



**Glossopdale Area Forum**  
**Glossopdale Community College, Hadfield Site**  
**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008**  
**Topic: Policing in Glossopdale**

Questions and Answers

**Question 1: Submitted by e mail from Resident**

There appears to be no overall strategy for parking in Glossop and this causes hold-ups and delays. In particular the parking on the cobbles in front of the Nat West Bank causes problems as does the indiscriminate parking at street and road junctions which makes it impossible for drivers to check if the road ahead is clear.

**Answer: Inspector Stuart Thompson, Derbyshire Constabulary**

There is no overall strategy for parking, but indiscriminate parking is dealt with by officers on patrol or as a result of a complaint from a member of the public. Fixed penalty notices are issued and certain locations around the Town Centre are targeted where parking is a persistent problem. With regards to the area of cobbles in front of the Nat West bank, I believe this land is owned by HPBC. Access to this area is from High Street West and is restricted by the use of a barrier. The Nat West bank and the Norfolk Arms public house both possess keys to allow a right of access across the cobbles, to their respective premises (eg. deliveries). I will ask local officers to look at the areas highlighted in the question and deal with the issues that are presented.

**Answer: From Derbyshire County Council**

Double yellow lines are in place at the vast majority of junctions mentioned and any instances of illegal parking should of course be reported to Derbyshire Constabulary, who will deal with any requests commensurate with their other duties. In the longer term, it is the intention of the County Council to take over the responsibility of parking enforcement from the Police with a view to taking a more proactive role and ensuring enforcement is undertaken more regularly than at present. This complex process is ongoing which will eventually lead to the authority making an application for these special powers to Central Government. In order to progress this application it is necessary to undertake a rationalisation and assessment of all the existing waiting restriction across the County, which is ongoing at the moment. This exercise will also form the basis of establishing a whether or not works need

to be undertaken to establish a separate parking policy for the town of Glossop in addition to parking policies within the Local Transport Plan for the overall County.

The parking within the parking area close to the Nat West is on private land set back from the edge of the adopted highway and is therefore the responsibility of the landowner. No issues have been observed with parking within the area causing a problem in terms of visibility.

**Answer from High Peak Borough Council:**

Parking has occurred on the cobbled area outside Nat West Bank and the Norfolk Arms while the improvement works were going on. However we have recently instructed that parking should now be restricted, reverting back to The arrangements that existed before the works started as outlined by the police.

**After presentations by the Chairman, Cllr George Wharmby on Going Local projects and by Dai Lerner, High Peak Borough Council Strategic Director, on updates on actions since the last forum (see website for presentations), the following questions were asked:**

**Question 2:**

**Barbers Plumbing: Glossop High Street trader.**

The town centre pavement improvements have resulted in 8/9 months of hell and the work is still not fully complete. In November I brought a petition asking for free parking. Not just for the duration of the work but to continue afterwards so that people will come to Glossop to shop.

Can the council extend the free parking for two hours that now operates, to continue after completion of the work as a good will gesture and to help trade?

**Answer:**

**Dai Lerner:**

Two hours free parking was implemented as the works were the main concern at the time. We are investing money in the centre of Glossop to encourage trade. We are also working with Derbyshire County Council (DCC) to look at traffic flow to improve access generally in the centre of Glossop. The implementation of the new Decriminalised Parking proposals will also help and we will work with DCC on this. We will continue to keep the situation under review.

**Question 3:**

**Resident**

Why was 10p cheap parking that was available some years ago, scrapped?

**Answer:**

**Dai Larner**

Residents have concessionary parking through the badge system before 10am and after 4pm. We need to balance the cost of provision of free parking with the need to obtain revenue from this service to avoid increases in Council Tax.

**Resident Comment:**

Hyde has free parking and Glossop residents go there as it's free.

**Answer as before.**

**Barbers Plumbing supplementary:**

When parking charges were waived, parking and congestion became much better.

**The Chairman introduced two presentations by Derbyshire Constabulary on Policing Priorities.**

**Detective Chief Inspector Sam Slack gave a verbal presentation summarised below:**

Partnership working is important and encouraged by central Government. Our partnerships are more than just the police and council, they include other agencies, individuals, communities and voluntary organisations looking at the policing needs of the area. This is the heart of neighbourhood policing along with residents expressing views on the issues in their area.

We are starting a new Crime and Disorder Reduction Plan for the next 3 years. It will include such things as violent crime, drugs and alcohol and burglaries but will also include issues identified by you at events like this and from other local intelligence. The plan will be available to look at in local venues, libraries etc and also online.

PC G Podmore is here tonight to listen to you and your concerns around policing issues. We set targets in the plan and, based on those set in the last plan, we have reduced some crime by almost 30% (burglary) and others by 20%.

Violent crime is reducing more in this area than others in Derbyshire. You have highlighted issues around parking and this could be a local priority if you wish although we will still have to deal with serious crime as an immediate response. You need to tell us. High Peak Community Safety Partnership will publish a Community Safety partnership Plan in April 2008.

## **Questions following from the presentation:**

### **Question 4:**

**Cllr Ivan Bell**

I am pleased to see the reductions that you have highlighted but can't we have zero tolerance policing which will reduce things even further.

### **Response:**

**DCI S Slack:**

We could spend a lot of time discussing the merits of zero tolerance. It requires a lot of resource to implement properly. We have to use discretion in our policing methods. There are benefits to a robust approach but the resource implications are significant. In Middlesborough the successes you refer to may not be all that the media suggest and zero tolerance approaches are not always sustainable. I prefer the Safer Neighbourhood Team approach.

### **Question 5:**

**Cllr M Crompton**

As ward councillors we get more comments on low level crime such as anti social behaviour than serious crime like violence and burglary.

### **DCI S Slack:**

We can note these comments. Anti Social behaviour is a priority within the existing plan. The plan is also flexible and we can respond to changes over the years.

### **Question 6:**

**Resident:**

Partnerships are good and can be effective. Could DCC put double yellow lines around corners on roads to the full extent where parking is not permitted. Eg Norfolk St. Arundel St and Surrey St. are a problem. HPBC could also help with the issue of illegal parking by offering cheaper parking. Concessionary parking before 10 and after 4 is not enough.

### **Answer:**

**Cllr G Wharmby:**

Please speak to me in interval concerning the extension of double yellow lines.

**Derbyshire County Council comment :** The practicalities of this request will be investigated by a DCC officer, and if deemed acceptable changes may proceed to public consultation. The results of the consultation are not a

foregone conclusion, as a result it maybe that public opinion is such that they should not go in.

**Question 7:**

**Cllr R Wilkinson:**

Recent comments from the Chief Constable are not helpful if they suggest that there may be reductions in neighbourhood policing in order to increase resources elsewhere to cope with priorities from central Government.

**Answer:**

**DCI S Slack:**

The Chief Constable was trying to highlight the implications that pressure from Government to target certain areas, eg terrorism, will require additional resources to fulfill these requirements. Chief Superintendent Roger Flint is committed to neighbourhood policing and he will resist any reduction in levels to fund other priorities.

**Comment:**

**Cllr R Mckeown**

Neighbourhood Watch has been very effective in Gamesley and stopped the robbery of a cash van. It has also been effective in dealing with bogus callers, The use of the Ringmaster system by Neighbourhood Watch also works well. It is worth getting involved. Lend a cam has also been a success.

After a presentation on the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams by Inspector Stuart Thompson (see website), the following questions were asked

**Question 8:**

**Cllr Ivan Bell**

There has been a 90% reduction in callouts in Shirebrook Park recently, linked to the problems associated with the development of the new multi use games area. This is a tremendous achievement and I put it down to your policing and the Mosquito device installed. I think it could be used in other areas, eg outside shops.

**Answer:**

**Insp. S Thompson:**

Yes, we have had reduced call outs and hope that the situation will continue.

**Question 9:**

**Resident:**

There are constant problems with cars parking outside Simmondley School during school run times and cars are also parking on double yellow lines outside the shops on Simmondley Parade. There is no police enforcement. There is also one car in centre of Glossop that continuously parks illegally.

**Answer:**

**Insp S Thompson**

I will task the Glossop Safer Neighbourhood Team to look at the parking issues at Simmondley School and the shops on Simmondley Parade. The vehicle that allegedly parks illegally on Howard Street, in Glossop Town Centre, will also be looked at.

**Question 10:**

**Resident**

What is the police view on the possibility of a one way system on Station Road in Hadfield?

**Answer:**

**Insp S Thompson**

We can take this to the Safer Neighbourhood Team for their view.

**Comment**

**Cllr R Mckeown**

This is slightly 'tongue in cheek' but I believe that Oldham have given offenders a choice of a £50 fine or picking up litter. Any views?

**Question 11:**

**Cllr J Wilkinson**

The Taxi Rank in Glossop is not big enough and Taxi Drivers are concerned that they can't park legally. Is it possible to have a feeder rank? In Henry St?

**Answer:**

**Dia Larnar:**

There is link with Glossop Vision works and the position of the new steps and need for safety and we are reviewing the situation.

**Derbyshire County Council comment:** Discussions between DCC, HPBC and local taxi drivers have taken place, and continue to do so. It has proved difficult to identify further suitable space for taxi ranks in Glossop.

**Comment:**

Taxi companies will only use what they want to use.

**Question 12:**

**Jakasta, George St. trader**

I want to return to the issue of 2 hours free parking – how many want it. I would like to see a show of hands from those present. The vote shows the majority are in favour of two hours free parking.

**Comment:**

**Cllr D Wilcox**

There is an issue of the lost revenue to HPBC. It could have an impact on the level of Council Tax, which could increase.

**Comment:**

**Resident**

We have heard criticism of work in the High Street in Glossop but I am very pleased with the work and the improvements that have resulted. The pavements are much more accessible now.

**Comment:**

**Cllr R Wilkinson**

If something is not done about parking then there will be shops closing as a result of a lack of trade.

**Comment**

**E. Siddall: Friends of Chapel Lane park.**

I have left some forms out concerning Chapel Lane Park. If anyone interested in joining the friends then come and see me.

**Question to Derbyshire County Council during the break:**

1. Can Station Road be made one way?

Can any of the build outs be removed as they are causing traffic congestion and parking problems for retailers, and the buses are unable to pass one another due to the narrowness of the road which has meant that one bus has had to reverse into the car park out of the way?

**Derbyshire County Council :** A meeting is taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> March with local police, local councillors (DCC & HPBC), and DCC highways officers to discuss Station Road in particular, and Hadfield in general. It is felt the Civil Parking Enforcement may solve many of the problems when enforced later in 2008.

There are no plans to takeout any of the build outs, nor to make Station Road one way. One way streets can be susceptible to increases in vehicle speed and can have impacts on other streets far outweighing their benefits.

2. A build out has appeared on Ellison Street without any consultation. Why?

**Derbyshire County Council:** This was consulted on in May 2007, and then again when the design was slightly changed in July 2007. It was approved by DCC Cabinet in August 2007.

3. Following the resurfacing of the main road through Padfield there had been a great amount of debris left on the edges of the road which had still not been cleared up

**Derbyshire County Council:** This has been passed to a Highways Inspector to investigate and sort if required.

**Question to HPBC during Break and passed to DCC**

Water and debris on Dinting Lane is being washed down from Castle Hill/ Dinting Road. The field drainage is not working and water and debris blocks the gullies and drains.

The District Highway Care Manager is aware of the situation. The gully cleaning was added to the contract with HPBC but the issue seems to be that the Gully cleaning vehicle cannot access the steep hill. DCC are periodically cleaning the gullies by hand.

**DCC :** This is a complex issue which is being investigated.