

**Glossopdale Area Forum, Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2005**  
**Questions and Answers**

**Reference:**            **01GD 07/09/05      Yob culture in Glossop**

**Question:**            Local resident rang to leave a general query/ruminations about the state of Glossop. Comments were made about youths hanging around the town centre displaying intimidating behaviour; that some residents feel uncomfortable in their own homes because of young people congregating outside and there was a general perception that it is no longer safe or advisable to challenge young people on the street about inappropriate behaviour. What is being done to overcome this problem in Glossop?

**Answer:**              This was answered in general terms at the Area Forum meeting.

**Reference:**            **02GD 07/09/05      ASB in Tintwistle**

**Question:**            There is a problem with anti-social behaviour (ASB) in Tintwistle – small motorbikes and disturbance etc. Problem is worse at the weekends, loud music etc. Who do we contact at the weekend, can the Police cover this kind of ASB?

**Answer:**              The Police can be contacted on 0845 123 33 33. Cannot guarantee they would respond immediately but would respond in time. Local Beat Officer can attend with evidence log sheets for low level anti-social behaviour for residents to complete with date, time and nature of behaviour. Police liaise with High Peak Borough Council (HPBC), Derbyshire County Council (DCC) and other partners to see what can be done.

**Residents are encouraged to keep logs of what has been happening.**

**Reference:** 03GD 07/09/05 **Motorbike nuisance**

**Question:** Problem of motorbikes driving very fast and incautiously.

**Answer:** There has been a lot of work over the summer with police talking to owners and people who sell bikes, making them aware of their responsibilities. Police have been visiting schools to raise young people's awareness of the effect of their behaviour.

**Reference:** 04GD 07/09/05 **Activities for young people**

**Question:** Need to give kids something to do; each community needs to put effort into this.

**Answer:** HPBC have been reviewing this jointly with other partners, about what can be done for young people. Police support all initiatives that encourage young people to do something other than ASB with their time. There is also the question of tolerance across the borough, both from young and old people. However, there are standard levels of acceptable behaviour and this needs to be emphasised through education, awareness raising and work with parents.

**Question:** Planners should consider the implications of planning on local amenities and whether they are accessible for young people etc.

**Answer:** Agree that we need good infrastructure across the borough, HPBC's Planning team consider provision of amenities. Many good schemes around such as the B-line card for young people Long-term planning is part of HPBC and DCC's role.

**Reference:** 05GD 07/09/05 **Access difficulties in Glossop**

**Question:** We've lost traffic wardens, resulting in people parking anywhere in Glossop and Hadfield, making it difficult for those with access difficulties, such as wheelchair users and pushchairs etc.

**Answer:** Parking enforcement being handed over to DCC but the police still have some traffic wardens. There is the issue of awareness raising – many people don't realise the

implication of their actions. There is currently a leaflet campaign underway as a result of the comments made at the last Glossopdale Area Forum meeting, with very positive response in raising awareness.

**Question:** The leaflet campaign has been excellent but I have heard that it will finish the end of this week. Is this true?

**Answer:** The campaign is much bigger than just the leaflets that provided an educational function. We are now starting to enforce this and police officers and support officers will have a stock of the leaflets to distribute

DCC are reviewing whether or not they will be undertaking this enforcement in consultation with partners, under licence from the police. DCC appreciate the problems anti-social parking takes place.

**Question:** Are re-offending registration numbers monitored?

**Answer:** As many leaflets as possible have been distributed but it is difficult to note all the numbers because there have been so many. Now looking at enforcement.

**Reference:** **06GD 07/09/05 ASB in Glossop**

**Question:** Appreciate that bad parking causes problems, but where can people park? It is possible to park on a pavement and still allow some space for buggies etc to pass.

**Answer:** Expect people to use their common sense in residential areas. There are a greater numbers of cars on the roads today than in the past. The main problem is in the town centre and on some estates and this is where the campaign is focussed.

**Question:** The key problem with anti-social behaviour is that there is a lack of finance to keep police on the streets. People have different views as to what is anti-social behaviour. Extension of pub opening hours will mean more noise in the local area, later into the night. Current problems on Hadfield Rd with noise from the pub's entertainment and people inside the pub and more noise when they leave the pub as they walk down the road. This will get worse with even longer extended hours. What provisions are being made to control the extended licenses? What is

being done to stop this anti-social behaviour happening?  
Noise is anti-social behaviour in its own right.

**Answer:** Police have been anticipating this in recent years. There must be a standard as to what constitutes acceptable behaviour. The licensing authority can go back to the licensee if there is unacceptable behaviour. The Police and High Peak Borough Council have been involved in all extended-hours applications. This is just the beginning, because of the need to monitor this, resulting in more man-hours in ensuring that premises keep themselves in order. We ensure that those who grant applications are aware of potential problems. The police will talk to the Council if any problems arise.

**Reference:** **07GD ASB in Glossop**

**Question:** What can be done about the die-hard bad behaviourists? Probably the same group of people consistently but not regularly shout and scream down Hadfield Rd until 2am. Sometimes Police just drive past.

**Answer:** The Police offer a 'Drive-Along' scheme, anyone who wants to accompany Police on call-outs are welcome subject to police check. Officers will firstly give verbal warning; if intoxicated, arrests may be made.

**Question:** Could an Officer occasionally stand at the corner of the road noting the behaviour?

**Answer:** The police will take this back and investigate.

**Reference:** **08GD 07/09/05 ASB in Glossop**

**Question:** Is 'tracking' work done in areas where ASB is known to take place? What resources do you put in this?

**Answer:** The Police have a computerised 'hot-spot' system which monitors this. Friday and Saturday nights are very busy and policing is concentrated in the town centre trying to reduce the number of assaults etc. There are 14 Special Constables in Glossop who target routes home from the town centre to Hadfield/ Padfield/ Simmondley until 4-5am. Looking to continue this to the foreseeable future.

**Additional information:** The High Peak Community Safety Partnership Crime Analyst maintains thorough mapping of anti-social behaviour across the borough and identifies 'hot-spots' for the Partnership to focus resources.

**Reference:** 09GD 07/09/05      **Drug culture in Glossop?**

**Question:** Do you think there is a significant drug culture in Glossop?

**Answer:** There is in the UK, but not especially so in Glossop. The proximity to Manchester does not help. There isn't a heroin market as there is in other places, such as nearby Manchester. More recreational drug use here is noted. Last year there was 'Operation Slipknot' which was very successful with 15 people arrested, the vast majority are still awaiting to appear at Crown Court.

**Reference:** 10GD 07/09/05      **Motorbike speeding**

**Question:** Re: motorcycle speeding, particularly at the weekend round Glossop e.g. Chunal/ Snake Pass/ Woodhead/ Longdendale.

**Answer:** 'Operation Focus' over the summer has been carried out by the Police. Many of these people are not young people, but middle-aged men. This is an issue across the County. An issue of awareness raising is needed. Officers show pictures of crashes to motorcyclists to raise awareness of the dangers.

**Reference:** 11GD 07/09/05      **ASB:zero tolerance**

**Question:** Re: Zero Tolerance. Why can't we have a zero tolerance system here, so that any kind of ASB is taken seriously? Do we need to have an elected Chief Constable to get this?

**Answer:** Don't really believe that in practice the areas of New York and Middlesbrough are zero tolerance. It was a situation where areas that had got out of control were brought back to an acceptable level. Strength of police is that it is independent from politics.

**Reference:** 12GD 07/09/05 ASB at train stations

**Question:** Problems with anti-social behaviour at train stations, Hope Valley & High Peak Transport Partnership want to promote 'Friends of x Stations' which have been successful elsewhere in the country. The schemes involve young people in activities such as artwork and have created civic pride in those particular areas. It gives young people something to do which is appreciated by all. Prospective schemes at Glossop and Whaley Bridge Meeting on 20 September at Whaley Bridge to hear more about the schemes. Everyone is welcome.

**Reference:** 13GD 07/09/05 Drinking

**Question:** People need to be educated as to what is acceptable for behaviour, particularly after drinking. What is being done about this?

**Answer:** Education begins at home; people don't always realise the impact that their behaviour has on others when they are intoxicated. Society as a whole must take responsibility for alcohol being more freely available. The police cannot change the culture and society must demonstrate some responsibility.

**Supplementary information:** Ring the Police if anything happens, the call will be logged, it can be done anonymously. Also use the Call Centre on **0845 123 33 33**. Resident gets different levels of response from the call handler when calls are made, eg an incident number isn't always given. Quality of response dependent on who you speak to.

**Supplementary information:** Yes – please ring the police! Police accept that staff are at different levels of training; myriad of questions that are logged, for which adequate training cannot always be given. Ask for the supervisor if you are not happy with the response. Will take this back.

## General Queries

**Reference:** 15GD 07/09/05 Interactive website?

**Question:** Is there anything available to show what there is for young people to do in Glossop? Appears to be little available and not all kids have access to a website.

**Answer:** Blueprint available from a Chapel project done last year; in an electronic form to be displayed on the website. Considering a similar project for Glossop. A Safety Week campaign undertaken with schools & DCC's Youth Service which produced leaflets, highlighting what's available. Joint approach is necessary – opportunity to use DCC's 'b\_line' Glossop Volunteer Bureau acts as a focal point; also Derbyshire Dales have a signposting initiative which will be coming into High Peak. The Glossopdale Police Consultative Group will discuss youth groups at the next meeting which is Tues 13/9 at the Army Cadet Base in Glossop.

**Question:** Would like to see DCC and HPBC have 'living forums' on their websites, allowing general on-line, live discussions. Why is there so much opposition to open web forums? Disclaimers can be provided; bad language can be filtered out; communications officer can monitor this.

**Answer:** HPBC: In favour of this in principle. E-government Programme is directing an open, accessible Council website. HPBC is 15<sup>th</sup> best website out of local government websites. HPBC want to focus on offering quality, accessible services, e.g. offering more council services on-line & that the information is accurate. We want everything we do to be quality and worthwhile every step of the way. Don't want to launch an initiative, encouraging people to discuss issues, when we know that as a council we don't have the resources to respond in a timely manner. We know that residents also don't want their Council Tax to go up and there will be implications if an open website service is to be offered. Local priorities are cleaner streets, investment in things for young people. Do people want 1 or 2 information officers to manage the process? This is a difficult decision for elected members.

**Reference:** 16GD 07/09/05 Younger people exhibiting ASB

**Question:** What's the situation re: younger people who display ASB, such as cycling through housing estates, football being played late into the night in residential areas? How long does it take for the police to respond to these sorts of issues? Police eventually respond but it is usually after the problem has dissipated.

**Answer:** This is low-level of ASB, although it does affect members of a local community. Such incidents should be logged through evidence logs which can then be handed to the best officer or local councillors. Need to consider other ways (instead of sending out the police) of addressing the problem, will be looked into.

**Question:** It is low level, but consistent.

**Answer:** Mediation works well; going out to communities and encouraging people to talk to each other and understand the implications of their behaviour. Most people are reasonable and want to live alongside each other. Mediation service available through Mediation Derby.