

# Parishes Bulletin 43

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## Autumn 2022

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### Parishes Day Reminder

We are currently finalising the programme for Parishes Day, which is on 1<sup>st</sup> October this year, at our headquarters at Aldern House, Bakewell.

In the morning we will be discussing Affordable Housing policy, which is the topic that you have requested via the Peak Park Parishes Forum.

In the afternoon we will have what is shaping up to be a really interesting session on how Parishes can contribute to Nature Recovery. This will include talks from the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust and Hartington Wild Flower Project (see later in the bulletin for details of this project).

As part of this we have asked Parishes to provide us with details of any land that they own or manage. At present the Authority does not have a comprehensive dataset for the land that is held by Parish councils, however it has the potential to be a valuable resource in creating a nature recovery network. Please email this information to [Adam.Murphy@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:Adam.Murphy@peakdistrict.gov.uk) in advance of Parishes Day and ideally by 16<sup>th</sup> September.

Your clerks should have received an email about Parishes Day and a booking form, so if you have not already done this, please decide who will be representing your Parish Council and send the booking form back to [democraticandlegalsupport@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:democraticandlegalsupport@peakdistrict.gov.uk). Lunch will be provided. It would be good to see as many parishes as possible represented and it is a great opportunity to network as we return to a face to face event.

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### Parish Member Elections 2023

Just an early notification that the elections to appoint Parish Members to the National Park Authority will be taking place in June 2023.

There are 30 Members of the National Park Authority. 16 are appointed by county, district, city or borough councils (who have boundaries within the National Park) and 14 are appointed directly by the Secretary of State. Of these 14 Secretary of State Members, 8 are appointed following an application process run by Defra and are specialists in the issues that affect the National Park, and 6 are Parish Councillors selected through a ballot of all Parish/Town Councils and Parish Meetings which have boundaries within the National Park. Parish Members are appointed for a term of 4 years following the election.

It is currently envisaged that the same election procedure as used in previous years to elect Parish Members will be run, on behalf of the Peak Park Parishes Forum (PPPF), and that initial details and the timetable for the elections will be sent to Parishes in February 2023.

In the meantime if you wish to know more about the election process you can contact either Peter Leppard, Secretary of the PPPF by email [secpppf@gmail.com](mailto:secpppf@gmail.com) or Ruth Crowder, Democratic Services Manager at the National Park Authority – email [ruth.crowder@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.crowder@peakdistrict.gov.uk) .

If you wish to know more about the role of an Authority Member you can contact Ruth Crowder, Democratic Services Manager as above and details are also available [on our website](#).



*A committee meeting at Aldern House*

## **Annual Authority Appointments**

At the annual Authority meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022, Cllr Andrew McCloy was re-elected as Chair of the Authority and Mr James Berresford re-elected as Deputy Chair of the Authority for a further 12 months.

Cllr Patrick Brady was elected as the new Chair of the Planning Committee, following Mr Robert Helliwell's retirement from the Authority after 10 years' service as a Secretary of State appointed Member. Mr Ken Smith was re-elected as Vice Chair of the Planning Committee.

There were changes too for the Programmes and Resources Committee with Prof Janet Haddock-Fraser, who was previously the Vice Chair of the Committee, being elected Chair and Cllr Charles Greaves elected as Vice Chair.

Appointments of Members to Committees, Steering Groups, Member Champions and outside bodies were also made. Full details of all appointments made at the annual Authority meeting are available in the minutes of the meeting [on our website](#).

## New Chief Executive

Phil Mulligan, previously a regional director at the Canal & River Trust, has begun his role as the Peak District National Park Authority's new chief executive following the departure of Sarah Fowler in April.

Mr Mulligan has an extensive background across the voluntary and environmental sectors having held executive and board positions in organisations ranging from The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), the United Nations Association UK, the Landscape Institute, Environmental Protection UK and as a member of the National Trust's Council. He was also the vice chair of Defra's Civil Society Advisory Board when the government first considered the creation of the Canal & River Trust; following on from the former British Waterways.

Arriving at the Authority, Phil said: "The need for nature recovery and climate mitigation has never been greater, nor has the opportunity to engage the National Park's residents and visitors. The Peak District has a special place in the nation's heart and we need to ensure nature, climate, residents and visitors are at the heart of our work."



*New Chief Executive, Phil Mulligan*

## Update on the Local Plan Review

Thanks to all the parish councils that responded to our recent on-line questionnaire – we are now looking at the responses. We'll have results for you in time for Parishes Day and will publish them in full on our website (linked from a future Bulletin).

What you've told us will be used to inform the next stage of plan review – the so-called 'Issues and Options'. This is also the first *statutory* phase when what we have to do is set out in Regulations.

We know from previous experience that the number of residents engaged in the plan-making process starts high and ends low – often with just a handful of people. In part this is because writing a plan takes a long time, but also it's not easy to have your say when the debate moves from broad issues to detailed policy wording.

For this reason we're working with consultation specialists [Objective Keystone](#) to create user-friendly, interactive documents to put communities and stakeholders at the heart of our policy-making. We're aiming to go live with the Issues and Options consultation in spring next year and will be undertaking more publicity at the time, including some face to face events at different locations around the Peak District



## National Park Planners are highly commended in RTPI awards

The work of Peak District National Park planners in achieving a high quality affordable housing scheme in a protected area has been recognised in the Royal Town Planning Institute's East Midlands awards.

The Highly Commended award for Excellence in Planning for Communities was presented to the Peak District National Park Authority, who worked together with Derbyshire Dales District Council and Platform Housing, to achieve an affordable homes development for local people in need.

The close collaboration between the National Park Authority's planners, the District Council and the housing association developer, resulted in the houses being built on a brownfield site in Bakewell.

Colonel Wright Close is a development of 30 affordable houses built to meet local needs at an important gateway site in Bakewell, close to local schools and within walking distance of the town centre.

The land was previously part of the Lady Manners School site and its development facilitated improvements to sports facilities at the secondary school and provided two playing pitches for the local rugby club.

Construction of Colonel Wright Close began in 2019 and despite being delayed by the Covid crisis, was completed in 2021. There are 19 x two-bed dwellings; 5 x three-bed dwellings; 4 x one-bed flats and 2 x bungalows. The dwellings are semi-detached or in terraces of three or four properties.

The houses are occupied, rented with Platform Housing. All the houses are restricted to local people with a connection to Bakewell Parish or adjoining parishes, as required by the National Park's policies.

The housing scheme is named in honour of a Bakewell war hero, Colonel Leslie Wright, the last soldier to be rescued from the beaches of Calais in 1940.

A short film about the Colonel Wright Close development [can be viewed on YouTube](#).



*New housing development, Bakewell*

## Wildfires and BBQ use

A summer of record-breaking periods of high temperatures and drought has once again found the Peak District at the forefront of challenging wildfire incidents. Among these was a large blaze at Win Hill in July with numerous smaller-scale fires across the region.

Both the Win Hill fire and many others were reported to have started through the use of naked flames from BBQs or stoves, which is why the Authority has now formally aligned itself in support of a proposed ban on the retail sale of disposable BBQs alongside fire chiefs and other protected landscape areas.

The Peak District Communicators Forum (led by the Authority) continues to coordinate approaches to raising awareness of the issues surrounding BBQ use, including tactical and direct engagement with individuals posting this type of activity on social media. Our rangers continue to undertake face-to-face interaction with groups creating fires or using BBQs including extinguishing these in person, or where appropriate seeking assistance from the Fire & Rescue Service.

## Pennine Bridleway 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

July saw former access pioneers come together in the Yorkshire Dales to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the official opening of the Pennine Bridleway National Trail. The 205-mile trail stretches from the Peak District National Park to the Yorkshire Dales and complements the rather older Pennine Way – founded in 1965 – which also goes on to the Scottish Borders.

The event saw a gathering of people who had campaigned to establish the trail as well as representatives from Natural England, which funds the maintenance and promotion of National Trails, the British Horse Society, Cycling UK, and the staff of the Pennine Trails National Partnership, which is administered by the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority. The route was officially opened on 12 June 2012 by Martin Clunes as President of the British Horse Society.



*Pennine Bridleway 10th Anniversary*



## Stepping onto Tissington Trail

Engagement Ranger Julia Gow was recently asked by residents if improvements could be made to a footpath access to the trail just outside Tissington village.

Locals and visitors walk this path for a popular circular route but it had become increasingly difficult to use due to the missing lower stone step of the stile and eroded steps down the embankment. This had made it quite hazardous, especially in wet weather.

With the agreement of the landowner (Sir Richard FitzHerbert) and the farm tenant an alternative to the old stone step stile was proposed. The Countryside Maintenance and Projects Team carried out remedial repairs to the flight of steps on the embankment and produced a more accessible solution to the stile by building steps through the wall and making it stock proof with a wicket gate. These works have not only repaired the damage of years of use but also improved the access for those with restricted mobility. Great result!



*Step repairs before and after*

## Peak District Nature Recovery Plan

When the Environment Act passed into law in 2021, this established a future requirement for the entirety of England to be covered by Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS's), without any gaps or overlap. The purpose of these LNRS's is to agree priorities for nature recovery, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and identify opportunities for nature recovery.

The responsible authorities for producing these strategies will most likely be county and combined authority councils. This means there will be 6 LNRS's within the boundaries of the Peak District National Park, one from each of the constituent counties /CA's. The National Park Authority has been working on its own Nature Recovery Plan, with the ambition to provide a cohesive approach to nature recovery that applies across the

entirety of the national park. We have been working closely with authorities, partner organisations and stakeholders to ensure that the plan is a collaborative document.

The principal aim of the plan is to provide a picture of the existing habitat/species within and in close proximity to the park and to identify opportunities to expand natural habitats with a nature recovery network. This will help to inform the targeting of resources for conservation and future biodiversity net gain.

Parishes can contribute by supporting community groups and initiatives which are conservation focussed. This may include exploring how land/resources that is owned by the parish can contribute effectively to nature recovery, with measures such as planting wildflowers or installing bird/bat boxes in appropriate areas to create new habitat.

Further information can be found [on the DEFRA website](#).

## **Moors for the Future Celebrate success of MoorLIFE 2020 Project**

This month [Edale-based Moors for the Future Partnership](#) will be marking the end of their landmark, seven-year moorland restoration project, MoorLIFE 2020.

The ambitious scheme, which has restored huge areas of peat moorland in the Peak District National Park, was principally funded by the EU Life Programme and was one of the largest of its kind in Europe. MoorLIFE 2020 has been a resounding success, demonstrating how healthy peatlands can make a huge difference to moorland ecology, local communities and the environment at large.

Among its many achievements, MoorLIFE 2020 has seen:

- 54 hectares of bare, unprotected peat revegetated
- 2.9 million plugs of highly absorbent sphagnum moss planted by hand
- 3,500 hectares of invasive plant species removed
- Over 16,000 mini-dams, or gully blocks, built to reduce peat erosion and slow water run-off
- A 30% reduction in peak water discharge from restored moorland sites, reducing flood risk
- A significant increase in moorland biodiversity, including the first bats ever to be recorded on Kinder Scout
- 12,000 people made aware of the dangers of moorland wildfire in our Bogtastic Van

Moors for the Future Partnership are marking the end of MoorLIFE 2020 with the launch of *Working Together*, an exciting short film showcasing the important work undertaken by the Partnership and the positive impact it has achieved so far. You can watch the film [here](#)

*Moors for the Future Partnership was established in 2003 to protect damaged blanket bog habitats across the Peak District and South Pennines. It provides evidence-based conservation, backed up by innovative public engagement. The Partnership has raised over £45 million of public and private funding to deliver restoration over 34 kilometres of bare and eroding peat.*

## **Hartington reaps the benefits of wildflower planting**

The Authority provided a Community Small Grant of £500 to Hartington Wildflower Project, matching funding from Hartington Parish Council.

The project enables local people to care for the environment and support wildlife; bringing people together for nature boosts mental and physical health.

Hartington residents installed planters with long-lasting, bee-friendly plants and created wildlife areas including at the school, in the churchyard, and most recently at the youth hostel.

Each site is treated individually either by letting the existing seed bank grow without being disturbed, or seeding native wildflowers: harebell, meadow cranesbill, herb robert, fox and cubs, cow parsley, red campion, oxeye daisy.



Phillip Neal from Hartington Wildflower Project says the increase in wildflowers has encouraged pollinators: “We are seeing more insects at all the sites – especially bees and butterflies. Where wildflowers lead, wildlife follows.”

Engaging people’s continuing interest is important to the group’s ethos for benefiting well-being and beating the isolation of living in a rural area.

The group aims to develop more wildflower sites and an online wildflower trail; is encouraging wildlife-friendly gardens; and is sharing experiences with other communities.



*Hartington children spreading wild flower seeds*

## **Full Steam ahead at Millers Dale**

Friends and family of former railway staff, along with members of the community came together in July to celebrate the opening of the renovated Millers Dale Goods Shed.

Tales and memories were happily exchanged by those at the gathering, with many of the same stories now brought to life on the colourful displays of the painstakingly crafted walls of the imposing Goods Shed.

Achieved thanks to a £320,000 European Union Rural Development Fund (EURDF) grant led by the National Park Authority, the building now boasts a sustainable roof structure and solar panels helping to support the needs of wider facilities at Millers Dale Station. A striking set of information displays are complemented by items of railway history, with the fully-accessible shed open at all times when the neighbouring café is serving. Visitors can even share their experience thanks to a giant vintage postcard!





*Opening the restored Millers Dale Goods Shed*

## **Introducing the Wooded Landscapes Plan**

The National Park Authority with support from partners is currently producing the Wooded Landscapes Plan. This forms part of the Peak District Landscape Strategy and Action Plan and provides strategic direction on future wooded landscape creation in the Peak District National Park over the next 10 years.

Wooded landscapes can support increased biodiversity, help to mitigate the effects of climate change, store flood water, enhance landscape character, and provide places where people can increase their physical and mental wellbeing through the enjoyment of nature and their relationship with the natural environment. Woodlands, trees and scrub are an important component of landscape and scenic diversity and as features of local distinctiveness. Elements of wooded landscapes can also enhance the composition of other landscape features and add visual definition to geological features.

The aim of the Wooded Landscapes Plan is to facilitate an increase in tree and scrub cover (as 'woodland' and also 'trees outside woods') for the delivery of a range of public goods within the National Park landscape. The Plan is based on the core principle of 'right place with the right outcome': the outcome could be woodland but may equally be field corner planting, scrub, wood pasture, shelter belts, an increase in the network of hedgerows or riparian buffer planting depending on the landscape character of the place.

Woodland, scrub and tree cover should be seen as part of a landscape 'mosaic' of different habitats and land covers. Increasing tree / scrub cover should not be seen as mutually exclusive with other habitats; for example, it is not a case of pastureland or trees, but pastureland with additional tree cover. The term 'wooded landscape' is therefore used to cover the full potential range of tree and scrub cover forms in the landscape - not just closed-canopy woodland but also forms such as wood/scrub-pasture, parkland, copses, shelterbelts, individual trees, linear tree features, hedgerows, areas of scrub, commercial woodland and 'agro-forestry'.

This Plan aims to demonstrate where the different elements of wooded landscape creation can be realistically achieved while complementing other land uses within the park and not conflicting with landscape character'.

As part of delivering this ambition, The Peak District National Park Authority and the Woodland Trust have agreed a landmark collaboration to help increase native woodland in the National Park, with the aim of

creating over 100 hectares (400 acres) of new native woodland across the next 3 years. Known as Grow Back Greener, the grant scheme is part of the Northern Forest Partnership Nature for Climate Fund Programme, funded by Defra.

The support includes designing and then overseeing the planting of schemes, and then supporting new woodland owners to monitor and maintain sites to ensure the woodlands successfully establish. The grant can cover up to 100% of the actual costs of establishment and maintenance. A dedicated advisor has been taken on to focus on the Peak District National Park, and will be the first point of contact for enquires about the grant. For further information please call Matt Mardling on 01629 816247 or [matt.mardling@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:matt.mardling@peakdistrict.gov.uk)

### **Planning Liaison Officer**

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

### **Next Bulletin**

The next bulletin will be out in spring 2023.