

Parwich Village Action Group

In conjunction with The Peak District National Park Authority's Community Planning and Parwich Parish Council
See www.parwich.org and look for us in the 'Directory of Local Groups'

Up-date April 2009

The Committee would like to thank Ann Wheeldon who has stepped down from the Committee for all the hard work she has put in as Secretary since the Group started in 2000. Peter Trehwitt also has resigned as Chair but is happy to remain on the Committee. We are consequently looking for both a new Chair and new Secretary. Currently the steering committee is:

Ann Griffiths (Parish Council Rep.)	Tel 766	
Val Kirkham	Tel 458	
Peter Trehwitt	Tel 287	Email petertrhwitt@aol.com
Janice Wigley (Treasurer)	Tel 281	Email janicewigley@hotmail.com

Over the last year we have, in addition to involvement on the aims below, contacted DEFRA in support of the proposals for direct elections to National Park Boards; met with the Peak District National Park Authority on their visit to Parwich early this year; lobbied EMDA for funding for the successful Peak Park grant application to continue the Community Planning team beyond this March; and had input on various planning applications in the light of our aims and the previous survey results. We have also worked closely with the website PARWICH.ORG to obtain community views on these issues.

Environment

Agreed Aims:

- *Protect and maintain the green and open spaces in and around the village.*
- *Protect village heritage and lifestyle.*
- *Identify and promote specific improvements to enhance the village environment.*

The Environment sub-group held a public meeting in April 2008 to discuss a collective village response to the draft Parwich Conservation Area Review. Points raised at the meeting as well as views received via the website were submitted to the Peak Park Authority, resulting in a number of amendments to the draft, including the dropping of the description of Parwich as a dormitory village, though we were disappointed that they did not agree with the local consensus that the Area should be extended to include the entire village, nor is there currently any plans on

the part of the Peak Park Authority to identify and implement any improvements within the Conservation Area.

The successful appeal last summer against the Peak Park Planners in relation to a garden room in the centre of the village highlighted our ongoing concern that the Planners do not always understand the specifics of our village.

Consequently there continues to be a need to complete our statement of what is valued in our local environment, and identification of individual projects to enhance the village. There was some discussion of the flooding issue when we met with the Peak Park Authority in January 2009, and we are currently looking at whether the Action Group can access funding for flood prevention not available to the Parish Council, which is also exploring this issue.

Contacts: **[Peter Trehwitt Tel 287](mailto:petertrhwitt@aol.com)**

Affordable Housing

Agreed Aim:

- *Ensure provision and continued availability of low cost housing in the village.*

Our Housing public meeting in May 2008 identified a number of young adults currently either living with their family or away from the village who would want housing in the village in the future.

Derbyshire Dales District Council (the housing authority) and the Peak Park (the planning authority) will only support projects at a third of the current identified need (i.e. if there are nine families identified as in need now then a project for three households would be supported).

We are monitoring the situation and currently considering whether involving neighbouring communities has more potential for success. We also participated in a Derbyshire Dales evaluation of current methods for providing affordable housing.

We have continued to support planning applications, when requested, that encourage the maintenance of a balanced community.

Contact: Janice Wigley Tel 281

Community Hall Facilities

Agreed Aim:

- *Redevelop the community hall facilities on the Memorial Hall site in line with the identified needs*

The issue of improving Sports and Sports Pavilion facilities are still in the Action Plan, but are now covered by a new group operating under the Parish Council. Further any future review of the Action Plan should also consider the needs of teenagers and older children, the needs of older people, a village newsletter, public transport (evenings), a local post office, shopping facilities and crime.

Anyone interested in being involved in any aspect of the above contact one of the Coordinating Group.

Val Kirkham as a Memorial Hall Management Committee member has taken over as our link to the ongoing Memorial Hall led initiative to build a new village hall on the existing site.

Our only specific input in the last year has been submitting a letter of support for the successful planning application.

This project is making excellent progress with The Big Lottery Fund having granted £500,000 towards the build in addition to other funding identified.

Roads, Traffic & Parking

Agreed Aims:

- *Ensure traffic in the village does not exceed safe speeds*
- *Investigate solutions to parking difficulties*

Following the traffic survey undertaken in relation to the Memorial Hall planning application the idea of Parwich a shared pedestrian and vehicle space with a reduced speed limited and minimal road signs was raised.

Discussion with the Peak Park Authority in January 2009 indicated they are keen to support further investigation of this with the Highways Authority (Derbyshire County Council). Also the reduction of parking spaces on the Memorial Hall site needs to be considered in the light of a village wide response.

Contact: Lynette Coyne Tel 381