

Central Area Forum, Wednesday 19th July 2006

Questions and Answers

Reference: 01CNL 19/07/06 Future of Youth Club

Question: What are DCC's plans for the future of the Youth Club and building on Wharf Road, Whaley Bridge?

Answer: Property Services are in the process of selling the building.

Whaley Bridge

The building is subject to an annual condition review and has come to the end of its natural life. The Head of Youth Services has attended two public meetings organised by Whaley Bridge Town Council to outline the Youth Service plans for working with young people. Local residents have expressed a view that if the building is to be sold then the asset from the sale should be invested in a new community building. The Youth Service is supporting a bid from a Community Group to develop new provision for young people.

Implications:

No groups other than the Youth Service use the centre and this is only for one evening session per week. In addition, a weekly young people's health project is delivered from the mobile unit in the town centre. It is proposed to retain the health project but close the youth club session and replace it by transporting young people to the Youth Resource Centre at Chapel where they will have access to a better quality of provision. The Youth Service is also working with a voluntary group which is seeking funding to develop a café based project in the town. It is proposed to close the building in August 2006 and declare it surplus to requirements, returning it to Estates for disposal.

DCC follow-up response on the night: The current building is in a poor state.

Secondary Q on the night: Where in Whaley Bridge can there be a comparable service to young people as in the Youth Club? Why did DCC tell staff their services were no longer needed? Why did DCC allow it to become dilapidated? Why were DCC uninterested in other non-youth activities that took place at the youth club – it was also a community centre?

A: DCC primary concern is about youth services and the club was not used as such.

Follow-up Q: 'Alternative provision is being provided', but about 40 kids use the club at the moment, enjoying a range of facilities. How can a mobile van compare with this, does it really provide the necessary services?

A: Yes, numbers have increased. The building isn't in a fit state; we are in partnership with Footsteps, who are hoping to turn their cellar into provision for young people. We have also contacted Whaley Bridge Town Council to see if we can work in partnership with them, as well as with High Peak Borough Council. Chapel Youth Club has a whole generic range of activities and provision can be arranged for young people to go by bus to Chapel from Whaley Bridge.

Follow-up Q: As a Chapel Parish councillor, has any research been done as to why young people go from Whaley Bridge to Chapel to use their provision?

A: No definite answer, maybe it's because they go to the same school and want to see their friends there. Rachel Mycock will carry out a survey amongst the members at Whaley Bridge.

Reference: 02CNL 19/07/06 Footsteps

Question: What are DCC's plans to use Footsteps for youth provision?

Answer: In discussion with Footsteps, the youth service initially will operate on one evening per week, but this may increase as the project develops. The youth service will also be supporting Footsteps with training and young people's involvement in the project.

Reference: 03CNL 19/07/06 Sports Pavilion and MUGA

Question: What are DCC's plans to use the sports pavilion and MUGA in Whaley Bridge for youth provision?

Answer: The youth service mobile unit will be based at the MUGA for one evening per week and working in partnership with Whaley Bridge Town Council and High Peak Borough Council to offer sports provision on site.

Reference: 04CNL 19/07/06 Opening times of youth club

Question: How many nights will the Youth Club and Footsteps be open?

Answer: Youth Service input in Whaley Bridge will at present be 2 evenings per week.

Reference: 05CNL 19/07/06 Youth club letting

Question: When can the letting of the Youth Club begin?

Answer: As the youth centre is likely to be sold, there will not be any opportunity to hire it out.

Reference: 06CNL 19/07/06 Area budget?

Question: What is the budget for the area?

Answer: The current staffing budget for Whaley Bridge equates to 5 part-time youth workers. In addition there is a percentage use of the mobile unit; professional youth service staff and local project funds.

Follow-up Q: What does that mean in practice?

A: That there is enough staffing to operate 2 evenings per week. Additional funding will support curriculum vehicles such as the mobile climbing wall, POD, Arts Mobile and Adventurous activities. Extra staffing is available for summer activities, residentials and short term projects. All the provision at Whaley Bridge is managed by a full time district worker.

Questions from the night

Q: I have mixed feelings about the youth club being closed, but I understand from tonight's presentation that there will be sports facilities available and also via MUGA?

A: Derbyshire County Council will site its mobile unit at the MUGA, and will pay a letting to Whaley Bridge Town Council for its usage. In partnership with HPBC, sports coaches will also be available to encourage young people to use the facilities within a structured programme of activities.

Follow-up information from Connexions Derbyshire

94.9% of young people (Year 11 School Leavers) from the High Peak went into Education, Training or Employment in November 2005.

This compares with 71.6% across Derbyshire and 71.5% in England.