

## **Item 17c Gaddings Dam and Lumbutts Road**

### **Background**

- 1 For a number of years following features by National Newspapers and Social Media Gaddings Dam and especially its “Beach” has become a tourist attraction in the summer months.
- 2 Whilst known to locals for years, who have generally visited in smaller and manageable numbers, recent years have seen sizeable increases for visitors from outside from the area.
- 3 The current level of visitors, encouraged by release from lockdown and with recent good weather, has seen such an influx that the position has become totally unsatisfactory in terms of:-
  - a. Parking on double yellow lines Lumbutts Road
  - b. Blocked access for Bus Routes and emergency vehicles
  - c. Blocked access for residents to enter/leave their own property
  - d. Defecation and Urination on Moorland areas and resident’s private gardens
  - e. Rubbish strewn all over roads, Moorland and private properties
  - f. Abusive and threatening behaviour of visitors when challenged by residents for such ant social actions
  - g. Evening visiting by local youths with “cans” for partying on the Beach
  - h. Damage to footpaths not designed to receive such volumes of visitors.
  - i. Danger of fire through use of barbecues.

### **Town Council involvement**

- 4 Stoodley Ward Town Councillors have been approached by several Residents/Residents Association to see if TTC can help in any way.
- 5 In response a meeting was convened to bring together all interested parties and took place 16<sup>th</sup> June where all of these issues were aired and some actions taken away for CMBC to consider and return to the next meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July with updates
- 6 Clearly both the Police and CMBC have already been actively involved in trying to help resolve these matters but unless a 24/7 enforcement presence this is a really difficult situation to resolve entirely caused by insensitive, selfish, obstructive behaviour by visitors to the site – some of which may well be locals.
- 7 Enforcement by the Issuing of over 80 parking notices and two vehicles towed away over the May bank holiday weekend did not seem to have any material impact on future visits.

- 8 Stoodley Todmorden Councillors have met twice to consider any further actions and in acknowledging we have no legal powers to intervene on any matter, see our role as continuing to support a process of keeping all interested parties in dialogue so there is a platform through which to:-
- a. continue to feed in resident's concerns – direct contact to CMBC and Police
  - b. consider potential solutions
  - c. ensure uniform messaging across all platforms of communication
    - i. to prepare in conjunction with others a joint press release
    - ii. to put up on our web site a piece about the issue but also emphasising Respect and good Countryside Code behaviour.
- 9 The Town Clerk continues to support this issue and respond directly to complainants on behalf of the Town Council

### **Links to various articles sites re Gaddings Dam**

#### **Tourism Sites:**

[https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction\\_Review-g668290-d7382838-Reviews-Gaddings\\_Dam-Todmorden\\_West\\_Yorkshire\\_England.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/Attraction_Review-g668290-d7382838-Reviews-Gaddings_Dam-Todmorden_West_Yorkshire_England.html)

[https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/ShowUserReviews-g668290-d7382838-r579308956-Gaddings\\_Dam-Todmorden\\_West\\_Yorkshire\\_England.html](https://www.tripadvisor.co.uk/ShowUserReviews-g668290-d7382838-r579308956-Gaddings_Dam-Todmorden_West_Yorkshire_England.html)

<https://www.discoveringbritain.org/activities/yorkshire-and-the-humber/viewpoints/todmorden.html>

<https://www.airbnb.co.uk/things-to-do/places/1645449?set=bev+on+new+domain=1578926027+qBOsJKxjRw24R95e>

#### **You Tube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBFtL2af-48>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTT6a2qadu4> (CLIP OF BBC NEWS ITEM ON PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH GADDINGS DAM interview with Susan Press)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCu8BxIsbwQ>

#### **Local Community Websites/forums:**

<https://calderdale.mumbler.co.uk/gaddings-beach-todmorden/>

#### **Facebook:**

<https://www.facebook.com/Gaddings-Dam-200136460014969/?rf=2072053906397224>

#### **Twitter**

There is no Gaddings Dam official Twitter page, but a few tweets from local police, wardens, and Cllrs warning about going up there – parking fines, no barbecues etd

#### **Gaddings Dam Website**

<http://www.gaddingsdam.org/>

#### **Wild Swimming Website:**

<https://www.wildswimming.co.uk/map/gaddings-dam/>

CROWS

<http://crows-coop.co.uk/gaddings-dam-project/>

#### **News Articles from Various dates scoring high in a Google Search:**

<https://www.todmordennews.co.uk/news/fun-sun-englands-highest-beach-2689100>

<https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/whats-on/whats-on-news/gaddings-dam-todmorden-beach-manchester-13071208>

<https://www.examinerlive.co.uk/news/west-yorkshire-news/gallery/huge-crowds-flock-yorkshires-secret-18285477>

<https://geographical.co.uk/uk/discovering-britain/item/3085-todmorden>

<https://www.halifaxcourier.co.uk/news/park-and-ride-plan-make-life-beach-secret-spot-1064012>

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/hidden-beach-which-claims-be-englands-highest-only-one-hour-drive-leeds-274313>