

Planning Service Parishes Bulletin 24

January 2019

Village Statements - Update

Thank you to those Parishes who have commented on the draft Village Statements, as circulated with the December bulletin. Those comments are being considered, and will shape the templates used in preparing statements for all of the settlements within the PDNPA boundary.

If you have not already commented, please email your views to policy@peakdistrict.gov.uk by 28 February.

Development Management performance

The Development Management team performance has recently been reported to the Planning Committee. The report shows the number of applications considered by the authority, and how this performance has been recorded against Department for Communities, Housing and Local Government targets. The headline figures from the period 1 April – 31 December 2018 are:

- 549 applications were determined by us
- 462 (84%) applications were approved
- 58 (16%) applications were refused

The report is available online at <https://democracy.peakdistrict.gov.uk/documents/s26879/JEN.pdf>
<https://democracy.peakdistrict.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=132&MId=1781&Ver=4>

Planning Officers issued 93% of decisions under delegated powers, with 7% of applications being decided by Planning Committee.

The total of applications received during the period was over 850, but approximately 300 of these are not recorded on returns to DCHLG. These include applications such as condition discharge or non-material amendments. In addition to the number of planning applications in the period 1 April to 31 December the teams also deal with over 500 planning enquiries. There were approximately 180 Built Environment enquiries for the same period.

As you can see Planning officers provide advice and guidance on many schemes, and this does lead to the high level of approved planning applications.

Consultation on Planning Applications

We are reviewing the method by which planning application consultations are circulated. We know many of you are keen to reduce your environmental impact and make more sustainable choices where you can. We are keen to look at opportunities to improve environmental performance. We would like to reduce the use of paper, printing and road transport where possible and circulate consultations where appropriate via email.

At present, 6 parishes receive consultations via email. We are asking if all Parish Councils would be willing to take part in a trial and receive planning consultations by email. The trial would be for 6 months, and if at the end of this period, your parish wishes to return to receiving paper copies, then we will revert to that method.

Please advise me by 28 February if receiving email consultations will cause you an issue due to limited broadband or other factors. We in no way wish to impede Parishes from commenting on planning issues and want to ensure that the information is available to parishes to allow them to make a considered representation, but we are mindful of the need to improve sustainability.

Hard copies of planning applications will continue to be available to view at Reception in Aldern House, Bakewell.

2019 Year of Green Action

2019 is the Year of Green Action (YoGA). This is a year-long drive with individuals, voluntary organisations and businesses all having a part to play in developing projects that support nature – in our own gardens, local green spaces or workplaces, and as consumers. Peak District communities are being encouraged to “connect to, protect and enhance the environment”: <https://www.yearofgreenaction.org>

More resources and examples of projects that come forward will be posted on the Authority’s website: <https://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/looking-after/living-and-working/your-community/green-action> and on the Peak District Communities Facebook page which you can link to from here and ask to join: <https://www.facebook.com/peakdistrictnationalpark>

Let us know about your ideas (email adele.metcalfe@peakdistrict.gov.uk) and we can help with organisation and funding. If enough communities participate we will celebrate your efforts at the end of the year.

Communities Small Grant

There is some Grant funding available to be spent before March 31st. This would be ideal for tree planting (when it thaws a bit)! Apply now and you could get the go ahead for your project on the same day.

The grant can be used to support your YoGA projects – more funds are available throughout the year. Email adele.metcalfe@peakdistrict.gov.uk or tel 01629 816375.

John Muir Award

The John Muir Trust has launched an environmental award scheme for people of all backgrounds – groups, families, individuals to encourage people to connect with, enjoy, and care for wild places. It's non-competitive, inclusive and accessible. It's a great way of recording, supporting and celebrating any projects you might do in the Year of Green Action. Visit the John Muir website for full details <https://www.johnmuirtrust.org/john-muir-award>

Duke of Edinburgh survey response

In the autumn I circulated a letter and survey from Carina Humberstone Outreach Youth Development Officer in relation to Duke of Edinburgh events within in the National Park. Carina would like to pass on her thanks for the responses received. She will discuss the findings with the organisers of the Awards and raise awareness of the key issues identified.

In summary, the main issues were about groups not keeping to Rights of Way, climbing over walls and fences rather than retracing their steps. Some parishes made comments about littering and asked that groups be told to dispose of litter at their campsites or take it home with them.

Positive comments have been received that DofE groups have not caused issues in the parish, and the groups have been polite and respectful of property and the environment.

If you would like more information on the Duke of Edinburgh schemes or survey responses please email Carina at carina.humberstone@peakdistrict.gov.uk

If you have any queries about this bulletin please contact the Planning Liaison officer fiona.todd@peakdistrict.gov.uk or 01629 816328