Station Road Junction on the A6105 and I am given to understand it is not on the current plan for improvement. Likewise, Market Street, in the centre of New Mills, is in a bad state. Both cracks and numerous patches. There are other areas which residents are unhappy about. When can we expect some action from the County? At present It feels as if we are being ignored because we are at the edge of the county.

Answer: DCC has to prioritise and carry out work where it is most needed, with regard to the condition of the highway, volume of traffic, etc regardless of where it is in the County. Unfortunately the severe pressure on the Maintenance budget means that not all the repairs can be funded at the immediately.

Both the roads mentioned are on the reserve list of schemes but have not yet reached the required priority for implementation. Neither are in a dangerous condition but they are clearly untidy and uneven. However, the section of A6015 from the Waltzing Weasel to Birch Hall Close is to be resurfaced this financial year to improve its skid resistance.

Reference: 03CNT 14/09/05 ASB

Question: How do you measure reduction in fear of anti social behaviour?

Answer: Through feedback from the community; Citizens Panel are regularly asked relevant questions.

Reference: 04CNT 14/09/05 More visible Police presence

Question: Why don't you celebrate success more? Visible police out on the streets re-assures people – can we have more?

Answer: Police agree with the need for more visible officers and good publicity.

Reference: 05CNT 14/09/05 Dispersal orders

Question: What is a dispersal order?

Answer: A defined area agreed between the Police and local authority where 16 to 18 year olds can be told to leave a particular area or taken home. It is seen as a last option and can be enforced on groups of two or more, if they return within 24 hours they can be arrested.

Reference: 06CNT 14/09/05 Whaley Bridge train station

Question: Issues around Whaley Bridge train station

Answer: Whaley Bridge does have a Neighbourhood Police officer who is doing excellent work. CCTV under consideration. New officer to come. Please ring about every incident so that it can be dealt with. Police can only deal with those who commit offences. There is a need for additional youth provision to give young people things to do / places to go.

Reference: 07CNT 14/09/05 Underage drinking

Question: How do we address youth drinking? Can police take alcohol away from them?

Answer: Yes, Police can remove alcohol from young people, if they catch them. There is an arts project about under age drinking to tackle the problem at its root. Police also seek to enforce off licence code of practice.

Reference: 08CNT 14/09/05 Youth provision

Question: What are we doing to find places for youths to play ball etc?

Answer: HPBC and DCC exploring this issue with the Youth Forum. It is a high priority. Is bringing back youth clubs and answer? Youth service has been revamped to engage modern young people which has doubled the uptake. Mobile vans go around hot spots in the evenings and schools by day – does not provide ‘a place to go’. Is an indoor sports facility an answer?

Reference: 09CNT 14/09/05 ‘Friends of ...’ groups

Question: ‘Friends of’ parks and railway stations’ groups are being set up to look after some areas. Why do some areas get Police teams and others don’t?

Answer: Whaley Bridge now has an officer, with more to come. Limited resources are deployed on an ‘as needed’ basis.

Statement: Anti-social behaviour is not just ‘youths’. Social isolation cuts both ways. Climbing walls on trucks work well but more provision required.

Reference: 10CNT 14/09/05 **Drugs**

Question: Is there a drug problem in the central High Peak area?

Answer: Yes. Drugs exist in all areas. Scale of problem depends on crime to fund habits. The Police have a three pronged attack – intelligence, prevention, enforcement. There is evidence of increased awareness in schools.

Reference: 11CNT 14/09/05 **Young people**

Question: Are we unfairly excluding young people from 'social' opportunities?

Answer: Young people are also afraid of bullying and anti-social behaviour; young people are not the problem – they are the future. Discount on leisure facilities – B-Line card. We must make more effort to communicate with them on their terms, such as the use of mobile phones. Home is not always a safe place for young people. The work we do with families is not always, visible but important. HPBC can increasingly use 'Connect' magazine as a way of reaching young people.

Reference: 12CNT 14/09/05 **Youth provision**

Question: There has been a lot of concern following the closure of the Youth Club Building. What provision is there in Whaley Bridge and are there any plans for a new building or Youth Club?

Answer: Whaley Bridge Youth Centre has not closed and the youth service is currently delivering one evening of youth provision from it. In addition, one evening Health project is being delivered from the mobile information unit located in the town centre.

Question: Do we need more opportunities for whole families to have fun together?

Comment: Chapel film project involving youth and elderly working together was helpful.

Comment: Are worthy middle class activities enough? Different attitude in thee past – discipline came from the community not just the police. Fewer police now, more unemployment, less affordable housing.

Reference: 13CNT 14/09/05 Stronger communities

Question: How can we ensure that people have a stake in their communities?

Comment: Begins with parental responsibility, disappointed that others have not pointed out that it begins at home.

Reference: 14CNT 14/09/05 Road maintenance

Question: On the A6105 between Birch Vale to New Mills there is a particularly bad patch of road between the Waltzing Weasel Pub and the Station Road Junction on the A6105 and I am given to understand it is not on the current plan for improvement. Likewise, Market Street, in the centre of New Mills, is in a bad state. Both cracks and numerous patches. There are other areas which residents are unhappy about. When can we expect some action from the County? At present It feels as if we are being ignored because we are at the edge of the county.

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Reference: 15CNT 14/09/05 Road maintenance

Question: Hayfield, Church Street There is a footpath that begins on the lower half of the road on one side, continues on the other side for a few yards and stops. A provision for a complete footpath appears on the village plan, but, so far, there is no sign of its implementation, traffic is moving quickly down the hill, waiting for traffic to come up they speed up. People who are not quick on their feet, poor sighted, children and people with buggies are in danger.
As traffic seems to be getting worse in the street, the continuation of footpath is badly needed. How soon will we see it implemented?

Answer: The County Council works closely with Hayfield Parish Council and although there are no current plans for the construction of this footway, the possible benefits are appreciated. However, the construction of a footway may be difficult with level differences and would involve the removal of some parking which may not be met favourably with local residents. Members of the North West Traffic Group are hoping to meet with the Hayfield Traffic Group in the new year to discuss various issues such as this in the village and look at ways in which schemes can be taken forward and added to future years work programme.
As you can appreciate the Councils requests for such measures far outweighs the amount of available resources however the safety of pedestrians is a high priority.

Next Central Area Forum - Wed 7th December: Budgets and prioritise spending