

## **Glossopdale Area Forum, Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005**

### **Questions and Answers**

#### **Feedback from September meeting Questions**

**Reference:** September meeting      **'Pavements are for People'**

**Question:** What is the Councils policy on A-boards on pavements? How is this policed?

**Answer:** DCC seeks to ensure that the highway is unobstructed. Where A-boards or other items cause obstruction, they are either removed immediately or letters sent seeking the removal. However, DCC recognises that display of goods and A-boards are part of the street scene. Therefore, if no obstruction is taking place, action is not taken. This will usually be associated with wide or little used footways.

**Reference:** September meeting      **Signpost service?**

**Question:** Does the Council run a service called signpost? If so what is it?

**Answer:** The County Council does not run a specific service called signpost but commissions a number of voluntary agencies to provide signposting and support services in various parts of Derbyshire. These services direct families and carers to appropriate services to meet specific needs.

**Reference:** September meeting      **Activities for young people**

**Question:** Are Youth Activities advertised on the County Councils Website? If so would it be possible to have a hyperlink to the section from High peak Borough Council website?

**Answer:** Detailed information is not published on the website however the service is looking at ways of improving its publicity.

## Questions submitted for November 30<sup>th</sup> meeting

**Reference:** 01GD 30/11/05 **Proposed Gamesley railway station.**

**Question:** When is work likely to commence on this project and the associated projects such as pedestrian access from Simmondley? Many residents of both Simmondley and Gamesley communities currently need to walk at least 20 mins to the nearest train station (Dinting) therefore making car driving an attractive alternative. Have the allocated funds\* from the building company (Bett brothers – Simmondley Vale) been earmarked for this project and if not, where has/will the money been spent.

\*These funds were promised to the local council when applying for permission to build the estate in Simmondley Vale (off Hunters Lane)

**Answer:** The proposed Gamesley railway station is a project which needs to be assessed against the New Stations Policy criteria, created by the erstwhile Strategic Railway Authority. The latter has recently been abolished by Government in a review of the railway industry and its role in this area transferred to a new, smaller, Rail Division in the Department for Transport. An endorsement of the SRA criteria is awaited from DftRail. Even if the project passes this test, a new station is likely to cost circa £2million and a funding package needs to be agreed between all the bodies involved, with hopefully HPBC's contribution from the funds that they are holding for this project. It is hoped that this station call can be accommodated within the existing timetable from the train operator, without incurring additional ongoing costs. Therefore it is difficult to advise when a start can be made on this project, but a feasibility study will hopefully be able to commence in the near future, once DfT advice is given. The scheme is in DCC's provisional Local Transport Plan for the 2006-11 period"

**Reference:** 02GD 30/11/05 Tintwistle

**Question:** Why isn't there a beat bobby in Tintwistle? There are some vulnerable, elderly residents in Matthew Close, Tintwistle and at least two robberies in the last week. There is also bad street lighting, what can DCC and the Police do about this?  
Also, the roads round West Drive in Moseley are being used as a rat run and get very churned up. Can DCC do anything about this?

**Answer:**

There were 2 burglaries recently on Mathew Close Tintwistle. 1 occurred on 7<sup>th</sup> Nov and the other on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov. CID are actively investigating these crimes. Hadfield has two beat officers PC Dennis and PC Weston. Although they are mainly responsible for Hadfield they also cover Tintwistle. These officers do patrol Tintwistle, but as you can imagine there are more calls for service in the Hadfield area. If anyone has any concerns or wishes to discuss any issues with them they can be contacted on 0845 1233333.

Historically there has been funding allocated for SL initiatives where there is a crime or fear of crime element. Applications where through a short application form. No funding was allocated to the scheme this financial year but should any funding become available at any point, I am collating a database with names and addresses so that I can send out an application form.

The whole 'process' however has been reviewed over the past few months and we have designed a new application form that we hope (if used) will enable requests to be prioritised fairly (because as usual demand for lighting always exceeds available budget).

At this point in time though, there is no funding for the scheme and we don't know if there will be but please pass any contact details to me ONLY if there is a crime or fear of crime element to their request.

Carmen Wright is the DCC Community Safety Officer (01629 580000 extension 7226) who works closely with local Community Safety Partnerships, Local Police Officers and DCC Street Lighting Services. This concern has been passed to Carmen for consideration.

There is an element of residents parking on the verge which leads to unsightly conditions. High Peak Housing are considering solutions in conjunction with the County Council.

**Reference:** 03GD 30/11/05 Tintwistle

- Question:**
- 1) West Drive is now a bus route and a rat run. The condition of the road surface is appalling at the bottom end of the drive and is a lake when it rains. There is also a real need for speed humps at the bend just before the main road. When will these problems be tackled?
  - 2) A recent press article stated that very little money will be coming to Tintwistle. Why is this? and in fact why is Tintwistle so neglected compared to the rest of High Peak?
  - 3) Tintwistle pays the highest rate in the High Peak, admittedly because we have a Parish Council, an inept one at that. Why are the actions of the Parish Council not monitored and advice given to it about its running?
  - 4) The footpath that runs behind Woodlands Close and Bramah Edge is a disgrace and the sides of it is used as a public tip, at the moment home to a motorbike and various pieces of furniture and toys, household rubbish etc. Attention has been drawn to this by our Residents Association on many occasions but nothing much has been done to remedy the problem. When can we expect a concerted effort by the clean team to clean the area and also an effort to make the path fit to walk on like it used to be?
  - 5) It is difficult to believe that Tintwistle is in High Peak and Derbyshire apart from the fleeting glimpses we sometimes catch of the Clean Team van. We in the village know that little effort or money is spent on Tintwistle and look in envy at our close neighbours in Tameside. Could the borough perhaps prove to us that we are indeed part of a High Peak by providing some sort of Christmas decoration for the village like Buxton gets and our Tameside neighbours enjoy?

**Answer:** 3.1 West Drive is already traffic calmed with a significant number of road humps. With respect to the condition of the road surface at the bottom of the Drive the District Highway Care Manager will inspect this area and undertake remedial works if necessary. He will also inspect for any drainage defects.

- 3.2 HPBC recently spent £30,000 on play equipment after consultation with local residents.
- 3.4 The pathway to rear of Bramah Edge/Woodlands Close has received numerous visits to remove fly tipping. This has been within normal scheduled works and in response to both public requests as well as concerns raised by Councillor Brocklehurst. In truth this path has received more attention in relation to fly tipping issues than any other in the North Area of the Borough. There is evidence to suggest that local residents have actually tipped waste in this area previously. The area will receive a clearance prior to Christmas, however, if evidence is found which points to any individuals having tipped waste then they would be liable for the issuing of a fixed penalty notice of £50. Cutting back vegetation to allow easier access would need to be requested from Leisure Services (contact HPBC officers Mel Henley or Les Latham via the switchboard).
- 3.5 HPBC Environmental Services carries out street cleansing duties in Tintwistle on a set schedule. This involves manual litter picking and pavement and road channel sweeping. This schedule is entirely proportionate to the requirements of the area within the confines of available resources and is exactly the same frequency as numerous other non Town Centre zones. In addition, service requests are actioned within same time frame as all other areas. Environmental Services has also been involved, in conjunction with Tintwistle residents, with community clean ups on two separate occasions.

**Reference: 04GD 30/11/05      Public venues in Glossop**

**Question:** There are a great many artistic organisations in and around Glossop, including Glossop and District Choral Society, who urgently need a public venue in which to perform. It could be a great benefit to this growing community to have this kind of public space, with stage facilities and storage areas, which would be able to seat an audience of at least 300-350 as well as accommodating performers and providing refreshment and toilet facilities. It would add greatly to the rich artistic life of this town & surrounding area. Are there any plans?

**Answer:** HPBC are working in partnership with local community arts and voluntary groups and are on the verge of appointing an Arts and Development Officer for the borough. Part of the remit will be to assess local needs for the performing arts which includes suitable venues. In addition, Glossopdale Community College have recently been awarded the prestigious status of 'Performing Arts College' which may help open its doors to local groups seeking an accessible, quality venue for large-scale public events.

**Reference: 05GD 30/11/05      Transport**

**Question:** Speedwell Travel can no longer afford to do the run to Tameside Hospital. Will the County Council subsidise the service like it does for Bowers Coaches? If not, why not?

**Answer:** Speedwell Travel has not run to Tameside Hospital for well over a year now and there are alternatives available to residents to reach the hospital by changing buses in Glossop, Stalybridge or Ashton. The costs in providing a bespoke bus service from Hadfield and Tintwistle to the hospital are too great and cannot be justified as good value.