

MEETING with Mr. Gerard Berger MAYOR of MORZINE on 1 March 2012

On 1 March this year, Jean-Marie Grandhomme and I met, at my request, Mr Gerard Berger, Mayor of Morzine, and two of his employees, including the deputy in charge of urban planning.

We addressed the following points:

### 1) Main Points

We share the concerns expressed generally by both Morzine and its residents, namely:

- First, "the appeal of Avoriaz" and the predictable and overcrowding on the slopes, already visible today with the increasing housing supply.
- Second, the "congestion" in the town centre resulting from the large influx of skiers.
- Finally, the high cost of such an investment, the need for which is not clear, whilst other improvements/renovations have been identified, particularly in connection with the link between Morzine/Avoriaz.

For the Mayor, his difficulty is that the study of the situation has not yet been completed. It would be inappropriate for him to give answers to the many questions that may arise. He informed us that consultants have been invited to tender for the post of Project Manager whose mission is to define the overall project, with presentation of analysis results in eight months; the findings will determine whether or not the project is acceptable to the Commune of Morzine.

Concerning criticisms, the Mayor thinks that some are unjustified: he thinks for example, that a direct Morzine-Avoriaz link will pull crowds from Avoriaz to Morzine and not vice versa. He considers Avoriaz is a "suburb" of Morzine, which will be better linked to Morzine town centre.

Regarding other areas in need of renovation, such as the gondola at Pléney, the Mayor reminded us that the lift company is private and that the Town Hall cannot intervene, but added that the replacement of the gondola is included as a priority area.

### 2) The Parking Fee.

We informed the Meeting our of our surprise and dissatisfaction with the generalization of "Parking Fees" with prohibitive tariffs, especially in underground car parks. It is not uncommon to have to spend 3-8 Euros to park a vehicle.

We drew the attention of the Mayor to the fact that parking spaces, once free like those in front of the Palais des Sports, now have to be paid for. If people cannot use the shuttle service for various reasons, they now have to pay a "parking tax" in addition.

The Mayor reminded us that charges have always been made for the car parks but nobody paid. He confirmed that the Town policy is to fight against long term parking and thus increase the ease of parking.

In addition, the Town is researching the implementation of "out of town parking" thus limiting the long-term parking in the Town, facilitating the use of shuttles.

He also informed us that parking spaces in front of the Palais de Sports now enjoy the first 4 hours FREE. Similarly, the first 20 or 30 minutes are usually free in other parking areas.

We understand the politics of the parking arrangements but the rates are too high. We did not feel that our comments on the high rates had got through to the officials.

NB: Morzine Town Hall published in its latest newsletter (January 2012) a city map with different areas of regulated parking, and the associated rates.

### 3) Municipal Bulletins

We have permission to reproduce in our ARM Bulletin any articles of interest to our members.

Alain Hermet