

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL

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NEWSLETTER 4 - 2024/2025 SPRING

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WELCOME TO A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

At the Parish Council Meeting in January 2025, Members welcomed a new Councillor to the table; Councillor Mrs Bryony Hoggard. Bryony has shared some information about herself:-

“Raised in Sheffield, I moved to Derbyshire as a young adult and now reside on the border of the parish raising my family on our working farm, which gives me a deep appreciation for the challenges and joys of rural life.



With a professional background in training and personal development, new build development and events, I am now working in a part-time managerial role in the heart of our community.

In my spare time, I enjoy walking our parish’s wonderful footpaths, gardening, growing our own fruit and vegetables, volunteering and spending time with family.

The future of our parish is very important to me, I'm deeply committed to ensuring it remains a wonderful place, full of community spirit, to live and raise a family.”

MAY DAY/VE 80 DAY 2025



May Day / VE 80 Day: 5 May 2025 Again, we're fortunate to have such a hard-working and enthusiastic group of people organizing May Day! And it's not too late to step forward – the brilliant team would really appreciate it if you can offer some time before the day or on the day. Please contact them at ASHOVERMAYDAY@YAHOO.COM. There's going to be the usual, fantastic mix of things to see and do, including – children's entertainment, fairground rides, welly wanging, the human fruit machine (back by popular demand), Splat the Rat, the Big Sing, the famous Asher Dash run, craft stalls and all kinds of food! May 2025 also coincides with the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2 and we are planning to mark VE Day 80 with celebrations to run alongside those of our traditional May Day. If you have any memorabilia you would like to share on the day then do let us know.

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON 2024

Christmas seems so long ago now, but I'm sure we can cast our minds back to the lustre of lights, the gorgeous grotto and delightful chuckles of the Children at Ashover Parish Christmas light switch on 2024

Unfortunately, there was no snow this year, but it meant the Christmas light switch on went without a hitch.

Ashover Christmas lights 2024, hosted by our rector Peter bold, and were switched on by our hard-working, cheerful group of volunteers – Richard, David, Paul, Jen and Kev, who are



out in all weathers working on our footpaths and bridleways so that our community and visitors to the Parish can enjoy the surroundings we're Richard Felton, spoke about the hard work the volunteers put into not just footpaths and bridleways, but their handiwork on the Fabric and, over the past year, the fantastic job they've been doing in restoring the wall along the footpath boundary on the Sports-field.

Once the Christmas lights were lit, our visitor from far far away came to see the children, accompanied this year by two wonderful elves.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers who put in the work to create the grotto ready for Santa and of course to Santa himself, who brings such a lot of joy to the children who visit him, even the little boy who said he wanted a Ferrari this year and but not a toy one!

OUR VOLUNTEERS!

In the Autumn Newsletter we let you know about the work being undertaken on the stone walling surrounding the playing field by our volunteers.

In December 2024 we provided the volunteers with sweatshirts displaying the 'Ashover Parish Council' logo. The picture show Santa delivering the sweatshirts to the volunteers and the volunteers have expressed their thanks to the Parish Council for this kind gesture.



Pictured left to right are volunteers Paul, Jen, Kev & Santa
Picture by David Skinner (Volunteer)

MEETING WITH OUR MP

After several months trying, the Parish Council was pleased to meet with our new MP, Louise Jones, on 24 January. Also attending were Barry Lewis, Leader of DCC and NEDDC Councillor Helen Wetherall.

We were keen to share with Louise the key issues faced within our community –

- road safety on the A632
- water quality of the River Amber
- likely impact of the new Planning regulations

In Louise's predecessor, Lee Rowley, we felt we had an excellent constituency MP and we wanted to give Louise a briefing on the key issues and the circumstances in which we felt her engagement would be especially important.

During our discussion about the A632 we outlined the accidents with injuries and fatalities over recent years and the incremental steps taken towards improvement, including physical changes to at road junctions, introduction of SID cameras, formation of a Community Speedwatch group and patrols by the police. We also covered the public meetings and engagement with DCC Highways, Police, MP and the parish council aimed at developing a case for average speed cameras.

Looking ahead, we felt that the introduction of fixed speed cameras, ANPR or otherwise, would help address the appallingly high speed of some motorists, especially late at night/early mornings and it was especially in this connection that we felt support from Louise would be valuable.

Regarding the River Amber, we gave an overview of our dialogue with Severn Trent and the Environment Agency, leading up to Severn Trent's recent installation of additional holding tank capacity. The effectiveness of this December 2024 upgrade will be tested in the months to come and we may be relying on Louise's involvement if the reality is materially different to projections. Similarly, we need to be confident that the water sampling results gleaned by the Environment Agency are diligently translated by Severn Trent into infrastructure upgrades for their processing of phosphates from farming run-off.

The discussion about the Amber segued into planning issues, a notable concern being the need for rigorous review of housing planning applications, especially the need to ensure pipeline approvals are aggregated with new ones to ensure a full picture of the impact on local infrastructure.

Although the emphasis of our discussion was on local issues, Louise responded to questions on national politics, including the recent hike in National Insurance, the squeeze on winter fuel payments and the impact of changes in rules on inheritance tax on the farming community.

As the meeting concluded, Louise confirmed her support on the local issues discussed, her willingness to get involved should the need for escalation arise and that she would make herself available for future meetings.

The full 'action' notes may be found on the Parish Council website at:

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2025/02/action-notes-following-consultation-with-louise-jones-mp>

RIVER AMBER - UPDATE

Severn Trent recently completed work to increase holding tank capacity from 58m³ to 208m³ which they estimated would reduce spills by 80% on 2023 figures. The Environment Agency (EA) have declined to install sondes in the Amber to test the accuracy of these projections. The same request was put to Severn Trent and whilst they also declined they have said they will be collating the data at the end of the year, which will then be audited and published. Severn Trent also provided a link providing 'live' data so status can be viewed on a day to day basis: <https://www.stwater.co.uk/in-my-area/storm-overflow-map/>
Severn Trent have been asked to confirm the recently installed holding tanks and pumps are now fully operational. The Parish Council is also asking for an update on proposed infrastructure upgrades to process phosphates identified in the river.

CLIMATE CHANGE & BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

Meeting on 6 February 2025: Overview

Our group was pleased to welcome two members of the Derbyshire Wildlife Trust (DWT) to the meeting. Briefly, our discussions focused on the following:

1. 'The map' & Wildlife Corridor

Our map enabled detailed discussion with supplementary input from DWT who contributed their data via a lap-top. An initial objective is to fill in the gaps in the corridor, categorizing habitat then spread out sideways from corridor core. DWT are happy to facilitate conversations with receptive landowners if we can help identify them.

Agreed that May Day will be an opportunity to engage with community and show-case our progress. When it comes to funding habitat upgrades, DWT has ideas on the agencies we might approach.

Arising from the meeting, we'll populate the Map with more habitat information which we'll share within the group, as well as opening dialogue with those landowners interested in getting involved

2. Common Land

This links in with the Wildlife Corridor (see above). Following an audit last year, of Parish Council common land, we identified 3 parcels which seemed to have potential for habitat development. These are as follows:

- ❖ Berridge / Cold Harbour Lane
- ❖ Oaks Lane Quarry
- ❖ Hill Top Quarry

These parcels have now been offered to NEDDC as part of their Call For Sites planning initiative. Developers are now obliged to deliver a Biological Net Gain (BNG) of 10% on their sites – i.e. better quality of natural habitat than was there before development. If they can't then they need to secure biodiversity offsets elsewhere and this is where our 3 sites might come in, provided there's a benefit (financial or otherwise) to our community. NEDDC have acknowledged our caveat.

3. Engagement with school

In the pipeline, there's:

- Anti-litter poster campaign. Re-play of last year's initiative
- Nature themed photo competition
- walk to school week – 'crocodile walk' from Parish Hall car-park
- Welly wanging: potential to use post-May Day wellies for planting

DWT have a menu of options for development with school – practical sessions on flood, woodland creation/tree nurseries plant & grow etc. This menu of ideas will form an agenda for a meeting with the school.

4. River Amber

Progress reports have been posted in Parish newsletters and social media. Recent significant upgrade of holding tank capacity should mitigate sewage overflow in heavy rainfall but an audit at the end of the year will test this assumption. Suggested that additional planting might act as buffer to inhibit farming run-off into river and we will pursue this point with Environment Agency.

6. Planning issues

National Grid upgrade. General discussion. Local campaigns continue.

7. Cemetery.

Use of chemicals – products carefully selected and application limited to footpaths. Maintenance regime: Neatly mown versus some planting of wildflowers. More research needed. 'Wild triangle' behind skips: Bug hotel, bat boxes, hedgehog homes fact-finding continues Wildlife camera: for future evaluation Eco Church scheme: To be evaluated with dialogue extended to All Saints Church

Uppertown Social Centre – Events

Murphy's Marbles Saturday 15 March 2025 Ticket Event
Take the Seven Saturday 12 April 2025 Ticket Event
Easter Family Party Saturday 26 April 2025 4pm Free Entry
The Dolby Gang Saturday 17 May 2025 7pm Ticket Event
The Haleys Saturday 28 June 2025 7pm Ticket Event

Above subject to alteration without notice.

To book tickets in advance ring Eddie on 07966 154798.

For further information on Uppertown Social Centre, visit www.uppertown.org

Travel Derbyshire On Demand

A new type of bookable bus service called 'Travel Derbyshire on Demand' was introduced by Derbyshire County Council in February 2024 with funding from the Department for Transport. Analysis of the origin and destination of trips made on the service to date has shown that residents in Ashover parish have made little or no use of the service. As there is no fixed timetable and all journeys are booked in advance, it is possible that residents are simply not aware of the service, or the fact that it is available for them to use.

For further information follow the link below:-

<https://www.ashover-pc.gov.uk/news/2025/02/travel-derbyshire>

Book Swap

The book swap in the Information Point on Moor Road is proving popular and we hope everyone makes full use of the facility. Sometimes books are left spilling over the shelving and on the floor, making access difficult for users. Please only leave books when space is available on the shelving – Take a Book and Leave a Book.

Minutes, News and more...

To read Parish Council Minutes, see news items on road closures, Police information, Derbyshire Alert and County and District Council messages and much more, visit the Parish Council website:-

www.ashover-pc.gov.uk

Local Walks

All year round, there are Tuesday morning walks at 9.30 a.m. from the post box opposite the post office. Usually 2/3 hours on Ashover paths.

To find walks around the Ashover parish, please follow the link below:-

[Walks Around Ashover Parish](#)

Defibrillators

Locations of defibrillators

Ashover Parish Council has installed six defibrillators at the following locations:-



Outside Uppertown Social Centre

Outside the medical centre in Ashover

In the red kiosk at Alton In the red kiosk at Littlemoor

On the side of The Miners Arms, Milltown

On the side of The Kelstedge Inn, Kelstedge

There's also a defibrillator sited at the Red Lion/Peak Edge Hotel, Darley Road, Stonedged.

All Saints Church and The Bassett Rooms

Sarah, the Church Administrator works 10 hours per week, so there may be a delay in replying. Her usual working hours are 10- 12am Monday, 2-4pm Tuesday, 10-12 am Thursday and 10-2pm Friday.

For Bassett Rooms enquires that need dealing with urgently, please contact Margaret, Sarah's assistant: bassettroom@gmail.com or 07769970470.

For urgent Church matters, please contact Rev. Peter Bold on 01246 590246 or revdbold@gmail.com,

WINTER MAINTENANCE GUIDANCE

Your Parish Council owns and fills a total of 37 grit bins sited around the parish and undertakes winter maintenance of the Milken Lane Car Park. ***The salt is supplied for use on the highway adjacent the bin and if you witness large amounts being taken for personal use, please contact the Police.***

Cemetery

Please also ensure that dogs are kept on a leash at all times whilst walking through the cemetery. This is a legal requirement under the North East Derbyshire District Council's 'Public Space Protection Order' (PSPO); for further details, follow the link below:-

<https://www.ne-derbyshire.gov.uk/environmental-health/animals-and-pests/dog-management-pspo>

CONTACTS

ASHOVER PARISH COUNCIL – COUNCILLORS

- **John Cook** (07803 230702)
Farhill House, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BB
- **James Daykin** (07791 340214)
Eastwood Cottage, Ashover Road, Littlemoor S45 0BL
- **Steve Dronfield** (01246) 590721
Willow Tree Farm, Hunger Hill Lane, Stonedge S45 0LP
- **Rosemary Early** (01246) 590738
Lexley Gables, Hockley Lane, Ashover S45 0ER
- **Richard Fidler** (01246) 590155 (**Vice-Chairman**)
Porthlea, Alton Lane, Littlemoor S45 0BE
- **Edward Hayward** (07793 407911)
62 Malthouse Lane, Ashover S45 0AL
- **Bryony Hoggard** (07501 168917)
Hollins House Farm, Deerleap Lane, Holmgate S45 9AZ
- **Lucy Hunter-Bott** (07976 733607)
Old Bank House, Butts Road, Ashover S45 0AX
- **Mike Thomas** (07885 201296)
Touchstone, Chapel Hill, Ashover S45 0AT
- **Ed Willmot** (01246) 590260 (**Chairman**)
The Pines, Hill Road, Ashover S45 0BZ

Parish Clerk

- Parish Clerk/Burial Clerk: Sara Atkinson
Tel (01246) 863018
E-Mail parishclerk@ashover-pc.gov.uk
Sports Pavilion, Milken Lane, Ashover S45 0BA

District and County Councillors

- **North East Derbyshire District Councillor – Helen Wetherall** (07429 365009)
Woodside, Ashover Road, Ashover S45 0EU
- **Derbyshire County Councillor – Barry Lewis** (01773) 830871
2 King George St, Wessington S55 6DZ

USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Derbyshire County Council – 01629 580000 or 01629 533190

North East Derbyshire District Council - 01246 231111

Police – NON-URGENT calls to report crime, anti-social behaviour, non-violent crime or general information: 101 **Please note:** You **MUST** continue to use 999 where a crime is in progress, for serious crime or where violence is being used.

Citizens Advice – Providing consumer advice, free of charge, on a range of issues or complaints.
Website: www.adviceguide.org.uk Tel. 08454 040506

www.ashover-pc.gov.uk