

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 Peak Forest Parish Council to work within the village, the Village Agent worked with the Village Management Committee 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 would be completed by the end of 2003.

During the Peak Forest Festival in 2002 a wide variety of people were consulted including the children at Peak Forest Primary School about what they wanted for the future of their village. The issues and suggestions which were put forward were then grouped in to one of five categories. These are:

- Schools, Children and Youth
- Communications
- Environmental
- Social and Recreation
- Traffic, Business and Housing

A Focus Group consisting of four or five people from within the village was formed for each category to study the issues raised and to put forward any suggested solutions.

Projects will be identified from within these categories and groups of interested parties will be formed to work on these projects.

The Peak Forest Village Plan has been developed by the people of Peak Forest for the people of Peak Forest.