

31 July 2020

Visitor Management update

In our last bulletin, we set out how the authority was monitoring and patrolling the national park, with particular emphasis on the busiest visitor locations. Our focus has been on providing information to visitors and managing certain locations to prevent issues such as traffic congestion, wild camping and fire risk amongst others. The County Councils have assisted in preventing issues at some visitor 'hot spots' by painting yellow lines to prevent dangerous parking on sections of the highway. We continue a daily update the status on car parks across the national park via our website at <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/visiting/places-to-visit/car-park-status>

Our communications team continue to share visitor engagement messages across our social channels (with a collective audience now approaching 100,000) and our website. We have also responded to individual requests from Parishes for assisting materials such as signs. In support of the rapidly changing visitor environment, you may also wish to take part in the following short survey, which has been shared with all #PeakDistrictProud partners too. This will inform our work in the coming weeks and months: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/5HGBCL/> We are also currently working on a collaborative campaign with landowners to raise awareness of the public's obligations regarding so-called 'fly' camping. TV and media opportunities are also being pursued on matters such as litter, to further raise awareness.

The management of visitors will continue throughout the summer. We would like to hear from the parishes about the measures we have in place and whether these have alleviated some of the pressures communities may have felt. If you have any points you wish to raise, please email policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Post lockdown the national park has seen a significant increase in visitors, particularly on sunny summer days. Whilst this has seen many new visitors to the national park who have been here to enjoy the special qualities that residents know exist and appreciate we also know that on occasions and in particular locations this has brought challenges in terms of car parking, unlawful camping and litter. We know partners and resident communities have pitched in to help with litter collections to compliment the work that rangers, gamekeepers and other land managers have been undertaking and that is welcomed.

Whilst we welcome and engage with new visitors and collectively work to build understanding of both rights and responsibilities through our #Peak District Proud messages we know that challenges with litter will continue. We would welcome connecting up with litter champions in our village communities so that our rangers can supply you with bags and possible volunteer support for any community litter collections that you undertake. If litter can be recycled appropriately that is a bonus but in the first place it would be helpful if litter could be channelled through appropriate District Councils facilities. In exceptional circumstances in which communities arrange a major clean-up we may be able to assist in removing litter bags.

If communities need additional support and help by us supplying litter bags to you email us at policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk and provide us with details of your community contact and a ranger will endeavour to get litter bags to you and liaise with community litter picks as resources allow.

Policy and Communities updates

Parish teleconference

Attached to this bulletin are the notes from the first teleconference that we held with parish representatives on the 6 July 2020. It was a useful meeting and allowed PDNPA staff and parish representatives to discuss the contents of the previous parishes bulletin. It will not be practical to run a similar event in August due to summer leave commitments, however if you would like to attend a teleconference on Tuesday 1 September at 3pm please email the Policy Team to express your interest on policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk. The agenda for this meeting would be based on this bulletin and any more that might be issued before that date.

This is to measure interest at the moment and we will assess whether sufficient numbers of Parishes have expressed an interest in virtually “attending” an event on that date nearer that time.

Amendments to Statement of Community Involvement in response to Covid-19

The government has issued guidance which requires planning authorities to update their Statement of Community Involvement temporarily, so that plan making and the processing of planning applications can continue during the COVID 19 restrictions. The purpose of a Statement of Community Involvement is to detail how the Authority undertakes to engage with the public during all stages of the planning process.

The instructions on staying safe and social distancing will restrict our ability to follow our usual procedures, which involve measures such as depositing documents in council offices and libraries, and having public meetings and workshops. It is important that we find different ways of engaging.

Our temporary update can be found on our website <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/policies-and-guides/supporting-documents>. This will be reviewed at the end of 2020.

Any queries on this can be directed to the Policy Team at policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Residential annex update

In line with the new government guidance described above, and our temporary update to our Statement of Community Involvement we, are now able to run a formal consultation on our Residential Annexes Supplementary Planning Document.

Thank you to all of you who have provided feedback so far. This can be carried over so there is no need to submit it again. We will announce a four week formal consultation period shortly and will email all consultees soon.

Parish Statements

We are working to update the Parish Statements following positive input from many of the Parishes. We will circulate a link to an updated webpage by the time of the next planned teleconference on the 2nd September.

University of Cambridge survey – community life in a national park

This survey is part of a European research project exploring the relationship of local communities with protected areas.

We are asking people living in or near the Peak District National Park to fill in a short questionnaire exploring:

- a) people's views on the National Park and the environment in general,
- b) the impact of COVID-19 on everyday life, and
- c) different options for managing aspects of the National Park during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey is a collaboration between the Peak District National Park Authority and the University of Cambridge, and your views will help to inform decisions regarding future management of aspects of the Peak District National Park. The link to access the survey is www.fidelio.landecon.cam.ac.uk/peak-district The survey is open until 21 August.

Parish magazines and websites

The Policy team have started to think about what the best methods will be, to consult communities in their review of the Authority's [Local Plan](#). As part of this, we would like some information from the parishes regarding parish magazines and newsletters.

We would like to know the following:

1. Does your parish have a parish or community magazine or newsletter and if so what is it called?
2. Who is the contact for this and what are their contact details?
3. How often is the magazine published?
4. Would they be agreeable to including some messages from us, at key points in our Local Plan review stages?
5. Is there a cost for us doing this?

We would be grateful if you could email this information to policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk

Parishes Day

With ongoing concerns over Covid 19, we now wish to confirm that the annual Parishes Day cannot take place at Aldern House this year. However, we feel that a virtual event would still be a great way to retain contact and discuss issues relating to the past 6 months and how we can work and plan together for a sustainable recovery. We wish to stick to the saved date of the 3rd October but plan to run a half-day session. The normal PPPF AGM can then go ahead on the same day. The PPPF will be in touch regarding the arrangements and agenda for this meeting which will then be followed by the Parish Day event. Further details to follow.

Development Management updates

Review of suspension of pre-application advice service

In February the decision was taken to suspend the pre-application advice service for 6 months with the exception of enquiries relating to listed buildings or major developments. This was due to significant staffing issues in the Development Management sections. We are happy to report that staffing levels in the area planning teams is nearly up to full strength, but Covid-19 has led to a backlog in dealing with applications. In order to deal with this backlog it will be necessary to extend the suspension of the pre-application service until November. It is hoped that we will be able to reinstate the service in full then.

Changes to permitted development for public houses and restaurants

The Peak District National Park Authority has received a number of concerns relating to the increased use of outdoor areas for drinking and eating and temporary structures or mobile catering/bars being set up in car parks or the curtilage of the building.

In order to achieve social distancing, public houses and restaurants have changed the way they operate. In some cases, in order for businesses to be viable, and to meet the demand of customers, they have expanded into outdoor spaces. Unless a structure has some permanence or is breaching other planning regulations, i.e. changing the use of the premises, it is unlikely that formal enforcement action would be appropriate.

The government has said that these measures will give an immediate and much needed boost to many businesses, whilst supporting them to successfully reopen over the summer and government guidance is for planning authorities to use discretion when concerns are raised.

The government is also simplifying and reducing the costs of the licensing process for outdoor seating, making it easier for people to safely drink and dine outside. If the concern is regarding the behaviour of the licensee or staff, or there are incidents of anti-social behaviour, we would recommend that you contact the Licensing section of the relevant local council or the police.

Changes to permitted development rights for temporary campsites

The Peak District National Park Authority is aware of a number of temporary camp sites across the National Park. Where these sites are accommodating tents, a small number of caravans and there are no permanent structures the activity is likely to be permitted development under **The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015**, which means that there is no need to apply for planning permission.

The Government has extended permitted development rights for temporary uses of land, including camp sites, from 28 days in any 12 calendar months to 56 days until 31 December 2020. This is one of a range of measures designed to help businesses recover from the impacts of the Coronavirus pandemic.

If activities continue beyond the permitted time limit then the Monitoring and Enforcement Team can investigate, and will use discretion as to whether enforcement action should be taken.

If the activity on the land is a cause for concern in terms of highway issues, noise, anti-social behaviour or littering, and these occur on numerous occasions then these can be referred to the relevant bodies including the County or District Councils or the police.

Moors for the Future Partnership update

Now in its 18th year, the Partnership is continuing to deliver large-scale blanket bog restoration work across the Dark Peak and South Pennines. Site works begin in August and continue throughout the winter on a rolling schedule and will include the Roaches, Saddleworth, Bleaklow and Wessenden Head alongside other sites in the South Pennines and West Pennine Moors. Annual surveying is taking place from July onwards, monitoring vegetation over the summer and water table depth in autumn. Areas surveyed include Kinder Scout (Edale parish) and Black Hill (Holme Valley parish).

The Moor Green Investment project begins in September and aims to encourage sustainable private sector investment in our upland environment, specifically peatland restoration. The one-year project will receive grant funding from Defra, the Environment Agency and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to support their development, complete business plans to attract private sector investment, and deliver long-term environmental benefits and sustainable financial returns.

The Partnership is also pursuing opportunities for peatland restoration through the Environment Agency's Flood and Coast Erosion Management Strategy, which is currently laid before parliament for a 40 day period, and by contributing to consultations on ELMS (which closes on the 31st July) and the England Peat Strategy (which closes on the 4th August). For more information on any of the above please contact Debra Wilson, Communications Programme Manager, debra.wilson@peakdistrict.gov.uk

If you have any queries about this bulletin please contact the Planning Liaison officer
fiona.todd@peakdistrict.gov.uk