



# **Planning Service Parishes Bulletin 09**

**October 2014**

## **Parishes Day 2014 – Vibrant Villages!**

**Parishes Day was a very successful event** with 52 Parish representatives, 9 Authority members, 8 officers and 3 guests.

This year's discussion centred on the need to ensure our communities are thriving places to live and work. The delegates split into four workshop groups to debate:

- What is a thriving and vibrant community – what are its key characteristics?
- How can the National Park Authority and Parishes work together to ensure that our communities are thriving and vibrant?
- What are the obstacles to achieving this? Are there obstacles which the Authority can address in its policies?
- How can Neighbourhood Plans help?

The notes from the four workshop groups are attached to this Bulletin.

PDNPA officers also delivered presentations on a variety of topics including: 'Communication Technology in the National Park: Broadband and Mobile – Are we connected?' and the current work being undertaken for the Tourism and Cycling strategy.

## **Volunteer 'Peak District Warden' idea for discussion**

Mary Bagley, Assistant Director Enterprise & Field Services, floated an idea at Parishes Day that she would like all Parishes to consider a volunteer Warden service

would concentrate their time in the villages and communities where they live, in a similar vein to the volunteer Ranger force. Wardens could take responsibility for dealing with issues in conjunction with the Parish Council and would concentrate on what the local people think is important e.g. inconsiderate parking by visitors; ash die-back lookout; toilet maintenance or advising visitors. Mary intends to formally consult all the Parishes in the New Year but in the meantime, please think about whether this is viable and discuss in your meetings ready to give feedback.

## **‘Connecting Derbyshire’**

At Parishes Day, Chief Officer of the Derbyshire Association of Local Councils, Sarita Presland, spoke about the Connecting Derbyshire project. For further information please contact DALC on 01629 816338 or visit: <http://www.derbyshirealc.gov.uk/connecting-derbyshire.html>

## **PDNPA            Planning            Twitter            Feed**

### **@PDNPAPlanning**



Twitter is a micro blogging website where you can share any kind of information, but only in 140 characters. You can now follow us on Twitter @PDNPAPlanning; we will be tweeting planning decisions as soon as they are made at the Planning Committee and other relevant and useful Planning or PDNPA information. We encourage you to engage with us in this way.

## **Give us your feedback**

**The Planning Service is committed to listening to customer feedback to help us to identify any positives or negatives or areas for service improvement.**

A big thank you to those Parishes who have responded to the survey so far! We've had some very useful feedback and we are keen to have a response from every Parish. So, we have kept the survey open to give you extra time to complete. Please provide any relevant feedback to us so that where workable, we can refine our procedures accordingly. **Please complete the survey online at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PDNPAPCSatisfaction>**

**If you have any queries please contact the Planning Liaison officer [diane.jackson@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:diane.jackson@peakdistrict.gov.uk)**

## **Group A**

### **What is a thriving and vibrant community – what are its key characteristics?**

- Good village shop
- Varies with size of settlement – e.g. shop, pub.
- Meerbrook, Cressbrook, Sheldon – not designated Wardlow is designated
- Where should be developed matrix: accessibility, services
- What is a village?
- Ilam – different users – tourists, YHA, residents and school
- Vibrancy in the evenings and weekends - different feel during the day
- Setting not just village itself
- Vibrancy shifts during the day
- Community pulling together e.g. shop at Bamford
- Village hall as a centre – events
- Bringing people together
- School, church
- Functions / Contributions to self and outside – social networks
- Succession planning
- Jobs

### **The Vision**

- Social networks – meeting people you know; things going on; place to be
- Access to services
- Buses on demand – buses connect, Bakewell community transport

### **What can be done to sustain communities and overcome barriers?**

- Smaller homes gone – extensions
- Stairs / level access
- Keeping mix / profile of community
- Taking on services themselves
- Size of new development
- Good design

## **Group B**

### **What is a thriving and vibrant community – what are its key characteristics?**

- Different things to different people
- Complex
- Holiday cottages
- Issue about non developable and developable villages

### Services

- Focal point – shop / post office / school / village hall

### People

- Lots going on
- Fair mix of ages and housing
- Who is servicing second homes?
- Active people

## Transport

- Key issue is to have:
  - focal points – can be anything
  - young people

### **How can the National Park Authority and Parishes work together to ensure that our communities are thriving and vibrant?**

- Getting people onto the council
- Other committees – not just PCs running things
- Looking after the volunteers
- Maintaining formal structure of the PC but the energy and enthusiasm of other people / groups
- PC ‘facilities’ independent groups / initiatives
- PC also vehicle for funding

## ACTIONS

- Parish Council – identify their focal points and how to make best use of it
- Open to energy and ideas – negativity of PC can do a lot of harm
- Gathering together to tackle issues in itself creates vibrancy

### **What are the obstacles to achieving this? Are there obstacles which the Authority can address in its policies?**

- Increasing number of holiday homes
- Type of housing – design not to be social housing
- Able to downsize – think about whole circle
- Think about older people who need space, not box
- Need to protect public buildings and assets
- Policies about change of use should be stronger
- Why protect “last one”? Should be other ways of testing viability.
- Relationship between car parks / toilets & who owns and manages (PC / District)
- Visitors / car parking – complex issue and new debate needed + joining up other authorities (this is happening to some extent) but NPA not fully engaged
- Car parking policy
  - could be reviewed?
  - Is it working?
  - More pragmatic solutions
  - Small scale
  - What about using business car parks?
- More co-operation between NPA and PCs.

### **How can Neighbourhood Plans help?**

- Chapel – gathering to create the Plan created all sorts of other things to happen.
- Housing / Life cycle – this could be focus of the NP
- Idea of self determination
- Design issues
- Regular training sessions on Neighbourhood
- Could deal with the ‘focal point’ issue.

## Group C

### What is a thriving and vibrant community?

#### Individual village perspectives

##### Taddington:

- Ageing communities has a negative impact
- Events organisation getting difficult
- Not just affordable / local needs housing that is needed but housing for older people to downsize
- Need people to run services

##### PDRHA view:

- Set up 25 years ago after RTTB
- Seeing a lot more single households
- Demand for more smaller units

##### Tissington:

- Dominated by the Estate
- New people don't stay long
- Issues of car parking and visitor impact
- Can Adele help talk to PC.

##### Curbar:

- Need for succession planning
- Developers not interested in affordable housing
- Needing to bring balance
- Knocking smaller buildings down and replacing with much larger properties

##### Stoney Middleton

- Enclosed valley is tight for space
- Have worked with PDRHA to find opportunities for housing
- Can a Neighbourhood Plan help?

##### Chelmorton

- Needs a mix of age / skills ability
- 2<sup>nd</sup> homes = loss of family homes
- Successful pub
- Current mix not too bad, but older people find it difficult to sustain their input.
- Need to get young people involved

##### Wildboarclough – Parish Meeting

- Tiny population - 120
- Agriculture and shooting
- No village centre
- Pub struggling
- Disused school room could offer a role
- Survey – no change attitude, difficult to see improvements
- Sometimes, no change is okay
- Getting people to come forward, get together and agree things is difficult

##### Wincle – Parish Meeting

- Broadband is really important to these smaller, more remote communities
- Fundamental problem of ageing population
- Parish Meetings all negative
- Support needed to educate people to be more positive
- Local need as important as affordable housing
- Links to idea of succession planning
- Can holiday homes be passed to Community Land Trust or Housing Trust?

#### Calver

- Any new housing is only ever a tiny proportion of the whole community
- Housing not the only part of the question
- Must support elderly people
- But need to move to a mixed demographic

#### PPPF

- Thriving communities relies on public spending on infrastructure
- Budgets not likely to improve
- Services likely to reduce
- Will have a big impact
- NHS have big sums of money – can we tap into their programmes?
- Should we forget about funding and focus on people, encouraging and inspiring
- Need to spark people into action

#### Hayfield

- Feels lucky that National Park policy can influence housing occupancy in a way that doesn't happen in districts outside the National Park
- Community 3000 people
- Need to get people around the table and agree a way forward
- Achieving the right balance is key

#### Leekfrith

- 4 local needs homes have worked
- Full price £200k+ but operated as shared equity makes these more affordable
- What role of places outside the NP to ease pressure, e.g. Leek only 3 miles away
- Need better use of existing housing stock, e.g. incentivising elderly to downsize and free up other family homes
- But needs an acceptance of bungalows or other single storey dwellings.
- Needs involvement of district councils as NPA not a housing authority

#### Foolow:

- No school / no shop – has got a pub and village hall.
- Mix of housing and people
- People come and go
- People go outside the village for work and play
- Broadband would help but plans not clear
- Events change over time
- Village Hall not used to optimum
- People too busy and work away
- Dependant upon neighbouring villages
- School at Great Hucklow

Differences observed between “Thriving” and “Vibrant”. Whereas many communities felt they were doing ok or even thriving, the following were seen as things that can create vibrancy:

- More people getting engaged and active
- Specific events encourage people to get involved bringing cohesiveness
- Residents working together
- Learning from each other
- Bringing younger people on PCs as full members
- Raising the profile of the PC
- Parishes often become more motivated when focussed on a single issue
- Engagement is an underlying issue
- Good use of websites is important and a good way of getting kids involved
- Should every PC have a Mission Statement/Action Plan to help understand what the community wants

Overall thoughts

- Explore the role of neighbourhood plans
- Can Parishes join up on neighbourhood planning?
- This could help raise profile of issues and service provision, including broadband provision
- Can NPA lobby Govt. in Telecomms Acts to help communities in delivering broadband
- Local jobs for Local People e.g. through barn conversions
- Is balance the keyword?
- Ageing Population
- Engaging young people
- Communications
- Finding small scale solutions for infrastructure, small infrastructure masts / dishes are necessary

End note: Should we include a tour in future to see some local examples?

## Group D

### What is a thriving and vibrant community – what are its key characteristics?

- A community that doesn't stand still.
- Lack of continuity in community affects passion for the place “succession of community”
- Affordability of living in the community
- Continual events programmes
- Older generations tend to be property owners – mixed age counts
- Much evidence that villages are thriving... “we are vibrant at the moment”
- Working together and examples of cohesion
  - Range of ages
  - Local job opportunities
  - Communal places
  - Succession
  - Transport
  - Social networks
  - Affordable housing

## **How can the National Park Authority and Parishes work together to ensure that our communities are thriving and vibrant?**

Examples of what Parishes are doing:

- Welcome pack of events and activities taking place in the village
- Taking an enabling approach to help more people to get involved (e.g. change meeting time / informal childcare)

Areas to work together...

- Focus on the distant 2% of homes that will be in the “no spot” for superfast broadband (OFCOM lobbying)
- Design of affordable homes fit for families and “really” affordable.
- Explore local occupancy and affordable mechanisms.
- Share learning from good examples like the “Feoffes Trust”
- Authority policy on holiday accommodation appears to be minded towards holiday rather very small “starter homes” (what can we learn from elsewhere?)
- Local job fairs link to MP constituency area and links to funding (e.g. LEADER) and local business organisations.
- Learn from Holme Valley approach
- Transport lobbying together
- Small business support
- Working together on responsible visiting and promoting understanding.

## **What are the obstacles to achieving this? Are there obstacles which the Authority can address in its policies?**

- Listening...communities need to feel supported...more joined up listening with the constituent authorities.
- Govt. policy favouring open market housing
- Multiple tiers of government
- Ability to influence

## **How can Neighbourhood Plans help?**

- Can help with very specific issues of housing / land use ? other types of plans.