

Hope with Aston Parish Council

Newsletter, September 2026

Local government reorganization on hold

Central government had proposed that regions of the country which are currently managed through two-tier local government (in our case, Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council), would move to being managed by single entities known as unitary authorities. As recently as July, the government announced that Derbyshire would have two unitary authorities. A northern one would incorporate High Peak, Derbyshire Dales, Chesterfield, Bolsover, part of Amber Valley and North East Derbyshire. A southern authority would include Erewash, Derby, South Derbyshire and the other part of Amber Valley. However, following legal challenges, the government has now put these plans on hold. Apart from legal concerns, it is not clear whether these changes have the support of the new Prime Minister. We will keep you updated in future newsletters as this question is resolved.

St Peter's Church

A working group, formed after last year's community conversation, has continued its research on ways in which the parish church building could better fulfil its role as place of worship and also provide a community resource. Reporting to the Parochial Church Council [PCC], the group aims for an inspiring building which provides:

- flexible space for traditional and contemporary worship
- strong engagement with visitors through accessible and accurate interpretation of the important features of the building
- provision for exhibitions and concerts, with the church complementing other village venues
- high quality and fully accessible toilet(s) and upgraded catering facilities.

The group has gathered information on the experience of other village churches, walked round the church with conservation architects who have given free-of-charge advice, and, with PCC representatives, met the Derby Diocese buildings adviser. Next steps will be PCC consideration of options, followed by a report to the wider community. St Peter's has been a place of worship at the heart of the village for 700 years. We want it to continue to thrive.

For more information, contact Roger Clarke at clarkerogerm@gmail.com

Peak Cluster

In past newsletters we have reported on the first phase of consultation relating to the proposed Peak Cluster project that would capture carbon from a series of works including the Breedon site at Hope and transport this in a pipeline to the Wirral. In our response to that consultation we raised many questions about the proposals and the lack of key information about the project. We are still waiting for the Peak Cluster consortium to respond to these issues. A second phase of consultation is planned in the coming months. In addition to this, Breedon is planning to hold public meetings about their proposals. We will provide information about any meetings on parish notice boards and our website. We encourage you to participate in these meetings and to use formal consultations to express your questions and any concerns.

Noise disturbance

A number of residents have recently contacted the Parish Council to raise concerns about noise levels from Hope Works at night. We have been in contact with Breedon who acknowledge that the noise has arisen from tasks being undertaken while kilns are closed down for annual maintenance. They have reviewed their work programme to ensure that, as far as possible, noise ceases by 8pm and to take steps to reduce the noise at all times where feasible. They have apologised for any inconvenience caused. We would like to thank local residents for notifying us of the issue and to thank Breedon for responding as soon as it was raised with them.



Footpath maintenance

The Parish Council has undertaken work on sections of Footpath 1 (Hope to Lose Hill) that are most prone to muddy conditions in winter. Many thanks to DCC for funding provision of aggregates and to a team of councillors and volunteers who laid the gravel. As and when problems come up with footpaths, stiles and gates, these should be reported to DCC by scanning this QR code.



Hope Community Tree Growing Project

With the support of the National Trust and Hope Sports Club (where a tree nursery will soon be constructed), several Hope and Aston residents got together last autumn to embark on growing trees from local seed. Trees grown will be planted on National Trust land in the Upper Derwent, as well as locally. Residents in other Hope Valley villages are also getting involved in community tree growing. If you would like to join the team of Hope tree growers, please contact Helen Perkins via hopeparishwildlife@gmail.com.

Police ANPR cameras

The police have reported positive benefits from the installation of automatic number plate recognition cameras on roads into the Hope Valley. The cameras have been used for a number of purposes including tracking and stopping known criminals, pursuit of vehicles after offences have been committed, and for specific challenges such as locating missing persons for safeguarding. Alongside these benefits, there should be some deterrent effect on people who would otherwise have entered the valley to commit crimes.

Hedgehog Highways

Using money from the High Peak Councillors Personal Initiative Fund, the Parish Council has purchased 20 Hedgehog Highway Signs. The aim is to use them to encourage residents to create



Hedgehog Highways between gardens, and between gardens and fields. The signs will be positioned in areas close to public footpaths to raise awareness of the need to consider the impacts of fences on hedgehogs. A simple gap in a fence can make a big difference and may stop hedgehogs from going out onto roads as they navigate their way through village gardens. If you want to suggest a suitable spot for one of the signs or if you would like help in creating a Hedgehog Highway in your part of the village, please get in touch with Helen Perkins at hopeparishwildlife@gmail.com.

War Memorial Garden: we need your help!

The Parish Council is about to bid for money for repairs to the stonework of the war memorial in the village and has commissioned a professional survey to help us bid for grant support. The appearance of the area around the memorial depends upon people from Hope looking after the garden in front of the monument. In 2014 a small band of volunteers took over the care of this garden from the Parish Council. Many people have commented on how much they enjoy seeing the wildflowers, daffodils and geraniums throughout the changing seasons. We are now in need of a few new people to help with a little light weeding, clearing the wildflower beds and planting some more daffodil bulbs. No digging is required. Volunteers meet about five times a year, as the need arises, people join in as and when they can. The next session is planned for **Saturday 17th October, meeting at 10am at the War Memorial** at the bottom of Sherwood Avenue. It will last for around an hour. Bring your own hand tools and a weed bucket. Everyone is welcome!

Planters on Castleton Road

You might have noticed that the planters on Castleton Road had a much-needed facelift just before Wakes Week. Hope Valley Garden Centre very kindly donated a generous number of begonias which brightened them up significantly. Thanks must also go to the small team of willing volunteers who gave up a hot late afternoon to weed, plant up and water them all (water kindly supplied by a nearby resident). Moving forward, the Parish Council has decided to approach local businesses to sponsor a planter. This will help ensure that the planters are looking good all year round. Finer detail needs to be ironed out, as during hot spells it is important that they get watered. We hope you agree that they are a cheerful addition to the village!

Managing speed in Hope

DCC has in principle approved our suggested location for a speed indication device. At the Parish Council meeting on 14th September, councillors agreed their preferred location for one device to be installed on a street lamp outside Hope Valley College. This will be able to be rotated to face either direction, as is the case with the device in Bradwell. The next steps are to obtain final costs for supply and installation, receive official permission from DCC and have the street lamp tested for structural integrity.

Road closures and temporary restrictions

Many residents and businesses have recently had to cope with malfunctioning temporary traffic lights in the village during Cadent work on gas pipes. Contractors carrying out the work have been as concerned as we are about the lights, and have tried to improve the situation, which has been particularly dangerous in the evenings. When necessary, the Parish Council has contacted the police, as well as making phone reports to Cadent and Derbyshire County Council Highways. Meanwhile children trying to get to school at the start of the new academic year have been held up, and others have faced frustrating waits and dangerous forays into potentially oncoming traffic. It seems that the only way to bring about action is to make repeated phone calls or written reports when malfunctions occur, so thank you to everyone who has persisted with this. The safety of our community should not have to rely on such efforts.

In terms of upcoming road closures, the B6001 from Grindleford to Hathersage will be closed from 14th September for 5 weeks for retaining wall repairs. Two other major disruptions are planned: a closure of Winnats Pass to facilitate a new power connection, and closure of the road from Hathersage to Owler Bar to enable Severn Trent to work on a water pipeline. The Winnats Pass closure was scheduled to take place from 1st October to 25th November, but we understand that this may now be delayed. We will keep everyone informed as soon as information about these major disruptions becomes available.

Upcoming events

Remembrance Sunday

A short act of Remembrance will take place at Hope War Memorial on Sunday November 8th at 11am. Everyone is welcome.

Please note, a road closure will be in place for approximately 20 minutes.

Christmas Lights Switch On

This will take place on Monday 30th November 6pm to 7pm at Loxley Hall. Carols will be played by Castleton Silver Band and Father Christmas will make a guest appearance!

Everyone is welcome. Pam Critchlow is coordinating the event with support from the Parish Council. If you can help on the night or provide a few mince pies please let Pam know or email clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

Please note, School Lane and Market Place (not the main road) will be closed during this event.