

APPENDIX 2.

Meeting with Liz Openshaw – Head of Chinley Primary School Friday, 10 June 2005

Public Transport

They use the train service to take the children to museums in Manchester and also to places on the line to Sheffield – Edale, Hope etc. They usually arrange for the parents to drop the children off at Chinley Station and then the teachers take those children who were left at school early to the station. It does need to be quite coordinated as they have to make sure they do not miss the train back but it is much cheaper for them and the parents to do this than hire coaches, which are very expensive.

If there was a train service to Stockport station they would definitely use it for trips to Museums there and also visits to Bramhall Park etc.

Equally if there was a direct bus service to Manchester via Stockport from the village they would also use that. They have heard that there is a possibility that the bus companies might put on an extra bus at the same time as a scheduled bus, if they wanted to go to take children to Buxton and might fill up the scheduled bus. They haven't investigated this so far.

There used to be a school bus run by Bowers. The charge was 30p each way for the children and a nominal 20p for parents who accompanied the children. The children's charge was put up to 55p per trip and it turned out that Bowers had been running the bus at a loss for 12 months before increasing the charges. Only 3 – 4 children were using the bus each day and it was cancelled.

A leaflet/timetable showing all the train and bus timetables solely for the parish would be very useful.

2 Environmental & Social

Their biggest problem is dog dirt on the pavements. The pavement from the centre of Chinley to the village is very dirty and it tramps into the school on the children's shoes. Dog owners allow their animals to soil the grass outside the school.

Equally they have to get the council to clean the road and pavements past the school very often as the cows come past the school most days. She realises that nothing can be done about this other than to try to persuade the council to do the cleaning without being prompted.

Mrs Openshaw is happy for a few boys to play football on the school field after school and at weekends provided they are responsible about it. She has spoken to those who do play there, most of whom are ex-pupils of the school, and told them they can do so provided they report any problems to her. She regards this as a better option than them hanging around the centre of the village getting into trouble.

3 Highways

The speed of traffic past the school during the day is a problem.

We discussed their parking problem. They have tried various initiatives including three "Walk to School" weeks this year. The last one was just before the May half-term. What happened was that the teachers left their cars at school and walked to the centre of the village and then walked the children back to school. The main problem was that the parents thought that this was to save them walking their children to school and didn't realise that they were expected to be involved as well! By the end of the week half the children at the school were walking there.

Chinley, Buxworth and Brownside Parish Plan

To try to ease the parking problem in the mornings they have organised staggered starts for the children. Children can be left from 7.50 a.m. and this seems to help a bit. A staggered finish at the end of the day, with the younger children coming out 15 minutes earlier than older ones, did not work because parents had children in both age groups and were therefore parking for longer as they waited for the older children to come out.

What she would like to have at the school is a drive in, drop off and drive out area constructed just inside the school grounds which could well help much of the problem. This would be very expensive to construct but if any group comes across a money pot for such things, or some sort of transport initiative for this, then she would be very happy to hear about it.. They are completing a report for the Government's initiative on school transport issues.

4 General

They would be very happy to support any initiatives that arise from the Parish Plan and she would be happy to put up any notices publicising them including the open morning at the WI Hall in July. If we send 2 copies of any notices she will make sure they go up on the notice boards.