



This information is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions, and in other languages on request.

For assistance in understanding or reading this document or specific information about these Notes please call Ros Hession on 01629 761302 or e-mail communityforum@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

CENTRAL AREA COMMUNITY FORUM

Notes of the Central Area Community Forum held on 2 November 2015 at 7.00pm at the Whitworth Centre, Darley Dale

PRESENT

Derbyshire Dales - District Council

Councillor Jason Atkin (in the Chair), Martin Burfoot, Sue Burfoot, Albert Catt, Lewis Rose, OBE, Andrew Statham and Jacque Stevens.

Dorcas Bunton (Chief Executive), Heidi McDougall (Head of Environmental Services), Ashley Watts (Head of Community Development), Mike Hase (Policy Manager), Giles Dann (Economic Development Manager) and Ros Hession (Community Engagement Officer)

Members of the Public

ALCOA, Darley Dale – Chris Stubbs
Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport and Eyam – John Plant
Cromford Parish Council – Russ Boyack, Julie Lowe, Sue Mosley
Darley Dale – Tim Haynes, Dave Oakley
Darley Dale Town Council – Andrew Crease, John Evans, Eddie Faulkner, Ingrid Pasteur
Hospital League of Friends / Tennis / First Taste / Boys' Brigade – Tom Pilkington
Tansley Parish Council – Vicki Raynes, Ian Strange
Tansley resident – Kath Camm
Two Dales Residents' Association – Ed Runham
Two Dales – J Taffe
David Barker, Jeremy Brook, Nick Dibben, Margaret Elsworth, John Green, John Lowe, Geoff Stevens, Iris Wagstaffe, Jan Pinder
Plus 4 others – (30 in total)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Councillor Atkin introduced Members and Officers from the participating authorities and welcomed everyone to the Forum.

DERBYSHIRE DALES DISTRICT COUNCIL – STREET CLEANSING

Heidi McDougall led a presentation outlining the work of the street cleansing teams in keeping the Derbyshire Dales clean and attractive.

Street Cleansing: What do we do?

What we do.....

Emptying and Maintenance of the Litter Bins

- Around 1,150 litter bins throughout the District which includes 225 dog bins.
- 7 day service – 3 Areas
- Town Centre bins emptied on a daily basis and twice daily on a weekend during the summer months.
- Village bins emptied once or twice weekly dependent on the location.
- Rationalised bins across the district to make the service more efficient.
- Acceptable to deposit dog faeces in standard litter bins.

Highway Verge Mowing and Open Spaces

- Three weekly rota (April to October)
- Grass verges within the 30 mph zones,
- 25 parks and play areas plus other playing fields and recreational areas
- Total 334,000 metre squared

Flail Mowing

- completed twice a year (April to October)
- 1 metre width is mown from the edge of the highway/footpath
- Purely done for road safety, we also flail visibility splays.

Manual Sweeping

- Aim to sweep Town Centres twice daily.
- Clearance of leaves/snow throughout Autumn to Winter
- As and when reports for manual sweep required. E.g. clearing up broken glass

Pavement Sweeping

- Town Centres swept twice per week
- Village footpaths twice per year
- Usually works in tandem with mobile hand crews

Channel Sweeping

- Main arterial roads – 3 times per year
- Minor Roads - Annually
- Other Roads - Annually

Gullies

- Gullies are the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council who handle complaints.
- Contract DDDC to undertake scheduled gully cleansing.

- There are 18,000 gullies throughout the District
- 2 teams North and South
- We aim to clean each gully, to schedule, once per year.

Weed Spraying

- Contracted by Derbyshire County Council to deliver service
- 2 applications undertaken (usually May and September)
- All adopted roads covered.

Other Duties Carried Out

We also respond to complaints from the general public and reports from employees on a daily basis.

These include:

- Request for a litter pick
- Removal of dog waste
- Removal of graffiti
- Removal of dead animals
- Removal of fly tipping
- Support community events and group activities

Enforcement & Education

Public Space Protection Orders

What are Public Space Protection Orders?

- Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) were introduced as part of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. Implemented in April 2015 by DDDC.
- PSPOs specify an area where activities are taking place that are or may likely be detrimental to the local community's quality of life.
- PSPOs impose conditions or restrictions on people using that area. Can be used to control lots of activities
- Replaces a number of out of date-by-laws
- Creates a comprehensive and consistent approach when dealing with issues such as dog fouling.

Enforcement

- PSPO's in DD cover dog fouling, dog exclusion, dogs on leads and lead by direction.
- Dog fouling/litter applies across the District. The three other orders are site specific e.g. Bakewell Recreation ground (Exclusion and Dogs on Leads (11-4pm))
- Staff are trained to issue on the spot fixed penalty notices. Hot stop areas being targeted. Raffle tickets for good behaviour.
- Fixed penalty notices give offenders the opportunity to pay a penalty (£100) within the stated time period and avoid the case being presented to court for prosecution. Maximum penalty £1,000.

Education

- Promotional days
- Working with Blue Cross
- Publications
- We're Watching You campaign with Keep Britain Tidy
- Community and School Presentations
- Website

Working with the Community

Community Involvement

Derbyshire Dales District Council can support individuals/groups who want to get more involved in keeping Derbyshire Dales clean by:

- Loaning equipment
- Litter pickers
- Gloves
- Bags
- Giving small grants to support groups to purchase equipment or undertake Environmental Projects www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/communityfund
- Arranging collection of rubbish after special events or community clear ups

Questions and comments were then invited from the floor and issues were raised as follows:-

- David Barker spoke of the non-existent or erratic street cleansing service in Matlock town centre, particularly near the bus station and standing areas on the bridge. There were numerous cigarette ends littering the area and oil spillages from the Clean & Green Team's vehicles. He had also observed litter pickers working in pairs which he did not consider to be effective.
- Heidi assured that special and continuous attention would be given to the areas in question. The bus station is being targeted and monitored.
- David Barker urged for the street sweeper's activities to be monitored.
- John Evans of Darley Dale Town Council was surprised that some bins had been removed such as the ones on the A6 by the chemist (now re-instated) and on the opposite side of the road near the former bank. A District Council representative had advised that other bins in close proximity could be used, but John urged that the bin by the former bank / bus stop is re-instated.
- Heidi noted the rationalisation of bins and the District Council's desire to educate people, but was aware that some people won't use bins even where they are present.
- Vicki Raynes of Tansley noted the flailing of rural areas once a year. She reported of brambles growing out of the side of the road on Thatcher's Lane and asked if someone could look at the state of the road and cars are being stretched.
- Heidi advised that the District Council is responsible for flail mowing; the overgrown brambles may be a highways issue. The District Council will look into it to establish responsibility.
- Vicki asked about the frequency and when cuts are due to take place as this would be useful information.
- Heidi advised that the schedules can be unwieldy – last year some were released, but the data can be complex to understand and interpret. The District Council is hoping to publish some data on its website, to circulate to District Councillors and also to Town / Parish Councils. She added that schedules can become quickly out of date. The schedules are currently being reviewed and will be available in March 2016.
- In response to a question from Russ Boyack, Cromford, Heidi explained that Derbyshire County Council awards a grant to the District Council to carry out grass cutting. Additional work can be undertaken if the County Council contacted the District Council to do so.

- In response to a question from Andrew Crease, Darley Dale Town Council, Heidi advised that no fixed penalty notices had yet been issued. The powers had been adopted 1 April and since 1 June officers had been trained and awareness raising exercises had taken place including an event in Ashbourne 29 October. This was prior to enforcement taking place.
- Jan Pinder raised issues about the bushes near the old bus station on Bakewell Road, Matlock. Heidi advised that the winter maintenance schedule would be in operation shortly and issues such as this addressed. David Barker added that visibility is dangerous.

Post Meeting Note – The District Council has looked at this area and will arrange for the bush to be reduced in height.

- Eddie Faulkner, Darley Dale Town Council, spoke of restrictions for dogs in the local park. His wife had spoken to a groundsman who was unsure of the boundary and advised that dog bins had been removed due to them being constantly overfull and heavy.
- Heidi explained that possible misinformation had been given. Dog faeces can now be placed in mixed waste bins which are at a low level, rather than having to lift dog faeces bins from a high level. The restrictions apply to the boundary around the play area – if this is currently confusing, it may be possible to define the area with a line. The area of concern is amongst the play equipment and on the areas denoted by a soft safety surface, grass matting or bark. It is accepted that people will stand around the edge. The aim is to have dogs under control so they cannot foul between the equipment.
- Dave Oakley noted the presence of the Derbyshire Dales’ officers at a dog show in Bakewell and agreed that it’s a good idea to try to educate people to be responsible dog owners. However, he raised issues about The Tipping in Darley Dale – it was difficult to determine the boundary as the area is unfenced and has 4 entrances. Most people will pick up their dog’s mess, but sometimes the lack of bins means that bags of mess are deposited on trees.
- Heidi advised that this is classed as a littering offence.
- In response to a question from Dave Oakley, Heidi advised that Derbyshire Dales’ staff have been trained to issue the fixed penalty notices and are establishing hotspot areas.
- Dave added that most people are responsible and will pick up dog mess, but there is a lack of signage which Heidi would look into. Signage was still being erected. She emphasised that it is the responsibility of dog owners to clear up mess. The District Council does not have to provide bins, but has powers to issue fixed penalty notices.
- Margaret Elsworth, Matlock Town Council, asked what publicity had taken place about being able to put dog waste in ordinary bins.
- Heidi reported that press releases had been circulated, an article in Dales Matters and stickers and emblems were being placed on the bins.

PEAK LEADER 2015 to 2020 DELIVERING A DIFFERENCE

Giles Dann, the District Council's Economic Development Manager, gave a presentation about **Working through partnership to realise the growth potential of our rural economy through supporting enterprising, resilient and sustainable rural communities.**

Programme Overview

- Approved LEADER areas announced
- Managed locally by Derbyshire Economic Partnership with Derbyshire County Council as 'accountable body'
- Peak Allocation = circa £1.7m (+ / -)
- Anticipated grant rate = 40% (rest private)
- Typical grants £2,500 (min) - £35,000 (may consider higher)
- Defined rural area
- Two-stage process (outline and full application)
- Emphasis on rural economic growth and job creation
- Competitive process

The presentation included a map showing the eligible area which covered the whole of the Derbyshire Dales area.

LEADER Priorities

- **Support for increasing farm productivity - £290,000**

Objective – To enhance the viability and longer term economic performance of the core farming business and encourage more young people into the industry
e.g. Adding value to local food products through improving or installing new production techniques

Capital start-up costs for new entrants to farming

- **Support for micro & small enterprises and farm diversification - £645,000**

Objective – To stimulate new business development and support small and micro enterprises with growth potential

e.g. Capital costs associated with growing the business such as adaptation of existing premises, utilities, plant and machinery, and investments to make business processes more efficient and production more resilient

New workspace developments (light industrial space) where clear evidence of demand

Start-up costs for businesses with potential for early growth

- **Support for rural tourism – £158,000**

Objective – To develop the visitor offer, enhancing the quality, value and growth potential of the visitor economy

e.g. supporting new and improving existing rural visitor attractions

Disabled visitor accommodation (4 or above)*

- **Support for rural services – £215,000**

Objective – To enable communities to provide services to maintain and enhance rural areas as vibrant places to live and work in

e.g. start-up help to support local service delivery where gaps can be evidenced

Innovative local transport solutions

- **Support for cultural and heritage activity – £57,000**

Objective – To enhance, restore and upgrade the cultural and natural heritage of our rural communities, especially activities which increase visitor spend
e.g. small scale capital investments in heritage projects to enhance community, environment and business benefits

- **Support for forestry productivity – £70,000**

Objective – To increase productivity within the sector and assist local producers to add value to woodland products
e.g. developing wood fuel supply chains

Current Position

- National event 14 October to formally mark LEADER launch
- Operating Manual, Applicant handbook and application forms to be issued by Defra
- Peak programme planning to formally open for business 18 Nov 2015
- Opportunity to work up draft outline applications in interim (at risk)

Hints and Tips

- Get the basics (details) right – don't fall at the first hurdle
- Check eligibility inc. area, size of business, previous public funding?
- Explain how your project fits the local LEADER Strategy (don't just say it does)
- Project description and Business Case – be specific, don't assume knowledge + provide evidence to back up statements e.g. of demand for a service
- Do your prep – you're likely to need three quotes and 3 years financial forecasts
- JOBS & GROWTH!
- REMEMBER:
 - apply before you buy
 - you must be able to access sufficient funds to buy what you need before claiming back
 - fit the grant around your business, not the business around the grant
 - give yourself enough time

Here to Help

- LEADER Programme – general enquiries:

Peakleader@derbyshire.gov.uk

01629 538475

- Support with applications (eligible businesses in the Dales):

heather.bradford@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

07825 344653

Questions and comments were then invited from the floor and issues were raised as follows:-

- In response to a question, Giles advised roughly half of the funding comes from the European Union and half from DEFRA.
- Margaret Elsworth asked if a business could benefit from more than one grant from Leader.
- Giles advised that if a business case came forward with a further project which generated additional economic outputs then, subject to complying with State Aid criteria, it may be eligible.

DERBYSHIRE DALES LOCAL PLAN – KEY ISSUES UPDATE

Mike Hase began his presentation by outlining the background to the Derbyshire Dales Local Plan.

Background

- May 2014 – Local Plan submitted to Government
- 23rd July 2014 – Examination in Public commenced
- 29th July 2014 – Inspectors initial findings issued
- Key Finding – Inadequate provision for housing
- October 2014 – Council resolved to withdraw Local Plan and review evidence
- Evidence review completed and now published

Key Issues included:-

Demographic Changes

- 32% Dales residents aged 60 and over (23% England and Wales)
- 24% Dales residents aged 65 or over (23% England and Wales)
- Population aged 75+ is expected to increase by 88% by 2033
- In 2033 there will be 32,700 people aged 60+ in the Dales. A 43% increase on 2013

Housing Provision

- Demographic changes alone indicate need for 4,880 homes (244 per annum 2013-2033)
- Economic growth potential increases 4,880 to 6,020
(+57 = 301 per annum)
- Improving affordability increases 6,020 to 6,440
(+ 21 = 322 per annum)

Where?

- 50% Dales lies outside of the PDNPA
- PDNPA do not have a housing target to meet
- PDNPA development rates circa 20 per annum
- PDNPA provision 2013 – 2033 circa 400 dwellings
- Circa 6000 dwellings req. in Dales outside PDNPA

Implications

- Refusing planning permissions for housing schemes without a sound planning reason is not sustainable
- Council cannot demonstrate an adequate 5 years supply
- Inadequate quantity of sites exist to accommodate need
- The more sites that are refused, the more difficult it will become to adopt a Local Plan.
- 2017 deadline imposed by Government.

Other Issues

- Gypsy and Traveller Site Provision
- Employment Land Provision
- Retailing and Town Centres
- Infrastructure and Plan Viability

Timetable

- November – Consultation on Key Issues for 6 weeks

- January – Site Allocations Considered
- February / March – Draft Plan published for Consultation
- June / July – Submission Plan Consultation
- September – Plan submitted to Government
- November / December – Examination in Public
- Early 2017 – Plan Adoption

Questions and comments were then invited from the floor and issues were raised as follows:-

- Jonathon Taffe, of Two Dales, noted the original plan being rejected due to a shortfall in housing needs (4,400 houses, but a requirement of 6,400). In response to a question, Mike confirmed that the original plan made provision for the 4,400 houses, and as such there was need to find land for the additional requirement.
 - Mr Taffe further asked, what incentive, if any, was there for developers to deal with brownfield rather than greenfield sites.
 - Mike noted a valid point – the government is making a push on brownfield sites, but greenfield sites will also have to be released to meet the numbers.
 - Mr Taffe continued that until the decision is made, developers are able to apply for greenfield site development and appreciated a balance to be had.
 - In considering applications, the need for new housing versus landscape value has to be weighed up and this had been an issue with a number of recent applications.
 - Mr Taffe believed that either the Peak Park should build its fair share of properties or representation be made to central government about the pressure that authorities such as Derbyshire Dales are under.
 - Councillor Rose advised that the District Council is in constant dialogue with the Peak Park and the Member of Parliament is also aware – sadly the District Council cannot blame the Peak Park, but rather has to solve it itself.
 - In response to further comments from Mr Taffe, Councillor Rose advised that the argument of accommodating 6,400 properties into half of the Derbyshire Dales area had been and would continue to be highlighted to central government.
-
- David Barker spoke of planning permissions in Matlock over the past year which had included many for ‘executive’ dwellings, but affordable housing was needed for younger people. Local people move out of the area because of house prices and people are attracted to live in the area, who often commute creating a knock on effect of increased traffic congestion.
 - Mike advised that the National Planning Policy Framework recognises the needs of communities and that a mix of properties is required to meet the needs of the whole community. More affordable and smaller sized housing and starter homes are being looked at, but it is still early days.
-
- Ed Runham of Two Dales noted the situation with the Peak Park and asked if Sussex had set a precedent by making representations to Westminster that the national park factor should be taken into account. He continued that the District Council should also be asking developers to clean up brownfield sites.
 - Mike commented that Mr Runham was well informed; citing the case of Lewes District Council who had urged that the Objectively Assessed Need (OAN) figure should be lower due to part of the area being in the South Downs National Park.
 - Lewes District Council is not planning for growth. The housing figure is seen to be the minimum for stability.

- The District Council is looking at capacity on all sites and possibly if any of its neighbouring authorities can take in some of the 6,400 OAN.
- A member of the public suggested that until the issue of OAN in national parks is addressed, resolved or Westminster clean up brownfield sites, the District Council don't make any decisions.
- Mike advised that the District Council has to make decisions to determine planning applications. The NPPF is pro development and the government want to see more houses to 1) meet social need and 2) to encourage thriving communities.
- Dave Oakley noted poor employment opportunities in the area, necessitating Darley Dale residents to travel out of the area to work and hence increase congestion. The next phase of housing in this area is likely to produce an additional 300 cars.
- Mike replied that this is also the case in other areas and that a study of the highways network has been commissioned.
- Dave continued that much of the problem arises from the Peak Park situation.
- Mike explained that infrastructure issues need to be addressed and understood where new development will exacerbate the pinch points.
- John Evans of Darley Dale Town Council had previously spoken to the District Council's Chief Executive, Dorcas Bunton and Leader, Councillor Lewis Rose, about the area in the south of the district. The previous government had been in favour of new villages of around 2,500 dwellings with appropriate access and shops, schools etc. He believed the current government would also be supportive.
- Mike replied that no sites had been identified: sites have to be:-
 1. Deliverable – owners have to put forward the land
 2. The scale of the development would have to be bigger to make it sustainable
 3. Maintaining character and appearance
- John added that there will always be difficulties, but landowners could be appraised and offered an attractive price for land.
- Mike noted practicalities and difficulties around this approach and would be unlikely to be a proposal that this authority would be taking forward.
- A member of the public asked what if the land owner came forward. Mike replied that the District Council would definitely look at any potential sites. A large site that's potentially a new settlement would have to be considered with others to ensure the delivery of a sustainable development. Small sites already have infrastructure in place which may need to be added to. Infrastructure such as education and health provision are taken into account. The local Clinical Commissioning Groups will offer support to expand existing services, but require 10,000 new patients for a new GP practice.
- Vicki Raynes of Tansley asked to what extent the hierarchy of settlements is taken into account when deciding on potential sites.
- Mike advised that social and economic assessments are carried out in house by officers.
- Vicki queried whether some of the settlements had been correctly assessed and hoped that the District Council may re-visit.

- Mike advised that the process is consistent against methodology and the contents had been checked with local councillors. The District Council is happy to receive representations on the final document which is to be published in the next few days.
- Vicki Raynes asked what criteria Derbyshire Dales take to decide which planning appeals to support.
- Mike advised that each application is addressed on its own merits applying professional judgment. Available information is weighed up and the democratic process followed. Officers will give advice, but Councillors may conclude a different weighting. Every appeal is supported, but may be dealt with differently depending on the application.
- In response to a question about plans to review the settlement framework boundaries in light of changed targets, Mike replied that a conclusion had not yet been reached.
- In response to a question about housing provision at Riber Castle and Cawdor Quarry, Mike advised that ongoing discussions were taking place with the landowners to see how sites are being brought forward.
- Councillor Sue Burfoot, as a Planning Committee member, noted the difficult decisions having to be made, with the best interests of the Derbyshire Dales at heart.
- The bigger picture wasn't being addressed. The government needs to incentivise landowners to release land and encourage development of brownfield sites.
- Mike advised that organisations, such as the Local Government Association, are aware of the plight of Local Plan authorities.
- There had been support from the Homes & Communities Agency, usually loans, not grants, and in some cases locally not been taken up.
- Dave Oakley suggested development be looked at on the A515 corridor, Ashbourne to Buxton, but Mike pointed out that this is within the National Park area
- Dave further suggested development at Longcliffe, but Mike questioned its sustainability. Specific sites would be considered and discussed as part of the consultation.
- Margaret Elsworth noted that during the last year, no Local Plan had been in place and that many applications had been granted through appeal. She sought assurance that the housing numbers in Matlock would be taken into account.
- Mike confirmed they would be included in the targets for 2013 – 2033.

QUESTION TIME

Questions and comments were then invited from the floor and issues were raised as follows:-

Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport

- John Plant, of Eyam Parish Council, representing Bakewell & Eyam Community Transport (BECT), spoke of the funding cuts currently facing BECT which would have a significant impact on well used local services. The District Council had been helpful in the matter and given support at full Council. He urged for people to

support a petition, requiring 7,500 signatures, to enable the issues to be brought to a debate at Derbyshire County Council to re-instate vital funding. John was a volunteer driver and aware of how valued the service is in the Matlock and Darley Dale areas.

Partner representation

- Councillor Martin Burfoot was disappointed that there was no representation from Derbyshire Council Council. He was having difficulty getting responses from the County Council and currently had 3 outstanding matters with DCC's Chief Executive. Councillor Burfoot also noted the lack of police representation.

Refuse & recycling

- Heidi McDougall drew attention to arrangements for refuse & recycling collections around Christmas & New Year which were well publicised in Dales Matters.
- Dave Oakley noted that green bin collections were taking place more often on a Saturday than a Friday, was this it be a regular change of day? Heidi advised the collection day should not have changed and undertook to look into why collections were taking place a day late.

CONCLUSION AND THANKS

Councillor Atkin thanked everyone for their participation. The next Central Area Community Forum will take place on 23 February 2016, venue to be advised.

Meeting closed at 8.40 pm