

Hope with Aston Parish Council

Newsletter, September 2025

Police initiatives to increase security

Many crimes committed locally involve people with stolen vehicles entering the valley from surrounding areas. Derbyshire Police have recently placed a number of Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras on roads in our area, to capture the details of vehicle movements in and out of the valley. They will not be used for enforcement of speed limits. However, ANPR cameras do offer a deterrent, and also provide information to help the police track down vehicles after crimes have been committed. Along with the other parish councils in the valley, Hope with Aston Parish Council has made a substantial contribution to the cost of these cameras. We would like to thank a number of local businesses which have also contributed to the costs, namely Café Adventure, Hope Valley Motor Bodies, Eighteen Bikes and Hope Garage.

Local government reorganisation

Central government is replacing the current system of two-tier local government (in our case, Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council) with single unitary authorities. Over this summer, DCC and the borough councils have been considering what to propose to central government as the future unitary authorities for Derbyshire. Two things seem to be pretty certain at the moment: first, that we are heading towards two unitary authorities for Derbyshire, one for the north and one for the south; and second, that however the boundaries are set, our parish will be under the north Derbyshire unitary authority, which will have its headquarters in Chesterfield. The next stage in this process will take place in early 2026 when central government will publish its plan for how the country will be divided up. There will then be a public consultation on those proposals with an opportunity for us to feed back on the plans. Legislation to put the new structure into place is likely to be approved during autumn 2026, leading to the first elections for the new councils in May 2027. Ultimately the shift is intended to save money by removing duplication of functions within the current two-tier system. The process of making the change will itself impose a significant extra burden and cost on Derbyshire County Council and High Peak Borough Council, which may impact their ability to deliver other services during the transition period. In theory, parish councils will not be impacted by these changes, and the Peak Park will continue to be responsible for planning in our area. The new unitary authorities are much larger than existing boroughs, and as such will be much less accountable, so Hope with Aston Parish Council will do our very best to represent your interests going forward.

Jubilee Corner

The wych elm tree at Jubilee Corner on Edale Rd was suffering from elm disease and had become unsafe. It has now been removed. Though this is a sad loss we are planning to replace the elm with two apple trees. We intend to add a plaque to mark the planting.

Active travel masterplan

Over the summer Derbyshire County Council undertook a consultation about an active travel masterplan which is being developed to support more walking, cycling and wheeling in the Hope Valley. The Parish Council welcomed the broad aims but expressed significant reservations about many of the actions envisaged in the plans. We feel that reducing the speed of traffic through Hope is key to enhancing active travel and that more frequent buses are essential if the objective is to reduce car journeys. Neither of these issues were highlighted in the plan. The idea of a multi-user route from Bamford to Castleton suggested in the plan is a good one in theory, but there are big problems with the current proposal. We will continue to lobby for a better outcome. We put out information about this consultation on our noticeboards, Facebook page and on the Parish Council website, and hope that Hope and Aston residents had the opportunity to make their own views known through consultation meetings held in Bradwell and Hathersage and through the online survey.

St Peter's Church

A public meeting was held at the Old School on 15th July to discuss ways in which the Church and churchyard can be used to serve the community in Hope, and how residents in Hope can contribute to the maintenance and flourishing of the Church. At present, the congregation maintains the Church, which is not a sustainable model for its future survival as a building and site of worship. Anyone who wishes to contribute personally to initiatives around ensuring the long-term future of the Church should contact Roger Clarke (clarkero germ@gmail.com) or Gill Tishler (gilltishler@yahoo.co.uk).

Planters on Castleton Road

We would like to thank the many residents who have commented positively on the improvement in the appearance of the planters after their renovation and decoration earlier this summer. There is however, one remaining challenge. Extensive dry periods are becoming more common, so the need for regular watering of the planters is increasing. If anyone in Hope would be willing to help with watering tasks in the future, please contact the Clerk at clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk. We would also be delighted if someone was willing to do the seasonal planting. All plant and compost costs will be covered by the Parish Council.

Hope Valley Art Trail

Coming up on Saturday 27th September is the Hope Valley's first ever Art Trail by Rail. The event invites residents and visitors to explore Hope Valley's art, culture, and local businesses using sustainable transport—by train, bus, and on foot. Timed to celebrate this year's 200th anniversary of the railway, the project is a collaboration between Hope Valley Climate Action (HVCA), the Community Rail Partnership, Friends of the Hope Valley Railway Stations and local artists and businesses. For more information go to the [HVCA website](#).

Thank you Breedon

We would like to express our thanks to Breedon for their cooperation and support on a number of fronts. They received a sum of money from Network Rail as part of an agreement for access to their landholdings during works on Bowden Lane bridge. Breedon kindly passed this sum (£11,250) on to the Parish Council. We will be allocating this to community projects across the parish. If you have any suggestions for projects, please contact clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk. In addition, Breedon have contributed supplies of aggregate and coordinated the work on the latest upgrades for Footpath 1 (from the village centre up towards Lose Hill). This critical walking route for residents and visitors certainly looks much better now (see photo). Thanks also to the relevant landowners for their support. Breedon have also programmed in work on Footpath 7 alongside Peakshole Water.



Edale Road

The Parish Council is continuing to lobby DCC for stronger action to prevent oversize coaches and lorries from having to reverse back down Edale Road from Townhead Bridge to Eccles Close. Our thanks to all those residents who have supplied photos of such episodes – please do keep these coming. We are also investigating putting up our own warning signs on Jubilee Corner.

Right of way from Parsons Lane to Station Road

Just over four years ago we applied to Derbyshire County Council to have the route from Parsons Lane to the station classified as a public right of way. The DCC process required us to provide evidence that the road had been continuously used as a throughway by walkers and others for at least the last 20 years. A magnificent total of 30 'User Evidence Forms' were submitted by local residents, most of which went back more than the 20 years. In the face of all this evidence DCC have decided that there is indeed a right of way, but not for a footpath. Instead they have designated the route as a bridleway! This means that not only pedestrians but also cyclists, wheelers and equestrians have a right of way (but not motor vehicles, including motorbikes). There are a couple of DCC administrative processes that need to be completed before everything is 'official', but none of this would have been possible without all the people who took the trouble to submit the evidence to support this application. Many thanks!

Breedon solar farm and quarry extension proposals

Breedon are going to submit two new planning applications this autumn. They want to extend the limestone quarry and to set up a solar farm in the former western shale quarry on their site. There will be a public exhibition about the proposals in Loxley Hall on Wednesday 24th September, between 3pm and 8pm, and on Thursday 25th September, between 10am and 4pm. More information about the plans is available at <https://my.engaged.space/hope/#home>.

Keep up to date

To access the additional information we issue between newsletters, why not join our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/HwAPC>, or watch for news updates on the Parish Council website <https://www.hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk/>. Alternatively, use the QR codes below:



Facebook page



Website

More about the Parish Council

Residents of Hope and Aston are welcome to attend meetings of the Parish Council which take place at 7.30pm on the second Monday of every month (excluding August) at the Old School on School Lane. There is a slot on the agenda for residents to address any issues they wish to raise. You can contact the Parish Council Clerk (Alison Wheeler) via clerk@hopewithastonparishcouncil.co.uk, by phone on 07958 714013 or in writing at PO Box 864, Hope Valley, S40 9WP. The following are the current members of the Parish Council:



Stephen Barr



Martin Chapman



Miranda Harriss



Richard Henson



Gordon Hopewell



Jemma Lenton



Chris Perkins
(Chair)



Stephen Price



Laura Vincent