

April 2024

Hope with Aston Parish Council Newsletter

This edition of our newsletter largely focuses on what you want us to do as a Parish Council.

You'll see a piece about our aims and objectives as a Council and some possible practical projects, but we really want to hear what you think is important. You will see a brief questionnaire on the fourth page. What do you think our priorities should be? It would be great if you could complete this questionnaire and either leave your responses in Spar or respond online by following the QR code to an online version. You could also express your views by coming along to one of our Annual Meetings (see below for details). If you are planning to attend, please email clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk to help us plan for refreshments.

This edition also includes transport issues, such as the closure of Bowden Lane, and the future closure of the A6187 at Sickleholme, as well as ongoing problems with long vehicles on Edale Road. We highlight our forthcoming spring cleaning of bus shelters in the village, and we are also asking for help in carrying out a footpath audit.

Finally, we have recently provided a small amount of funding for the local litter picking group, which continues to do a fantastic job and High Peak Borough Council are investigating whether a new litter bin can be installed on Eccles Close at the start of the footpath behind the Primary School leading towards Losehill.

Best wishes



Chris Perkins (Chair, Hope with Aston Parish Council)

Annual Parish Meeting
for Aston Residents

Monday 29th April 7.30pm

The Travellers PH

Annual Parish Meeting
for Hope Residents

Monday 13th May 7pm

The Old School, Hope

Bowden Lane closure and bridge replacement

Network Rail and their contractor AMCO Giffen are replacing the railway bridge over Bowden Lane. While the work is being carried out, trains will not be running between Saturday 27th April and Wednesday 1st May. Replacement buses will operate between Sheffield and Manchester. Anyone wanting to travel on the Hope Valley line over this period should check services before they travel at www.nationalrail.co.uk. In the meantime, and until the work is complete, Bowden Lane is shut with an alternative route in place to give pedestrian and vehicle access to Twitchill Farm and other houses to the north of the bridge. The Parish Council has expressed concerns over late consultation with residents about access, and over the safety and condition of Green Drive. Gravel has now been laid along Green Drive most of the way from Farfield Farm to Hope Cemetery and improved signage has now been installed. Bowden Lane is not scheduled to reopen until July, and the Parish Council is pushing for Network Rail to fund urgently needed pothole repairs along the route, to compensate for the disruption caused. Regular meetings have been set up with the contractor, so if you have any concerns about the scheme please contact clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Lorry and coach issues on Edale Road

Many thanks to local residents who have responded to our appeals for information about blockages caused by lorries and coaches reversing down Edale Road, after discovering they are unable to cross the bridge at Townhead. Your information is enabling us to contact coach and HGV companies to seek changes in their route planning, as well as adding strength to our appeals to DCC for better signage and greater controls on the use of Edale Road by unsuitable vehicles. Keep the information coming!

Footpath audit- can you help?

We are lucky to have access to a great network of paths and bridleways and are about to start a systematic survey of all these rights of way, so that we can prioritize repair and improvement works. For example, stiles, footbridges, path condition and signage may need to be improved. Could you help by walking part of the network and recording information about the different routes, or by sending us photos of any issues? Do let us know if you could help by contacting clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk.

Bus shelter clean up

A team of volunteers and Parish Councillors has recently started work to clean up Hope's bus shelters, which are starting to show their age. This is part of ongoing projects to improve the look of the village.

Mytham Bridge

Derbyshire County Council are preparing for major works to be undertaken on the A6187 embankment of the River Noe by Mytham Bridge. When this work is undertaken, there will be an extended period of road closure impacting traffic across the valley. This is likely to take place at some time in 2025. The current one-way traffic system will remain in place until the works are undertaken. We will notify you through our website and Facebook page of any updates.

Parish events

Over the next few weeks we will be adding village events to the What's On page on the News Section of our web site. Why not follow this QR code to find out what is happening in Hope?



Our priorities: what do you think?

We recently updated our aims as a parish council and agreed key objectives, identifying ways of delivering these and flagging up some possible projects to improve the Parish. Of course, our powers and budget as a parish council are limited: we can do little to directly influence things like tourist pressure, or to directly improve highways, build affordable houses, or improve public transport. Nor do we own significant assets in the village. We can however represent your views to other bodies with more power and bigger budgets and we do want to take action to improve Hope. We can also bid for money to make changes that are needed but are beyond our own financial limits.

We want to carry out projects that *you* think are important. We are interested in what *you* think and it would be great if you could take a few minutes to respond to the questions below. You can either tear off this sheet and return via the box marked 'Parish questionnaire' at Spar in Hope, or complete the questionnaire online by scanning the QR code:



The Parish Council sees the following as our key objectives:

1. to fulfil our statutory duties as a parish council
2. to represent our local community
3. to improve the quality of life for residents and for visitors
4. to improve the village environment and facilities

To achieve these aims we will take the following actions:

- work to maintain and improve local amenities including footpaths, bus shelters, public highways, rights of way, and community facilities
- encourage and facilitate other community groups and individuals to participate in improvement projects
- actively monitor impacts on the community from development, road and rail traffic, agriculture, industry and tourism, working with other agencies where appropriate to encourage or to mitigate these impacts
- support local action to encourage nature and wildlife in the Parish and to enhance the local natural environment
- communicate and consult with residents

The following are examples of practical projects the Parish Council could undertake that are in line with our objectives and priorities

- A new noticeboard for Aston
- Improving bus shelters that we own
- Enhancing planters on Castleton Rd
- Improving the village entrance gate environments
- A Warm Place project
- Setting up a public water fountain
- QR codes to point people to information about Hope and Aston
- A guide for new residents
- A footpath audit and consequent prioritizing of improvements
- More benches and planters e.g., in front of the Old Hall and around the car park
- Working to improve road safety by traffic calming measures and speed limits

Parish questionnaire

1. Are you happy with our aims and actions?

Yes

No

If no, please tell us more

2. Are there other objectives or priorities which you'd like the Parish Council to pursue?

3. What improvements would you like to see in Hope with Aston?

4. Please add any ideas for projects that are not included in the list overleaf

5. Is there anything else that you wish to add?