

BAKEWELL 2012

AND

BEYOND

Report of a project undertaken by the
Bakewell Community Interest Group as the
basis for the development of a Town Plan

March 2012

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INTRODUCTION

Bakewell is the largest settlement within the Peak District National Park. It has been a market town for over nine centuries and continues to be a major service centre for the wider rural community. The Agricultural Business Centre (opened in 1998) incorporating the Livestock Market, not only continues to provide services for the local farming community but those of a much wider region. The relocation of the old Cattle Market enabled a re-development of the Town Centre providing a range of facilities including new retail and commercial premises together with housing, a new library and swimming pool.

The resident population has grown from 3,390 in 1961 to 4,801 in 2001 (Census) and could rise to over 5,000 in the 2011 Census. During this period the number of people over 65 years of age has remained at over 25% (peaked in 1991 to 31.2%), that proportion being higher than in Derbyshire as a whole and than the average for England.

Administratively, Bakewell has a Town Council, established in 1974 following Local Government re-organisation, and comes under Derbyshire Dales District Council and Derbyshire County Council though planning is the responsibility of the Peak District National Park Authority. Prior to that date it was under the authority of the Bakewell Urban District Council. In the re-organisation that Council together with other Urban and Rural District Councils were subsumed into the then West Derbyshire District Council (since re-named) transferring with them the Markets, the Bath Gardens, the Recreation Ground, and the Cemetery. Today, the Town Council's assets include the Town Hall Building, Parsonage Field, Scots Gardens and some woodlands together with the recent gift of the Sheepfold on Buxton Road.

Previous local plans have been produced by the planning authority after consultation with residents and others. **This is the first occasion on which work towards a plan for the future of the Town has been undertaken bringing together views and comments expressed by residents and local organisations through a consultation process.**

The need to develop a Town Plan was first recognised in 2001 and some early work was undertaken by the Bakewell Community Interest Group members in 2002/3 including surveys for the Local Interpretive Plan and the development of a number of town trails (which were not implemented). By 2004 the need for a Town Development Officer was being discussed and possible sources of funding explored. In 2005 the Bakewell Community Interest Group held an event entitled 'Bakewell Now and Future' which was supported by a range of local organisations, drew attention to the Living Streets Pedestrian Audit (carried out by Transport 2000), the Moorhall Playground Scheme and the redevelopment of the Town Hall, and invited views and opinions on the future development of the town.

In late 2006 the initiative to develop a Town Plan was launched at a public meeting at which it was stressed that such a plan had to be 'owned by the community'. Such a plan would be a living document subject to re-evaluation and revision at regular intervals to maintain its relevance. A small steering group was established in February 2007 and an application for grant-aid from the Derbyshire Rural Community Council's Parish Plan Grant Scheme made. This was successful and under the terms of the grant the Bakewell Community Interest Group (BCIG) took on the role of co-ordinator.

The BCIG was originally formed as part of the consultation process for the re-development of the Town Centre in the 1990s. It continues to meet bi-monthly and brings together voluntary and statutory organisations. Membership is open to all sections of the community, interested groups, organisations and individuals. It's principal aim is to provide a platform for discussion of community interests and concerns.

Since 2007 a number of events have taken place including a further Public Meeting in January 2008 (attended by over 100 people) and a competition for schools. Local organisations were invited to raise issues and concerns expressed by their members and two joint meetings of the Bakewell & District Civic and Historical Societies focussed on transport and accessibility, and the built environment.

There is now an opportunity to take forward and complete the initiative as various statutory bodies are currently developing policies and strategies which will affect the future development of the town, together with the implementation of the Localism Act.

This document was widely circulated to both residents and business people in the town in February 2012, it seeks to set the scene and record issues which were expressed during the progress of the project. Over 150 people attended the public consultation which took place on 3 March 2012. Those attending were invited to complete a response form which asked if they agreed with the issues raised and if so how would they rank them in terms of priority; 36% of forms were returned, the analysis is given in Section 7, page 13.

'Bakewell 2012 and Beyond' is divided into sections each dealing with specific aspects: 1. Physical Environment and Wildlife Heritage, 2. The Built Environment, 3. The Economy, 4. Transport and Accessibility, 5. Social and Community, and 6. Localism in Action.

It is hoped that this document will form the basis on which a Town Plan can be developed through the auspices of Bakewell Town Council.

Patricia E Lunn
on behalf of
Bakewell Community Interest Group
29 March 2012

1. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE HERITAGE

Bakewell parish lies on the main Carboniferous formations of the Peak District: limestone, shale and gritstone and many views show all three and the erosion history in the form of the terraces which were the river level at various times. The River Wye has the winding course of a mature river. Much of the ground is overlain with clay brought

by glacial action. Exploitation of geological resources has included lead ore; gritstone for building; and limestone for building and, after burning in limekilns, and for mortar and for liming fields; chert used in the pottery industry of North Staffordshire; and black marble made into ornaments. The latter was mostly quarried and mined outside Bakewell but also in Haredale, by the road to Monyash. White Watson, a local 18th century resident, was one of the first geologists to understand geological strata.

Following local government re-organisation in 1974, the new Town Council became responsible for a number of areas of open spaces and woodlands including: Parsonage Field, Scots Garden, Castle Hill Ancient Monument Site, Catcliffe Wood, part of Wicksop (Manners Wood) and Endcliffe Wood. The Town Council recently acquired the Sheepwash. Some of these sites, particularly Scot's Garden and Parsonage Field have ecological interest. The Rutland Recreation Ground, the Bath Gardens and the Riverside Garden were transferred to the West Derbyshire District Council (now Derbyshire Dales DC) which continues to maintain them.

Gardens and incidental green spaces are becoming recognised for their wildlife value, especially if they have areas of shrubbery and rough grass and are not kept too tidy or subject to the use of pesticides. They provide a variety of habitats and support species such as butterflies and other insects, hedgehogs and song thrushes (which are becoming rarer in the agricultural countryside).

Some 94 percent of the total land area of the parish is classified as open green space. Wildlife interest may be divided among the following main types of habitat: riverside, woodlands, gardens and incidental open spaces, and agricultural land. Some buildings provide roost and nest sites for swifts, house martins, swallows, barn owls and bats, including some rarer species.

RIVERSIDE

One outcome of the Bakewell Beyond 2000 event held in 1998 (promoted as part of the Local Agenda 21 initiative) was the founding of the Bakewell Biodiversity Project (now known as the Bakewell Wildlife Project). It successfully organised, with the support of many local and regional bodies, the creation and conservation of wetland areas downstream from Bakewell town centre as far as Reed Plantation. Newly created ponds and wet grassland near Meadon Bridge have attracted a wide range of species of fauna and flora. Management and recording continues to be undertaken.

The River Wye in Bakewell is nationally known for the quality of its water, as one of the few rivers in Britain to sustain a wild breeding stock of Rainbow Trout. Water voles are still seen. Daubenton's bats feed over the river. Birds include dippers, kingfishers, goosanders, grey wagtails and little grebes. Near the Town Centre people have traditionally fed bread to water fowl but it had led to a concentration of water fowl, particularly of Canada geese and mallard, to the detriment of the river's ecology and the cleanliness of the bank. Notices erected by Haddon Estates discouraging feeding have had some success.

WOODLAND

Parts of Wicksop (Manners) Wood are considered to be Ancient Woodland, with some species of tree, shrub, ground vegetation and fauna having been there since at least

1600. Other woods are plantations which have some wildlife interest with commoner types of woodland ground flora, e.g. bluebell; mammals (including badgers and brown hares); and a range of birds, e.g. rooks, greater spotted woodpeckers, thrushes and tawny owls.

AGRICULTURAL LAND

Agricultural land varies from arable to a few areas unploughed for centuries with a range of wild flowers including cowslips and, in hayfields, yellow rattle. Grassland is the main feeding habitat for badgers, hares and barn owls which have made a welcome comeback to the area, probably as a result of a period without severe winters and nest boxes put in barns. Skylarks nest in a few fields which have the right conditions. Lapwings have declined greatly in the area but a few still nest near Bakewell and it is hoped that they may spread back to more open fields as a result of knowing and applying their precise habitat requirements. Scattered hawthorns attract redstarts. Hedges attract, among other birds, linnets and yellow hammers. A few 'dewponds' occur on the limestone plateau west of the town and support newts.

Road verges are sometimes the only surviving remnants of flower-rich grasslands. The Monsal Trail verges, though now mostly wooded, have some interesting flora.

ISSUES:

- *Development of management plans for the Town Council's and other public spaces.*
- *The National Park Authority is the body responsible for planning control and seeks to conserve and enhance wildlife when planning law applies and also to encourage landowners to manage land for wildlife and archaeological reasons under stewardship schemes.*
- *Erosion of river bank, particularly immediately south of the bridge, and Tory Island. Haddon Estate own the structures in the river and the river bed itself, together with fishing rights, but are not the riparian owners for that stretch of the river passing through the Town.*
- *Support for the continuation of the Bakewell Wildlife Project.*
- *Support for Bakewell in Bloom which includes wild flowers in its brief.*
- *Support Beelines, a national initiative to provide flowers for pollinating insects which are vital for many crops but which are declining.*

2. THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Set in very attractive countryside of rolling fields and woodland, the historic core of the town (designated a Conservation Area) is situated on the western side of the River Wye. North west of the town are areas of industrial archaeological importance: the site of Arkright's third water-powered cotton mill at Lumford and chert mines supplying the pottery industry of Staffordshire. Scheduled monuments include the water supply works for Lumford Mill and some remains of its original building (which burnt down in 1868); the two ancient crosses in the churchyard; Ball Cross Iron Age Fort; Castle Hill (a Norman motte and bailey); Bakewell's 13th century bridge and the 17th century Holme Bridge

The Town developed first on the western slopes, then spread onto the valley floor and later to on the eastern side of the river valley.

The first buildings in Bakewell were built using very local materials which were easily transported. These were timber, thatch, rubble limestone and gritstone, and wattle and daub. Brocklehurst's shop on Bridge Street still has its original timber cruck frame exposed inside. The buildings were simple in scale and construction.

Building materials then became available from further afield – though they were still relatively local. Gritstone for walls and roofs and limestone for walls were dug out of quarries in the surrounding area. A brickyard is recorded near Baslow Road. The earlier buildings were rebuilt or re-clad in longer lasting materials, often in the current style.

The next progression was the use of materials imported from other regions, such as Welsh slate, bricks and tiles often used in 'revivalist' architectural styles of the 19th and early 20th century. This variety of materials is reflected in several Bakewell buildings. Piedaniels restaurant in Bath Street has tile hanging, a tiled roof, and rendered half timbering, and the Town Hall has tiled and slated roofs, brick detailing round windows in the light well and rear yard, and half timbering to two gables. Burton Closes, the Old Vicarage and the three banks in Rutland Square are examples of imported styles.

The townscape, as seen today, whilst not containing buildings of first class architectural merit includes several buildings of historical interest. Many buildings are listed, The church is largely Victorian having been rebuilt several times over its long history. It contains interesting monuments and a collection of ancient stones believed to be the largest of its type in the country. The pre-Norman crosses in the churchyard have suffered from atmospheric pollution and an initiative is underway to protect them and to better display and interpret the ancient stones.

Above the church is the 16th century Parsonage House which became the Old House Museum in the 1950s. Below the south-east entrance to the church yard is the St. John Hospital (dating back to at least the 17th century) recently totally refurbished and back in use as Almshouses. Adjoining is the Old Town Hall and the Old Town Square (once the Butter Market).

Of other buildings in the town the Bath House, the Market Hall (now the Information Centre), Chantry House, Arkwright Square and Victoria Mill are of particular note. The Bath Gardens, originally White Watson's botanical garden, are a 'jewel' in the town centre, their Victorian style being in keeping with the setting. Many of the buildings in the town centre itself originate from the late 19th century, a period of re-development led by the Duke of Rutland (including the Town Hall and the former Lady Manners School in Bath Street, until recently occupied by Derbyshire Dales District Council).

The design of new development is controlled by the Peak District National Park Authority. Application of its design guide has the effect that most new building work is in traditional style and materials. Notable exceptions of contemporary design are the Agricultural Business Centre, the stone and glass-walled and sedum-roofed houses on Castle Hill, and the new office for the Bakewell Agricultural and Horticultural Society.

The street scene suffers from poorly maintained and cluttered pavements, a proliferation of road signs, piecemeal use of bollards and poorly maintained railings.

ISSUES:

- *Buildings of historical interest need recognition and protection from unsuitable development.*
- *The ancient stones both within the parish church and in the churchyard need protection and interpretation.*
- *More innovative architecture should be encouraged using materials which are in harmony with the existing.*
- *Access to the War Memorial Garden adjoining Bath House needs to be safeguarded and the public allowed to see the bath in its basement.*
- *Support the National Park Authority's Public Realm Initiative to improve poorly maintained pavings, railings and street furniture including signs (see Living Streets in the next section).*
- *Consideration of the re-installation of lighting on the bridge and installation of lighting on the riverside walk.*

3. TRANSPORT & ACCESSIBILITY

Bus companies provide the only public transport service through regular routes along the A6 corridor, and to Chesterfield and Sheffield (via A619), together with more local services within the area. The nearest main line rail services operate from Chesterfield and Sheffield, other services run from Buxton and Matlock. Bakewell Station closed to passengers in 1967. A recent reduction in bus services has resulted in disconnected services for those wishing to travel beyond the immediate area but using both bus and train day outings can still be achieved, for example to Leeds, York and Newcastle. Despite the highest rail fares in Europe trains are often overcrowded (full and standing). The Matlock, Derby and Nottingham service is now an hourly service with considerable increase in usage. Bus services generally have not attracted a similar increase.

Bakewell and Eyam Community Transport, a local charitable company, operates affordable and accessible services, carrying some 70,000 passengers per year, including dial-a-bus (particularly helpful for elderly and disabled residents), group visits, and a community car scheme for both medical appointments and social journeys. Whilst community bus points have been established in Bath Street and on Granby Road, concerns have been raised in respect of drop-off and setting down areas particularly where passengers require assistance and there has to be co-ordination with carers.

Bakewell was chosen as one of the seven towns to be assessed under the Living Streets Initiative in 2000 with particular emphasis on the pedestrian experience. That survey highlighted a number of areas of concern in respect of road safety in particular Buxton Road and the Bridge, where the narrowness of pavements is restrictive particularly for wheelchair users; the lack of pedestrian crossings on Buxton Road and on Baslow Road near Newholme Hospital; and vehicles causing obstruction through parking on pavements leading to dangerous uneven surfaces. The impact on local access as a result of the school-run was raised in connection with both the Junior and Infants

Schools. All schools are developing School Travel Plans and encourage more pupils to walk to school.

Shopmobility have in the past provided a scooter hire service on market days and other days during the main tourist season. They too reported concerns that pavements are not user friendly and in particular over Bakewell Bridge where they are too narrow to take wheelchairs and scooters, and the pavement along Scots Garden towards Newholme necessitating dangerous on-road use.

Whilst the A6 was de-trunked several years ago, it is still used by a considerable number of heavy goods vehicles mainly going between Matlock Street and the Bridge on the A619 towards Baslow, Sheffield and Chesterfield. Matlock Street, Rutland Square, Bridge Street and the Bridge are dominated by traffic with narrow footways in places. There are long-established specified routes for quarry traffic to avoid Bakewell but there seems no realistic hope of diverting more heavy traffic from the centre of Bakewell. Roads and parking facilities are under considerable pressure particularly on market days, bank holidays and during the holiday season. For Bakewell Show a park-and-ride service is operated from Hassop Station along the Monsal Trail to Bakewell Station.

Parking facilities in the town centre vary from 30 minutes for on-street parking for up to 4 hours on designated areas of local authority car parks. Additional long stay parking is provided both on Smith's Island and at the Agricultural Business Centre where coach parking facilities are also available and from which passengers can safely access the town centre across Weir Bridge.

Access only regulations and residential parking permits operate in parts of the town to control indiscriminate parking.

There is designated on road parking particularly on Coombs Road, Station Road, Haddon Road and Stanedge Road. Vehicles are often parked outside these designated areas and at other locations such as Castle Mount Crescent, Holme Lane, Aldern Way, and Yeld Road causing a hazard to other vehicular traffic.

The further development of the Monsal Trail has led to a considerable increase in users and particularly in both vehicles and cyclists along Coombs Road with consequent issues regarding parking and access for heavy vehicles servicing properties. A scheme to address some of the problems was drawn up by the Highways Authority in 2010 but has yet to be implemented.

Physical accessibility to buildings has, in the main, been addressed though there are some exceptions, principally the banks (excluding HSBC). Bakewell Town Council has recently installed a lift to the first floor of the Town Hall, which incorporates the Assembly Room, a major facility for drama productions and social events making the building totally accessible.

There is an increased use of mobility scooters both by residents and visitors which give a level of independence to users. Safe routes and access for such vehicles needs further re-appraisal. The proliferation of A Boards and vehicles partially parked on pavements obstruct the movement not only of mobility scooters but childrens' push-chairs.

Scot's Garden is enjoyed by both residents and visitors alike, particularly during the summer months. A new access point near the bridge for those with physical disabilities and an upgrading of the path were completed in 2011. Unfortunately the incorporation of a dropped kerb at the entrance has yet to be undertaken.

ISSUES:

- *Keep under consideration the Living Street proposals for improving pedestrian, wheelchair and mobility scooter access.*
- *Enforce regulations regarding obstruction of pavements.*
- *Address parking concerns arising from increased visitor numbers, pressure on designated areas and indiscriminate parking. Is it a question of additional parking facilities and if so where, or alternatively better management?*
- *Keep under consideration the problem of the domination of traffic, particularly by heavy good vehicles, in the Town Centre.*
- *Keep under consideration the re-opening of the railway to Bakewell enabling the Derby-Matlock Services to terminate at Bakewell as part of the East Midlands Trains franchise.*

4. THE ECONOMY

Over the last millennium Bakewell has been important as a market town developing initially from its strategic position as a river crossing, and from Medieval times as a result of lead mining and the wool trade alongside agriculture and quarrying. The advent of the industrial revolution, the development of turnpike roads and later the development of the railway brought new patterns of employment.

The decision in the early 1990s to develop an action plan to secure a sustainable future for the town by re-locating the cattle market across the river, and re-developing the area vacated resulted in the building of the Agricultural Business Centre, new retail shops including a super-market, extended central shopping area, additional office space, community facilities (including the Medway Community Centre, library and swimming pool), and housing. Business parks have been developed chiefly in proximity to the A6 on the northwestern edge of the town, though the full potential for improving the Riverside Business Park at Lumford has not yet been achieved.

Over a number of years the farming community has responded to changes in the rural economy and agriculture in general (which have seriously eroded incomes) by diversification both in agricultural practice and the development of niche products. In particular it has developed tourist accommodation. The Livestock Market within the Agricultural Business Centre is now firmly established and together with the Farmer's Market held there once a month for local producers which has been equally successful, they are rated within the top five such enterprises in the country.

Today the town remains a major service centre for the area and is at the centre of economic and social activities. A study undertaken in 2007 recognised some 300 businesses, the majority being sole traders or employing fewer than 5 people. There is some industry in the area, local examples being prefabricated buildings and brewing.

The major employers are almost all in the public sector: schools, the National Park Authority (with its headquarters on the edge of the Town), and health and social care provision. Local businesses have not been immune to the recent decline in the economy and some have closed, generally evidenced by the number of vacant retail premises and offices. Concern has been expressed by the Bakewell & District Civic Society at the loss of employment sites in the Town Centre to housing.

Tourism is a major contributor to the local economy with over 2 million visitors a year known to visit the town and its environs, attracted not only by the natural beauty of the Britain's first National Park but also the market and shopping facilities. In addition annual events such as the Bakewell Show (which dates back to 1819) attracts visitors, as do major community events including the Carnival, the Arts Festival, and those held at Easter and Christmas. The impact of visitors on the town and its facilities has to be recognised. Visitors flock to Bakewell, particularly to the Monday stall market but also to the open spaces, cafes, pubs, shops, museums and the parish church and events in the Town Hall and other venues. The parish church aims to improve its attraction (on the hill of history to the Old House Museum) with better interpretation of its monuments.

A local interpretive plan, initiated in 2000, proposed trails to encourage local people and visitors to appreciate more of the town and surrounds but has yet to be implemented.

Bakewell can be described as having a low-wage economy, being largely dependent on employment within the retail and service sector. A significant number of residents are retired and some are on fixed incomes.

At the last published census (2001) almost half of residents were in employment, some 60% using private cars to get to work, many travelling outside the town. The level of unemployment is low but this a corollary of a largely older population.

ISSUES:

- *A greater diversity of retail outlets is required to meet the needs of residents and to encourage them to shop locally. A second super-market would introduce competition, though a suitable site within the central shopping area has not been recognised.*
- *Support for a local business forum.*
- *Support for charities (and others) providing for visitors such as the Old House Museum.*
- *Enhance the attractiveness and interest of the town and surrounds and revive the local interpretative plan.*
- *In order to retain young people entering the labour market within the community diverse employment opportunities need to be addressed.*

5. SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

The attractiveness of the town and its location within the National Park has led to pressure on housing from inward migration by commuters and retired people, and from second homes and holiday lets, with resultant inflation in house prices. The prices of homes are beyond the reach of many local people. Of the households in 2001, only 15% were rented from the council or a housing association. The provision of

affordable housing remains a major priority. Of the various household types, 36% are all pensioner households and 21% do not have a car.

There is a range of health care provision within the town. The Bakewell Medical Practice completely refurbished and extended its premises in 2008. Newholme Hospital continues to provide a range of services for both in-patients, day-care, and specialist clinics. There are two pharmacies and two dental practices in the town and a number of health care professionals offering a range of services. In addition, a number of voluntary organisations give support. Almost 25% of residents have limiting long term illness with a further 10% in 'not good' general health.

Education is well catered for with a range of provision from pre-school, infant, junior and secondary schools together with a long-established private school. For further and higher education students have to travel out of the area and this often leads to them not returning for a variety of reasons, principally lack of employment opportunities in their chosen fields and lack of affordable housing. There are life-long learning opportunities within the area both for rural skills and a range of subjects from a number of providers including voluntary groups. The diversity of social, leisure and religious associations is indicative of the wide ranging interests, concerns and involvement of residents in community life.

In earlier centuries the Christian Churches played a significant part in the community life of towns such as Bakewell, being centres of many kinds of local activities and contributing widely to the education and welfare of the residents. This is no longer generally true, but in the case of Bakewell there is still a strong link with the community, and the Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Quaker contributions to the town's life should be acknowledged. The Infant and Junior Schools retain their Anglican and Methodist status respectively; the Methodist and Quaker premises are heavily used by secular organisations and groups; the Methodists provide weekly refreshment facilities which are much valued by residents and visitors alike. Moreover, the churches work closely together through the Association of Bakewell Christians (founded in 1966) to co-ordinate events which have now become part of the town's community life: the Christmas Crib and Easter Cross in Bath Gardens; the blessing of the well-dressings; the Carnival services held on the Recreation Ground. The Association's monthly *Good News* magazine contains material of general as well as church interest and has over 500 local subscribers. In addition, the 'Bakewell at Work' initiative has in the last few years sought to forge closer links between the Christian community and the working life of the town through regular personal contacts and Newsletters. Thus, in diverse ways community connections are strengthened – the churches reach outwards and the townspeople recognise the important contribution that the churches makes.

Concern has been expressed at the lack of a permanent youth club facility for young people between the ages of 12 and 18 and there are some disaffected young people whose siblings may follow in their footsteps continuing what is perceived as anti-social behaviour which becomes self-perpetuating. A mobile youth-facility formerly provided through the County Youth Service has been withdrawn. However, young people have been consulted with regard to future provision. Their suggestions include: a skate park or a multi-functional area to include a skateboard/BMX park, basket ball court and improved sports pitches, and a youth drop-in centre in the town centre. The recent development of OzBox, an initiative to engage with young people through physical exercise, is to be welcomed.

Bakewell does have a very successful Youth Theatre, Army Cadets, Scouts and church groups but these can appear exclusive to some young people.

There is a long history of team sports being played. The Town has a successful Junior Football Club and a Rugby Club both run by volunteers. The recent development of a Sports Partnership to improve and enhance provision is to be welcomed, as is a scheme by the District Council to upgrade facilities in the Rutland Recreation Ground both in the children's play area and for a range of sports. This includes specialist facilities to encourage disabled children to take part in sport and concrete table tennis tables which can be used by both children and adults in wheelchairs.

The extensive network of footpaths and bridleways is well used for walking and cycling both by residents and visitors alike. Improvements to the network under the CRoW Act were suggested by the Bakewell & District Civic Society. The first section of the Monsal Trail commences at the Coombs Road Viaduct and further access can be gained at the former Railway Station. It has been improved for cyclists, horse riders and walkers by re-opening tunnels and the provision of cycle hire at Hassop Station. An extension south-east from Coombs Road to Rowsley (and forward to Matlock) through the tunnel at Haddon Hall is being planned. DDDC has developed a Healthy Walks Scheme which is well supported and has been accredited by Natural England.

From the community viewpoint Bakewell is a safe area in which to live and work, with a low incidence of crime.

Many residents are mindful of the need to conserve resources, to re-cycle materials and consider alternative forms of energy. For many years limited recycling facilities have been sited in the centre of the town. The District Council operates a weekly collection programme and in partnership with Derbyshire County Council opened a major household recycling facility at Rowsley in 2011 to which a range of materials can be taken. They also offer a collection facility for which there is a charge.

Until recently there was a long waiting list for allotments. This has been eased by the development of a new site off the Monyash Road by a local organisation in conjunction with a housing association.

Whilst the various organisations within the town offer a wide range of activities, there is no central co-ordination of community events. Residents are reliant on either 'Good News', the local free paper or Bakewell Online (a private electronic communication initiative).

ISSUES:

- *Need for affordable housing, many local people are excluded from open market housing the cost of which is beyond their reach. The following need to be recognised: the mix of different types; how much; where it might be located.*
- *Need to provide facilities as identified by young people over recent years.*
- *Co-ordination of community events.*

6. LOCALISM IN ACTION – CREATING A VISION

A shared vision for Bakewell can best be achieved by bringing together all sections of the community together with statutory bodies to identify local needs and priorities thereby making sure local services are more accountable to local people, meet their needs and that public services work in close partnership to ensure this happens.

Locality working fits well with the Government's Big Society and Localism agendas with their emphasis on more decision-making by communities. The present economic situation may however limit what can be achieved in the short term.

The following statement is included in the Guide to the Localism Act:

Neighbourhood Planning: Instead of local people being told what to do, the Government thinks that local communities should have genuine opportunities to influence the future of the places where they live. The Act introduces a new right for communities to draw up a neighbourhood plan.

Neighbourhood planning will allow communities, both residents, employees and business, to come together through a local parish council or neighbourhood forum and say where they think new houses, businesses and shops should go – and what they should look like.

These plans can be very simple and concise, or go into considerable detail where people want. Local communities will be able to use neighbourhood planning to grant full or outline planning permission in areas where they most want to see new homes and businesses, making it easier and quicker for development to go ahead. Provided a neighbourhood development plan or order is in line with national planning policy, with the strategic vision for the wider areas set by the local authority, and with other legal requirements, local people will be able to vote on it in a referendum. If the plan is approved by a majority of those who vote, then the local authority will bring it into force.

Local planning authorities will be required to provide technical advice and support as neighbourhoods draw up their proposals. The Government is funding sources of help and advice for communities. This will help people take advantage of the opportunity to exercise influence over decisions that make a big difference to their lives.

Whilst the local community and voluntary sector are active within the town, there is scope for greater involvement of the wider community in local decision-making, many residents feel they have little influence on decision-making. Public attendance both at Town Council and District Council meetings is generally low and needs to be encouraged.

ISSUES:

- *Agreeing a VISION for the Town. How people want to see Bakewell in 5 or 10 years time, e.g. A THRIVING COMMUNITY AT THE HEART OF BRITAIN'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK. The vision to be owned by all sections of the community from residents, voluntary bodies, local businesses and the Town Council.*
- *Greater transparency by decision-making bodies would raise interest and encourage participation.*
- *Electronic media has become the major channel of communication within all sectors of Society. Bakewell Town Council is the only local authority in the area without such a facility.*

7. ANALYSIS OF RESPONSE FORM FROM PUBLIC CONSULTATION EVENT

Those attending the public consultation event were asked to complete a response form. They were asked if they agreed with the issues recognised in the document, Bakewell 2012 and Beyond, and if so how would they rank them individually in terms of priority: 1 = high, 2 = medium, 3 = long term.

SECTION 1- PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND WILDLIFE HERITAGE

Issue	%Agree	Priority Ranking
<i>Development of management plans for the Town Council's and other public spaces.</i>	64%	High
<i>The National Park Authority is the body responsible for planning control and seeks to conserve and enhance wildlife when planning law applies and also to encourage landowners to manage land for wildlife and archaeological reasons under stewardship schemes.</i>	75%	High
<i>Erosion of river bank, particularly immediately south of the bridge, and Tory Island. Haddon Estate own the structures in the river and the river bed itself, together with fishing rights, but are not the riparian owners of that stretch of the river passing through the Town.</i>	86%	High
<i>Support for the continuation of the Bakewell Wildlife Project.</i>	83%	Medium
<i>Support for Bakewell in Bloom which includes wild flowers in its brief.</i>	86%	Medium
<i>Support Beelines, a national initiative to provide flowers for pollinating insects which are vital for many crops but which are declining.</i>	86%	High

SECTION 2 – BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Issue	%Agree	Priority Ranking
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<i>Buildings of historical interest need recognition and protection from unsuitable development.</i>	89%	High
<i>The ancient stones both within the parish church and in the churchyard need protection and interpretation.</i>	86%	High
<i>More innovative architecture should be encouraged using materials which are in harmony with the existing.</i>	67%	Long term
<i>Access to the War Memorial Garden adjoining Bath House needs to be safeguarded and the public allowed to see the bath in its basement.</i>	89%	High
<i>Support the National Park Authority's Public Realm Initiative to improve poorly maintained pavings, railings and street furniture including signs (see Living Streets in the next section).</i>	75%	High
<i>Consider re-installation of lighting on the bridge and installation of lighting on the riverside walk.</i>	47%	Split High/ Long term

SECTION 3 – TRANSPORT & ACCESSIBILITY

Issue	%Agree	Priority Ranking
<i>Keep under consideration the Living Street proposals for improving pedestrian, wheelchair and mobility scooter access.</i>	83%	High
<i>Enforce regulations regarding obstruction of pavements.</i>	86%	High
<i>Address parking concerns arising from increased visitor numbers, pressure on designated areas and indiscriminate parking. Is it a question of additional parking facilities and if so where, or alternatively better management?</i>	83%	High
<i>Keep under consideration the problem of the domination of traffic, particularly by heavy good vehicles, in the Town Centre.</i>	69%	High
<i>Keep under consideration the re-opening of the railway to Bakewell enabling the Derby-Matlock Services to terminate at Bakewell as part of the East Midlands Trains franchise.</i>	58%	High

SECTION 4 – ECONOMY

Issue	%	Priority
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	Agree	Ranking
<i>A greater diversity of retail outlets is required to meet the needs of residents and encourage them to shop locally.</i>	86%	High
<i>Support for a local business forum.</i>	69%	High
<i>Support for charities (and others) providing for visitors such as the Old House Museum.</i>	72%	Medium
<i>Enhance the attractiveness and interest of the town and surrounds and revive the local interpretative plan.</i>	72%	High
<i>A second super-market would introduce competition. Though a suitable site within the central shopping area has not been recognised.</i>	25%	Long term
<i>In order to retain young people entering the labour market within the community diverse employment opportunities need to be addressed.</i>	75%	High

SECTION 5 – SOCIAL & COMMUNITY

Issue	% Agree	Priority Ranking
<i>Need for affordable housing, many local people are excluded from open market housing the cost of which is beyond their reach. The following need to be recognised: the mix of different types; how much; where it might be located.</i>	86%	High
<i>Facilities for young people</i>	89%	High
<i>Co-ordination of community events</i>	64%	Medium

SECTION 6 – LOCALISM IN ACTION – CREATING A VISION

A VISION FOR BAKEWELL

Suggestion ... e.g.

A VIBRANT COMMUNITY, THE PREMIER LOCATION IN BRITAIN'S FIRST NATIONAL PARK

No other suggestions received