

Summary

In 2001 the Derbyshire Rural Community Council implemented a 'Village Agents' programme. This programme is aimed at communities within the High Peak and Derbyshire Dales. A dedicated worker is allocated to a village to consult with the residents and visitors with a view to help them identify what they value or dislike about their village, what they feel is missing or what they would like to remove or change to improve their environment and the general well being of the community. This is then incorporated into a Village Plan which can help to access funding to achieve some of the identified projects

After seeking permission from Chapel-en-le-Frith Parish Council to work within the village, the Village Agent formed the Dove Holes Village Group from interested people within the village and worked with them to develop the Village Plan. An application for a Countryside Agency Parish Plan Grant was submitted towards the end of 2002 in order that the Village Plan could be completed by the end of 2003.

During 2002 a wide variety of people were consulted including the children at Dove Holes Primary School and the older children at the Youth Club about what they wanted for the future of their village. The consultation methods used included a Wish List Day to which people were invited to come and find out about the Village Plan process and to put forward any ideas and issues they had about Dove Holes. Representatives from various organisations such as High Peak Borough Council's tourism and sports development departments, the Rural Transport Partnership, arts and craft groups and adult education were on hand to inform people of the sort of things which could be available.

The Dove Holes Village Group developed an in-depth questionnaire which was hand-delivered around the village. Many residents completed the questionnaires which were collected in by the Village Group and then analysed. The issues and suggestions which were put forward were then written up into a draft Village Plan. This was presented to the people of Dove Holes at an Open Meeting at which they were given the opportunity to comment on the Village Plan and also to put their names against any projects they were interested in becoming involved with.

The comments and suggested amendments were incorporated into the draft plan and the final version of the Village Plan was printed and launched at an Open Meeting in January 2004.

The Dove Holes Village Plan has been developed by the people of Dove Holes for the people of Dove Holes.