

## Countryside And Environment

Dove Holes is surrounded by open countryside and, whilst it has a major road running through the middle of the village, the countryside and environment are an important and much appreciated aspect of the village. The countryside and views are one of the main things that people like about living in Dove Holes. It is not too built up and still has plenty of open spaces, wildlife and trees. There are many good walks which people enjoy using and they appreciate the clean environment and fresh air. People also like the fact that, whilst Dove Holes has a country feel to it, it is very handy to get to nearby towns. However, people didn't like the amount of dog and cat fouling around the village, the wildlife and flowers being ruined by dumping and the lack of trees in some parts of the village.



**One of the many footpaths around Dove Holes**

A variety of questions were asked on this topic and the questions and answers are summarised below.

**1. Can you usually follow the footpaths and bridleways in the village without much difficulty?**

No: 57

Yes: 128

The difficulties were mainly caused because the paths are poorly signposted and this is supported by the responses given to question 2. Some of the paths are quite overgrown and there are also problems created because the routes of the paths around the quarry keep changing and aren't always easy to follow. Many people commented that they don't know where the paths are and would find a map or leaflet useful, which is supported by the responses to question 3. Green Lane was mentioned on numerous occasions because of its poor condition and the difficulty people had with walking on it.

**2. What do you think could be done with the roads, lanes and paths to make the local countryside better?**

**(a) Dog fouling bins**

Very Important: 344 Worth Doing: 86 Not Necessary: 2

**(b) Keep roadside verges mown and tidy**

Very Important: 234 Worth Doing: 172 Not Necessary: 9

**(c) Stop vehicle damage to road verges**

Very Important: 191 Worth Doing: 171 Not Necessary: 40

**(d) Signpost paths and bridleways**

Very Important: 156 Worth Doing: 214 Not Necessary: 27

**(e) Signposts for local amenities and areas of interest**

Very Important: 129 Worth Doing: 210 Not Necessary: 37

People felt very strongly about the amount of dog fouling and the complete lack of dog fouling bins within the village. There was a

general feeling of annoyance with dog owners who didn't clean up after their pets. There were a large number of comments requesting that the grass verges throughout the village be planted with bulbs and flowers.

### **3. Would you like to see a map of the village and public footpaths publicised in a leaflet?**

No: 26            Yes: 154

### **4. What areas of the village could be visually improved and how?**

There was a very large response to this question with a large and varied amount of suggestions being put forward. Many of these fit better under other sections of the village plan but the ones relevant to this section are summarised below.

People felt very strongly that they would like to see more flower tubs and hanging baskets along the A6 road and around the public areas of the village to brighten the village up and try to change its dour image. Grass verges also needed to be mown regularly, as well as being planted with bulbs and flowers and cleared of litter, the verges at the village entrances and at 'Brickrow' being mentioned in particular. Although there are quite a few trees already within the village (some of which need pruning), people felt that they would like to see more, possibly at the entrances and on some verges. Trees were also suggested as screening for unsightly areas within the village such as behind the football pitch to screen the tip area and to screen the scrap metal dealer from the train station. Several areas in and round the village were felt to be in need of cleaning up or landscaping. Whilst most people felt the village needed a really good clean up, some places were mentioned in particular. These included the war memorial tidying up, the spoil heaps next to Dale Road landscaping, the park tidying up, the entrance to the Over 60s keeping tidy and the island at Barmoor Clough junction landscaping and planting. It was felt that the entrance to the community centre could be improved visually and the community centre and cricket club needed clearing of litter, painting and planting with flowers. People also felt that the village should be entered into the Britain in Bloom competition. There were several

references to the amount of litter and the lack of litter bins around the village. Whilst some people wanted to see this litter cleaned up, others felt that the emphasis should be on teaching people not to drop the litter in the first place.

### **Action Points**

- Improve signposting of footpaths around the village
- Provide a map or leaflet of walks around the village
- Reduce vehicle damage to verges and footpaths
- Improve Green Lane
- Provide dog fouling bins around the village
- Keep roadside verges mown and tidy
- Provide signposts for local amenities and areas of interest
- Put up signs to encourage dog owners to take their dog muck home with them
- Plant grass verges with bulbs and flowers
- Provide flower beds and hanging baskets throughout village
- Plant more trees
- Plant trees to screen lime tips from football field
- Plant trees to screen scrap yard from station
- Tidy up War Memorial
- Landscape spoil heaps on Dale Road
- Tidy up the park
- Keep entrance to Over 60s tidy
- Landscape and plant island at Barmoor Clough
- Clear litter around the community centre, paint and plant flowers
- Enter in Britain in Bloom competition
- Provide more litter bins
- Educate people to use litter and dog bins
- Tidy up area around maisonettes
- Public footpath down to the blacks and the entrance from the football field is steep, muddy, rocky and dangerous – it needs steps and handrails
- Rebuilding fallen down walls

The main message which came out of this section was the comment 'Let's have pride in the appearance of our village'



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