

Hope with Aston Parish Council

Newsletter, May 2025

Meeting with Jon Pearce MP

On Thursday 10th April High Peak MP Jon Pearce attended a special meeting of the Parish Council held as a public meeting at the Old School. We had the opportunity to ask for his views on a wide range of issues affecting Hope in particular and the Peak District in general, including issues such as:

- increasing pressure from visitor numbers in the Park
- plans for local government reorganisation
- the future of the Breedon site and Breedon's plans for carbon capture
- declining biodiversity in the area and what can be done to reverse this
- the state of public transport
- the future of local farming
- problems with large vehicles on local roads
- concerns about housing availability and cost

A detailed account of the issues raised and Jon Pearce's responses at the meeting is available on the Parish Council noticeboards and website.

Footpath issues

Improvements to Footpaths 1 and 3

In autumn 2024 the Parish Council initiated an audit of all public footpaths across the Parish. A group of volunteers undertook a detailed study of all routes. The information gathered will be used as a base for the ongoing monitoring of public footpaths. A number of routes require substantial improvements due to the heavy footfall. The most urgent example was the start of Footpath 1 - the route from Eccles Close towards Lose Hill. The Parish Council acquired funding from High Peak Borough Council for work to be carried out earlier this year. Below are photographs of the area before and after improvement. We also commissioned small scale works on Footpath 3, further up Edale Rd. Further work will take place in the future on other heavily used routes.



Right of Way through Carbolite

Since 2021 we have been trying to persuade Derbyshire County Council to designate the route through the grounds of Carbolite, between Parsons Lane and Station Road, as a right of way for pedestrians. This involved submitting evidence of historic use of the route. There is a long backlog in determining these kinds of changes to the definitive map of rights of way, but we have recently heard that our application is finally being determined, with a deadline of June 15th for any further evidence. So hopefully we will soon hear the outcome of this long running issue.

Other local improvements

The Parish Council is currently obtaining quotes from specialist repairers for restoration work on the War Memorial. We are awaiting a definite schedule for when this work will be undertaken.

Following requests to High Peak Borough Council we are pleased to report that two new litter bins have been installed - one the corner of Eccles Close and Edale Road, and one at the junction of Station Road and Hope Road. The Parish Council is also investigating whether Derbyshire County Council will fund new grit bins in Aston.

Signage on the Brinks

Derbyshire County Council rejected our request for road safety signage on the Brinks. Our hope was for signage to reduce the risk of a collision with a speeding descending bike. High Peak Borough Councillors subsequently offered access to a special fund targeting such initiatives. And abracadabra! - the signs have been purchased and will shortly be erected. Many thanks to Cllr Charlotte Farrell for all her help with this issue.

Bunting in the village

Sunday April 27th was a hot day for local runners who were competing in either the London or Manchester marathons, but also for the energetic team of Councillors and other volunteers who spent the morning putting up bunting throughout the village. The Parish Council funded the purchase of the new bunting and in collaboration with the Sports Club is already putting it to good use. It looked very cheery for VE Day and will be left up right through Wakes Week. Special thanks to those local families who came out with very welcome drinks, chocolate biscuits and sandwiches to keep the bunting-hangers fed and watered.

Local government reorganisation

In our last newsletter we mentioned the Government's plans for a major reorganisation of local government, which will lead to a consolidation of what has hitherto been two tiers of local government – in our case, High Peak Borough Council (HPBC) and Derbyshire County Council (DCC). We do not yet know what form the new local council will take – that will not be finalised until after a consultation process in spring 2026. However, as discussed in the meeting with Jon Pearce, the current options look like being either the formation of a local council for the whole of Derbyshire, or the setting up two local councils divided on north-south lines, with the former HPBC covered by the northern council, based in Chesterfield.

Planters on Castleton Road

You may be aware that we been planning to improve the appearance of the planters on Castleton Road. At present they are simply concrete troughs. Wooden finishes have now been completed for the troughs, allowing one side of each planter to be decorated with pictures painted by children from

the neighbourhood. Art classes from Hope Preschool, Hope Primary School and Hope Valley College have submitted their proposals, and Councillors have chosen their preferred entries for the short list. You will see an insert in this newsletter asking you to now vote for your favourite entries. We will announce the winners on our Facebook page, website and notice boards. The refurbishment of the planters will be completed in time for Wakes Week.

Reporting driving incidents

Bad driving such as speeding or other dangerous behaviour on the highway is something that we can now report directly to the police. Derbyshire Constabulary have set up a web site that allows anyone to upload dash cam or other video images relating to driving incidents that they encounter. You can find out more at

<https://www.derbyshire.police.uk/police-forces/derbyshire-constabulary/areas/derbyshire-force-content/campaigns/campaigns/2019/derbyshire-capture/>

New Councillor co-opted

Following the resignation of Ian Ord in January this year we have a new member of the Parish Council. Miranda Harriss has lived in Aston for three years now. She has four grown up children and spent most of her working life in hospitality and in primary education. She has an active interest in nature and its protection and is also a member of the local litter picking group. Miranda hopes to make a positive contribution to improving life for all in Hope and Aston.

Church and community meeting

St Peter's Church in Hope has stood at the centre of the village for over 600 years, but the congregation is keen to explore how the church can continue to serve the community today. The Parochial Church Council is interested in hearing from local organisations and residents about any ideas you might have for the church building and the churchyard and how they can continue to meet the needs of Hope residents. There will be an open meeting to discuss these issues on Tuesday 15th July at 7.30 pm at the Old School with refreshments provided.

Keep up to date

Between newsletters, we send out 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 and which will take place before the next newsletter. Why not either watch out for news items being updated on our website <https://www.hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk/>, or join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/HwAPC>.

Bus services calling at Hope

In case this is helpful, and in the light of recent changes in bus operations in the valley, we are providing below a summary of key bus timetable information for people travelling to and from Hope and Aston. If you identify any discrepancies between this timetable information and the official timetables, do let us know! Up to date travel information is available from various services including bustimes.org and highpeakbuses.com.

Bus services calling at Hope

62 – Daily, High Peak

Buxton - Chapel-en-le-Frith - Edale - Hope - Castleton

Departs Hope Car Park to Castleton:

0910 0955 1255 1355 1655 1755

Departs Hope Post Office to Buxton:

1009 1409 1809

Departs Buxton Market Place to Hope:

0820 1205 1605

87 – Wednesdays only, South Pennine CT

Departs Hope Car Park for Castleton 10.49

Departs Hope Post Office for Bamford, Ladybower, Strines, Holmfirth 13.01

173 – Monday to Saturday, Andrews of Tideswell

Castleton - Hope - Tideswell - Litton - Monsal Head - Shutts Lane - Bakewell

Departs Hope Car Park for Castleton:

1041 1241 1441 1641 1841

Departs Hope Post Office for Tideswell:

1054 1254 1454 1654

257 – Monday to Saturday, Andrews of Tideswell

Sheffield – Hope – Bradwell – Baslow - Bakewell

Departs Hope Church for Bakewell

0844 or 0847 and 1544 or 1547

Departs Hope Church for Sheffield

0839 and 1539

271 and 272 – Monday to Saturday, First South Yorkshire and High Peak (Sunday service below)

Castleton - Hathersage - Fox House - Sheffield

Departs Hope Post Office for Sheffield:

0740 0909 0952 1105 1152 1252 1405 1452 1605 1705 1805 1955 2230

Departs Hope Car Park for Castleton:

0851 0935 1045 1135 1235 1347 1435 1547 1647 1747 1935 2213

An additional service departs on Friday nights at 2351

Departs Sheffield Interchange, stop D2 for Hope:

0746 0846 0946 1036 1136 1236 1336 1436 1536 1636 1836 2122

An additional service departs on Friday nights at 2300

271 and 272 - Sunday service, First South Yorkshire

Departs Hope Post Office for Sheffield:

1010 1110 1213 1310 1415 1510 1612 1809 2006 2249

Departs Sheffield Interchange, stop D2 for Hope:

0851 0951 1051 1151 1251 1351 1451 1551 1651 1851 2136

There is also a service called Peak Service Blue between Chatsworth and Mam Tor which stops at Hope, but this only runs during high season.