



## Buxton Future High Street Fund - 2021 priorities

The Government has awarded Buxton an 'in-principle' £6.6 million of Future High Street funding, which combined with High Peak Borough Council's own resources, could be used to diversify lower Buxton around The Springs including the introduction of a multi-storey car park behind The Springs and re-use of the surface level car parking for new housing, leisure and community facilities. The grant would be used for elements which would not be fundable on a commercial basis.

Given the strength of feeling from earlier consultation all working proposals will include

- New disabled friendly toilet provision
- The desire for new community services such as a central library (subject to support from DCC)
- the potential to develop over the medium term new leisure/hospitality facilities to generate evening footfall (subject to interest from suitable businesses).

The funding that has been offered is less than our requested budget, so we are looking to reduce or eliminate some non-compulsory elements.

We would therefore like to get local residents opinions on what aspects they would most like to see retained or which things they would cut – this will be used to inform our decision making.

Please note, the money can only be spent on permanent physical features and cannot be used to reduce rents, rates or entice specific shops, restaurants or specific businesses to come to the town.

**Question 1: Please rank which elements you think are the most important to be retained in a revised smaller scheme?**

1. Opening up of River Wye near the existing Waitrose entrance, including removal of concrete river banks, new tree planting and seating to create a more attractive and environmentally friendly/bio-diverse and sustainable public area
2. Creation of a new pedestrian route from railway station and adjacent hospital/retirement development into the shopping centre and Spring Gardens to help increase footfall into the town centre as means to help retain/replace shops and to create an improved entry point for people arriving in Buxton by rail..

3. Introduce gigabyte broadband to support more office development, job creation and working from home in town centre properties
4. Funding for local property owners on Spring Gardens and 'The yards' to help create new housing or offices/job opportunities on upper floors or studios within 'the yards' - where it is not possible for them to do this without financial support.
5. Child friendly public art to create a welcoming and attractive environment
6. Electric charging points within car park to support sustainability
7. Bike hire and Safe cycle parking at Railway station to encourage sustainable travel
8. Improvements to the crossing point at the top of Station Approach including restoring former LMS railway station plinth to improve appearance of the area

**Question 2: Do you think we should eliminate one or more of above specific proposals?**

Yes/no

**Question 3: If yes, which element(s) would you eliminate and why?**

Comment box.

**Question 4: We are only allowed to spend 5% of the grant on 'beautification' of the existing public realm (pavements, road surfacing, street furniture etc) Should we prioritise a specific location to create the most impact/improvement (but in less places) or reduce the budget overall?**

- a) Reduce overall
- b) Prioritise specific location

**Question 5: If yes, which specific area do you think we should prioritise?**

- a) Area between The Cavendish Arcade, Terrace Road and on Spring Gardens up to the entrance to The Springs. ie west end of Spring Gardens from pedestrian crossings to Sacro Lounge - to create a better link with 'visitor' focused part of town and encourage more people to come into the core shopping area to help retain/replace shops
- b) Area between Wye Bridge Street, Spring Gardens car park and Spring Gardens to Holker Street ie east end of Spring Gardens near Hydro cafe, Lomas' and Job centre - to create a better quality of environment linking main car park with Spring Gardens and to encourage people to circulate around the whole town centre to help retain/replace shops
- c) Area at Buxton station and on Station Road to help make a more attractive entrance to the town make it more pedestrian friendly.

**Question 6: Any other comments you would like to add (comments box)**