

Hope with Aston Parish Council

Newsletter, February 2025

Peak Cluster

Breedon and a number of other major cement and lime production businesses in Derbyshire and Staffordshire are working on a plan to capture carbon emissions and secure them permanently under the Irish Sea. This project is known as Peak Cluster. Assuming it goes ahead, it will involve construction of facilities to capture CO² at sites such as Breedon's Hope Works. Pipelines will be constructed to run from these sites, to Leashowe on the Wirral. Early planning has already taken place, the project is now in an initial consultation phase with construction starting in 2030. The consultation phase of the project offers an opportunity to suggest changes that might be made to reduce impacts on local environments and communities, including Hope. So, we would encourage you to look at the explanatory information available at www.peakcluster.co.uk and to give your own feedback via the consultation hub www.peakcluster-consultation.co.uk before 27th February.

Local government reorganization

Two separate proposals have been made to central government about how new unitary authorities should be set up in Derbyshire. Derbyshire County Council have proposed a single unitary authority for the whole county. The majority of Derbyshire's district and borough councils have proposed creating two unitary councils with a north-south division. Central government is currently considering these options. You can express your own opinions on this issue through a Statutory Consultation from now until 26th March. Go to: <https://consult.communities.gov.uk/local-government-reorganisation/derbyshire-and-derby/>

Railways: noise, engineering work and lighting

Breedon has submitted a planning application to install sound limiting barriers on their branch railway line as it approaches the viaduct over Edale Rd. They are also installing noise reduction equipment on trains and track in the area. This process has involved extensive collaboration with householders impacted by train noise and is a very welcome initiative.

Sadly, Network Rail do not have to go through the planning system when they want to make changes to the Hope Valley railway line. Recently they have provided generic information to a very few selected households, about developments that might have significant and wider impacts in Hope. Houses at the end of Bowden Lane have been informed of plans for major engineering work on the line. This work is scheduled to involve track replacement and will take place over night-time weekends from January 31st through to April. They warn of significant noise. The Parish Council has contacted Network Rail to express our concerns about the lack of adequate notification.

The lighting at Earles Sidings is a significant concern for the Parish Council and for local people living nearby. We will continue to lobby Heavy Haulage Ltd (Formerly Freightliner) to

encourage them to mitigate the impact of the high lighting towers and to install low level lighting that is more appropriate for sidings in the Peak District National Park.

Managing speed in the village

Residents regularly raise concerns with the Parish Council about speeding vehicles. A number of ways of managing this issue have been considered and we would like your feedback on two such options.

1. Imposing a 20 mph speed limit

This is not a decision which the Parish Council can take; it requires agreement from Derbyshire County Council Highways, who have hitherto been reluctant. However, with changes in the structure of local government coming up, there may be opportunities for us to argue for new policies on traffic speed in local villages. Before we do so, we would like to know whether a 20 mph speed limit within the village would have the support of the community. This would relate to all roads currently subject to a 30 mph speed limit.

2. Setting up speed indication devices (SIDs)

A SID is a warning sign which alerts drivers if their speed is in excess of the permitted speed limit (to be clear, we are not considering putting up speed cameras which would generate fines). SIDs have recently been installed in Bradwell and are planned for Hathersage. Their function is advisory, but evidence suggests that they do contribute to reducing average speeds, and in particular they lower the number of vehicles that travel in excess of the permitted speed limit. DCC would need to approve these signs but permission is likely to be easier to obtain than for a speed limit change. However, SIDs are expensive and not easily affordable within the current Parish Council budget. We will only be able to put them up if it is clear that there is strong support for them in the village, and if additional funding can be found.



Please let us know what you think on both of these issues. You can go to the following page <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HBZRRWM> (see link at QR code attached). If you prefer, email the Clerk at clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk, or talk directly to any member of the Parish Council to express your opinions.

The National Trust's Community Tree Growing Project

The National Trust's community tree growing initiative is a three-year project, funded by the Postcode Lottery, which aims to encourage people from local communities to help grow native trees from seed harvested in the Peak District. The trees grown will be planted out on the National Trust Peak District estate, supporting the Trust's work to create healthy woodlands for the future. Several residents from Hope and Aston have been helping to get the project off the ground in our area and they will also be growing trees that can be planted out in and around our Parish. So far, acorns have been sown and seed has been collected from trees including alder, crab apple, guelder rose, holly, blackthorn and rowan. Seeds will be planted in the spring and once they have germinated, seedlings will be potted on and moved to a new community tree growing site which will be

constructed by National Trust rangers and volunteers at Hope Sports Club this spring. Please contact Helen Perkins (hopewildlife@gmail.com) if you want to get involved or know more.

News from St Peter's

Our parish church has been at the centre of village life in Hope for over 600 years. The congregation at St Peter's has been exploring how the church can continue to serve the community today. We got off to a great start on 15 July last year when 36 Hope residents joined a conversation about church and community at The Old School. Here is a quick update on progress.

The churchyard working group, now well-established, will continue its churchyard tidying sessions. Plans are also now in hand to refresh the interior of the church and improve the interpretation of the building's history. There is a developing and exciting calendar of events in the church for 2026, including repeat visits by the Castleton Silver Band and Steel City choristers, and a 'meet the author' evening. A church cleaning group is now also in action. The next working party – inside and out – will be on the morning of Saturday 28th March. A separate group is focussing on the longer-term future of the church space with the aim of offering an inspiring church interior which has flexible space for worship, concerts, and exhibitions to complement other village venues. Meanwhile Friends of St Peter's (a separate charity set up to assist the church) is gathering additional trustees and supporters in anticipation of a re-launch in the summer.

If you would like to get involved in any of these areas of work or offer help in any other way, please contact Gill Tishler (gilltishler@yahoo.co.uk).

Benches

Did you know that there are 30 benches around Hope and Aston, and that the Parish Council is responsible for around 20 of these? We are currently replacing benches at the Travellers and at the junction of Green Drive and Bowden Lane and have begun a regular programme to maintain the remainder. If you are interested in making a donation to pay for a commemorative plaque on any of these benches please contact our Clerk at clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Castleton Road planters

In 2025 the planters on Castleton Road were given a new look. The improvements received a significant number of positive comments. The aim in 2026 is to ensure that they continue to add to the quality of the village environment. With this in mind, we are looking for donations of plants and also for villagers to come forward to help to maintain the planters. Hope Valley Garden Centre has kindly offered to donate a number of perennial plants, for which we thank them. We will still need other contributions, all of which will be gratefully received. The donated plants can be seasonal bedding plants (we are aware that those who 'grow their own' may have a few to spare), or perennials which will last more than one season. Donations of bulbs are also welcome.

The planters will need an occasional watering (or more often if we have a summer like 2025!). In order to minimize the costs to the parish, we would be grateful if there are any volunteers to help with this task. If you are willing to help in any way, please email us at clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Jubilee Corner



The elm tree at Jubilee Corner on Edale Rd had to be removed on account of Dutch Elm disease, but we have recently planted a Charles Ross and an Ellisons Orange apple tree there.

As part of our work to reduce traffic jams on Edale Road, the Parish Council has decided to erect a sign at Jubilee Corner as a further warning to drivers of long vehicles that they cannot cross Townhead Bridge and that there is nowhere to turn if they proceed. We continue to argue the case with DCC Highways for more effective controls on such vehicles on Edale Road.

Parish Council matters

The Parish Council has reviewed our plans for 2026-7 and submitted our proposal for funding to High Peak. A small sum for the Parish Council is included in your annual Council Tax bill. This is known as the 'precept'. We have proposed a small increase of under £2.00 per household for an average band D property. Finances for maintaining the quality of our local environment are very tight, and we are grateful for the additional funds from various sources, which enable us to take on and deliver more for the community.

We will be holding annual meetings separately for the Hope ward and the Aston ward in late April or early May. Information about the location and timing will be posted on the Parish Council noticeboards and online. All residents are welcome to attend.

Beavers in Derbyshire

Anyone who watched the BBC documentary about wildlife in London with David Attenborough will have seen beavers re-established in the outskirts of the city after an absence of 400 years. There is a prospect of wild beavers in Derbyshire as well. The Derbyshire Wildlife Trust has already developed a controlled beaver presence in an enclosure at Willington Wetlands, and is now consulting on the possibility of reintroducing beavers in the wild, with the upper Derwent valley as a possible location. To find out more or to express opinions for or against this possibility, go to <https://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/derbyshire-beavers>.

Keep up to date

Between newsletters, we issue updates on items which come to our attention. These can include announcements of meetings, notifications of road closures and any other items which are of interest to residents. Why not either watch out for news items being updated on our website <https://www.hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk/>, join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/HwAPC>, or keep an eye on our Parish Council noticeboards outside Spar and by Aston Hall Farm.