



## Parishes Bulletin 40

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*21 June 2021*

### Summer 2021

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#### Welcome to this latest Parishes Bulletin

We have been celebrating the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Peak District National Park; mostly through social media, the press, and TV and radio it must be said, as a result of the pandemic restrictions on face to face events. The Peak District National Park became the UK's original national park, designated on 17 April, 1951. The Peak District paved the way for what would become a UK network of 15 national parks enjoyed today.

Many things have changed in the last 70 years, but the founding principles of protecting and enhancing the Peak District National Park remain central to the work of this Authority. You may wish to read a few 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary quotes from our members on our dedicated website pages, along with our growing list of '70 people for 70 years' ... who knows who you might see! <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/learning-about/news/70-years-of-the-peak-district-national-park>

However, this has been tempered by the way income to the National Park Authority has been negatively affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. We've had a 'double whammy' of a restrictive core budget settlement from Defra and a reduction in income from our visitor centres, cycle hire and visitor services.

The majority of our Planning and administrative functions continue to take place remotely, with most staff home working. Of course you may still readily contact the Authority on 01629 816200 or by email to [customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

For visitors to the National Park all of our Visitor Centres, Cycle Hire facilities, toilets and car parks are open (with Covid-19 social distancing and hygiene measures in place where appropriate).

#### Visitor management

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June has delivered blue skies and warmer weather and our summer season is gathering pace, although Covid-19 restrictions are to remain in place potentially up to the 19th July. As we witnessed from the summer of 2020, we are anticipating this may produce a further increase in visitors to the National Park. This presents opportunities as well as challenges and we will continue to work together to make sure that this happens in a way that supports the special qualities of the National Park.

As reported in the previous bulletin, we are already working closely with those who have responsibilities for supporting visitor engagement and management in the Peak District, with particular emphasis on the busiest visitor locations. We have set up multi-agency coordination groups across both visitor planning and communications, that have been working to collectively mitigate impacts - issues such as traffic congestion, wild camping and fire risk - and welcome people who come to enjoy the countryside with respect. One thing

to re-emphasise - our staff do not have powers to enforce regulations and laws, but work closely with agencies such as the police that do.

The management of visitors will continue throughout the summer. We would like to hear from the parishes about the partnership measures and whether these have helped with some of the pressures communities may have felt. If you have any points you wish to raise, please email [policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

## **Monsal Trail**

This year marks 40 years since the creation and first opening of the Monsal Trail. Its also the 10th anniversary since the trail was extended by the re-opening of four Victorian former railway tunnels to create a continuous 8.5-mile traffic-free trail through some of the Peak District's most spectacular limestone dales. Today, the Monsal Trail is hugely popular with walkers, cyclists and wheelchair users and even those on horseback. Visitors and local communities enjoy using the trail for recreation, exercise and community events throughout the year.

The Monsal Trail is currently estimated to attract around 300,000 visits per year. In 2020, the post-lockdown period in late summer saw visits reach almost 2,000 per day (a doubling on similar periods the previous year). Peak District National Park Authority chair Andrew McCloy said: "It seems fitting that we find ourselves celebrating the anniversary of the one of the Peak District's best-loved locations in the same year as we reflect on the very reasons for national parks being created 70 years ago."

## **PDNPA Visitor Centres, Cycle Hire, Car parks and toilets**

All are open, with Covid-19 social distancing and hygiene precautions where appropriate.

## **56 day rule – 'pop up' car parks and camping**

One way to ease the demand for car parking has been the opportunity to provide 'pop up' car parks using the extended 56 day rule. So far the only 'pop up' car parks that we are aware of have been at Hassop roundabout, the Edale valley and in the Wetton and the Roaches areas. In a similar way the 56 day rule can be used to provide opportunities for extra camping provision.

We also recognise that some people may be concerned about potential 'pop up' sites. To help we have provided a dedicated page of information, with Q&A's and further links about the 56 day rule, on our website at <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/advice/56-day-rule-pop-up-camping-and-car-parks>

## **Outdoor hospitality and temporary uses**

As well as the 56 day rule, the Government also introduced measures to support restaurants and hospitality establishments such as pubs and cafes to serve takeaway food when they were otherwise closed due to coronavirus restrictions. These measures will continue to apply until March 2022.

Further to these announcements, the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has now cemented the flexibility on moveable structures with secondary legislation in England. We have published details on a dedicated page of our website at <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning/advice/outdoor-hospitality-and-temporary-uses>

## Fire prevention

Our protected landscapes are highly vulnerable to the devastating damage caused by fire. We welcome the news that the Co-op is to stop selling disposable barbecues from stores in or near the Peak District (and other National Parks). This follows campaigning by a number of national parks, individuals and local lobby groups, which included the Authority writing directly to over 170 local and regional retailers in the summer of both 2020 and this year highlighting the issue [Co-op stops selling disposable barbecues near national parks - BBC News](#)

## Community litter picking and the donation of kits

2020 was a challenging year for everyone within the National Park. One issue affecting communities was litter. To try and improve the situation this year, and in preparation for an influx of visitors, the PDNPA has been offering support and equipment to parishes to help with local litter picking initiatives.

In late March we surveyed local parishes and received lots of interest in the scheme. It was also great to hear about the existing work that is already happening, with lots of parishes already running regular litter picks in their local area and many keen to support this activity with more equipment. 30 parishes or local areas have got back to us requesting various kit and we have so far managed to supply full kits to just under half of these parishes. Although we have been facing our own supply issues, we hope to distribute the rest of the litter picking equipment. The British Mountaineering Council are supporting us with litter picking kit too. If you require more kit for your local area please [complete this online form](#) or get in touch with [Rachel Mora-Bannon](#).

Our next steps are to lend out litter picking kit to the public through our visitor centres and cycle hire centres, as part of [Peak District Proud](#)

## Peak District Proud

The Peak District National Park Foundation believes in a National Park enjoyed and conserved by everyone. It works to inspire people to Explore, Enjoy and Support their National Park. Our trustees, staff and volunteers joined forces during May to collect litter on the Monsal Trail and to launch a new fundraising campaign – the Peak District Proud Fund.

The campaign will raise money to buy litter picking kits for volunteers and community organisations to help care for the Peak District National Park. We hope the campaign will also raise awareness about problems posed by litter in the national park – including danger to wildlife and contributing to fire risks.



Donations to our [#PeakDistrictProud](#) Fund will fund litter picking kits across the National Park, giving visitors and communities a practical way to care for the Peak District. Your help means we can grow our Peak District Proud fund and support more volunteer conservation work and [#PeakDistrictProud](#) activities. [Peak District Proud Fund - Peak District National Park Foundation \(peakdistrictfoundation.org.uk\)](#)

## National Parks ‘Love your Litter’ campaign

More on litter ... Mid-May saw the launch of a coordinated social media and TV exposure campaign across the UK’s national parks encouraging visitors to ‘love their litter’ **#LoveYourLitter**. This has also included a trial of some of the latest technology on ‘proximity marketing’ – allowing national parks to engage with visitors via social media when we know they’ve already visited high profile areas of the Peak District. This allows messages on positive visitor behaviour to be much more targeted. The campaign is being closely monitored and will help to inform future campaigns on these issues and others. The pilot is also targeting younger visitors by sharing content during popular TV programmes, and early data suggests that ‘engagement’ rates are above those anticipated in early planning for the campaign.

## Signage damage and vandalism

Our rangers and volunteers on patrol are increasingly finding that signs and even large banners regarding issues such as fires/BBQs and other matters in the countryside are being frequently damaged, destroyed or littered. We are aware that many communities and parishes find signs to be an important tool in getting messages across and whilst we will aim to replace these as often as possible, where repeated damage occurs it may not be considered worthwhile to do so. Please be aware that if signage is missing in an area, this may be the reason for its disappearance.

## Transport and roads

We have worked with the highways authorities to manage car parking issues by providing car park information, and supporting temporary double yellow lines in areas like the Upper Derwent, Upper Padley, Dovedale and Millers Dale. Linked to this the police and highways have been actively enforcing parking restrictions.

## Transport Ambition

Throughout the last year we have continued to develop our thinking with our partners about the future for sustainable, low carbon travel in the Peak District, reducing and managing the impact of car use whilst seeking better integration from mass public transit to active travel (e.g. walking and cycling) for all. Sarah Fowler and Andrew McCloy recently presented the emerging ideas to Business Peak District and the session was recorded and posted to YouTube, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nor3DujelGg>

## Hope Valley Explorer returns ...

We’re delighted to confirm that the Hope Valley Explorer seasonal bus service will return this summer, again in partnership with Stagecoach. The service will run Weekends and Bank Holidays from 24 July until 30 October 2021 ... see timetable at <http://www.derbybus.info/times/timetables/SYCH1%20Chesterfield-DerwentDams-BlueJohnCavern%2024%2007%202021.pdf> . In line with the impacts of Covid-19, the service will be operating larger, single decker vehicles with additional space and capacity for more potential visitors. For the first time the buses will also include on board cycle storage for two bikes via specially designed racks. As a result of the use of larger vehicles, the route will unfortunately not be able to take in Edale due to the narrow roads, but will continue to link up the sites in the Upper Derwent down to the Hope Valley and through to Castleton and the Blue John Mine. We still believe that building up well connected and integrated travel options can help both promote great experiences but also mitigate some of the impact of private car use and encourage a better way forward in future.

## Consultations

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### National Park Management Plan 2023-2028

Have your say in the future of the Peak District National Park (see over page) ...

The National Park Authority are consulting public opinion prior to updating the National Park Management Plan for 2023-2028. This consultation is a unique opportunity for you to help shape the future of the Peak District National Park. We are at an early stage of updating the management plan and we want your help to decide the most important issues facing the Peak District. The responses will be used to form part of the evidence base for the review and inform the development of new actions for the 2023-28 period. The Management Plan is a framework that encourages everyone to work together to conserve and enhance the special qualities of the Peak District National Park for the benefit of all. It is not a plan for an individual organisation or group but a plan for the place.

The seven special qualities of the National Park are:

1. Beautiful views created by contrasting landscapes and dramatic geology
2. Internationally important and locally distinctive wildlife and habitats
3. Undeveloped places of tranquillity and dark night skies within reach of millions
4. Landscapes that tell a story of thousands of years of people, farming and industry
5. Characteristic settlements with strong communities and traditions
6. An inspiring space for escape, adventure, discovery and quiet reflection
7. Vital benefits for millions of people that flow beyond the landscape boundary

To contribute your views please complete the survey by following this link:

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/nmp-2023/> The survey will be available until the 16th July 2021.

## Conversions Supplementary Planning Document

The conversion of buildings forms a significant part of the PDNPA planning casework. The need for a Conversion of Historic Buildings Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been recognised to interpret national guidance in the landscape context specific to the National Park and to provide the level of detail necessary to guide choices about form, design and materials for those wishing to convert historic buildings. Although the highest planning pressure is upon the conversion of agricultural buildings, other building types have been included.

The Peak District National Park Authority's Conversion of Historic Buildings SPD provides clarification to DMP policy DMC10: Conversion of a heritage asset and focuses on 6 principles of conversion:

- Principle 1: Understand the building and its setting
- Principle 2: Work with the existing form and character
- Principle 3: Follow a conservation approach
- Principle 4: Create responsive new design
- Principle 5: Use appropriate materials and detailing
- Principle 6: Conserve and enhance the setting

An informal consultation with internal colleagues and members of the Local Plan Review Steering Group was carried out for 2 weeks (24 February – 10 March 2021). Comments were received from colleagues in Policy and Communities team and members of the Local Plan Review Steering Group which resulted in a number of changes being made to the SPD to improve the understanding of terminology used and general clarity. The SPD was approved for public consultation (subject to minor changes) at Planning Committee, 30th April 2021 and is due to be formally consulted on in public this summer (2021).

## Planning Liaison Officer

David (Dave) Marsden took over the role of Planning Liaison Officer from April 2021.

For any queries about this bulletin, please email [david.marsden@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:david.marsden@peakdistrict.gov.uk)