



Shops, services and community facilities





Headlines

The aim of National Park policies has been to ‘improve access to services’ and ‘retain and provide community services and facilities’.

It is difficult to assess whether peoples’ access to services has been improved and there is a lack of evidence.

There has been a market-led reduction in the number of shops and community facilities across the park.

Research carried out by constituent local authorities shows that there is enough open space and there are sufficient playing pitches in the national park, but not enough allotment space. Quality of spaces needs to be improved.



What are the big issues for the Plan review?

Reliance on broadband – nationally there has been a change in the way people shop, do business, access services and work from home. We need to know the implications of this for the Peak District. Is ‘improved access to services’ still a reasonable aim and what does it really mean?

Impact of COVID – the pandemic has highlighted the importance of green spaces and hastened changes to the way we shop.

Shops and community facilities address practical needs but are also important meeting places. Should there be an increased focus on the importance of ‘social interactions’, for example through dual-use of buildings? To what extent can policy facilitate ‘dual use’ of community facilities? Can we promote community run shops?

National changes to ‘Use Classes’ will mean many changes of use can happen without planning permission.