

Pump Hill discussion document.

The document which follows has been kindly prepared by a resident to assist with the discussion and development of ideas for the future of Pump Hill. As such it does not represent either a decision, or recommendation, from the Parish Council. It may however be used to obtain further expert, regulatory and costing advice in order to assist on-going discussion, and ultimately decisions about the site.

The Parish Council continues to welcome further comments and suggestions from residents. These can be sent to the Clerk at either

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PUMP HILL

Yesterday – Today – Tomorrow

Parwich is considered a unique village within the Peak District National Park. A former agricultural settlement, it nestles into the surrounding hillsides. The distinctive vernacular limestone buildings and walls are separated by large tracts of open space. The many greens and public footpaths dotted throughout the village contribute to the spacious and calming appeal uncommon in villages today.

Past generations have preserved this green treasure by finding many and varied uses for these open spaces. The names tell the tale: Sports Field - Nether Green - Cricket pitch - Hard Play area - the Jubilee Pond - Childrens Playground - Bowling Green - The Green, with its magnificent Beech - The Square - Dod's Hill – Millenium Square, a magnificent overlook, and Pump Hill.

Pump Hill has always been a green lung of trees and wild plants.

In the 1990's Dorothy Littlewood of Stable Cottage was granted permission to create a wildflower garden, which in part remains today.

When the land came up for sale in 2005 the Parish Council expressed an interest in acquiring it for the village. The Parish Council was able to purchase the land with a gracious gift from a private individual, thus ensuring that it would remain an open space.

The present Parish Council has opened a discussion on the future of Pump Hill. Suggestions have been sought and received on usage and care of this area. Current thinking is to make the site accessible to the village. This report is a response and suggestion of the site's potential.

The Brief from the Parish Council:

1. Explore the legal and practical aspects of creating a footpath through the site and access for machinery as and when required for maintenance.
2. Evaluate current condition of site and prepare a scale drawing.
3. Identify trees and shrubs on plan.
4. Consider impact of proposal on neighbouring properties.
5. Low maintenance is seen as a priority. Current and ongoing costs to be met by the Parish Council. It is envisaged that

volunteers will assist in the clearing, creative improvement work and on going maintenance.

6. A detailed plan is to be submitted for consideration by the Parish Council and the general public.

Site Evaluation:

Pump Hill is at the western end of the village bounded on the east by Main Street, which rises up the hill and around the northern perimeter. To the south is the school play ground and the private garden of The Square.

The west side is separated from Parwich Hall Stables by a strip of land, which allows permitted access to Stable Cottage. There is a narrow gate opening into the site, which is unsuitable access for equipment. The Parish Council has suggested that this area should not be included in the proposal.

The site is bounded by drystone walls, except for a portion of wire mesh fence marking the boundary with The Square's private garden. The roadside walls are reasonably sound with the exception of a failing bulge on the northern flank.

The ground level within the walls rises from 450mm to 1200mm above road level. An existing road drain near the southeast corner must remain accessible for water cascading down the hill. The site has no water or electricity supply.

Presently the entire area is invaded with thistles, bramble, elder, and ivy. The trees require urgent attention and some will have to be removed. In general the soil appears to support most woodland types of plants.

Action:

Numerous villagers with interest and special skills have contributed to this preliminary proposal. Advice has been sought from farmers, estate managers, tree surgeons, wildlife trusts and conservation advocates during this process. In general the opinion is that we should limit our ambition to creating a pleasant, natural woodland walk through a light filled woodland glade. By understanding this description we automatically fulfil the obligation for minimal maintenance. Let Mother Nature work with a little control from us.

In consultation with Derbyshire County Council we have been informed the creation of a Permissive Footpath through our woodland with entry points from Main Street will not require Highway Authority approval. As the land is owned and maintained by the Parish Council, they may breach their boundary wall, create paths and allow village use. If the proposed footpath were to be declared and posted as a 'Public Footpath' then Highways would assume authority over entry points.

The Peak Park have employed a new part time tree conservation officer, Geoff Smith but he is not due back to work until the first of October. Therefore any major tree removal or trimming of large living trees will need to wait for his comment.

Large trees on site have been located on the existing plan. A Tree Survey identifies species where known and a suggested action. These recommendations are subject to possible confirmation by the Tree consultant Mr. Smith.

The proposed plan indicates the retained trees. Shrubs, low growing plants and seats are indicated but not identified specifically at this point.

Further work on these items will be forthcoming when we have general concept approval. However, we are considering only native, woodland species and local material seats that are appropriate to a woodland.

The areas for shrub planting have been selected to both give some privacy to neighbours but also to allow glimpses into and out of the woodland.

There are numerous very large logs on site, which we envisage would make a Stumpery for insects and butterflies. We wish to encourage wildlife and birds, which would be of interest to the school in their teaching curriculum. There are a variety of wild flowers to be encouraged and hidden beneath the ground lay numerous spring bulbs just waiting to burst free.

There is considerable interest in this project and offers of plants, bird and bat houses are only some of the activities people are keen to be involved in.

This public space is very different from the others in the village and we feel it will make a very attractive amenity that preserves the feel of Pump Hill that we are accustomed to.

It has been suggested that work this autumn should include cutting back and shaping of trees and shrubs, elimination of nettles and brambles, opening the entry points, laying the path base and creating steps at the southeast entry point. New planting could follow in early spring after a review of the heavily bulb planted areas.

A local farmer has suggested that we use Graze On 90 to kill invasive weeds. Use of this commercial product necessitates keeping dogs and people off the site for 7 days after application.

Points of Entry:

The north opening is the most appropriate and safest entry position for main access to the site. It should be approx. 1 metre wide to allow access for prams, mobility vehicles, wheelbarrows and even a small digger. The ground level here is 450mm above the road surface and therefore will require lowering to road level and then follow through at a slight rise to meet the general site level. No gate or signage is envisaged necessary.

The southeast opening is more problematic. The ground level here is 1200mm above the road level which necessitates removal of land, avoidance of major tree stumps, and formation of at least 6 steps.

Care has been taken to suggest a point beyond the road drain and the sharp corner at the Square. It is suggested a narrow stile type opening is adequate and prove safer as people would slow down to look for traffic before leaving the woodland. Additionally, 2 of the required steps could be of stone and situated within the width of the wall. The balance of steps could amble up the incline. This common woodland solution uses stones, logs or planks as the front edge with the rising ground providing a sloping platform.

Paths and Seats:

The main path indicated traverses through the woodland between access points. Depending on the state of the ground, various options are appropriate. Gravel, bark, compacted earth and tree debris, the most common solutions; allow rainwater to seep away and provide safe passage. This decision can be made as work proceeds.

The route takes advantage of the placement of trees and shrubs and

open areas and view points both within and without the site.

Usage will result in smaller arterial paths developing, especially around the 'Clearing'. A suggested route is shown.

Seating can take many forms. Several possible locations have been indicated on the plan. Logs, rough hewn planks, railway ties and stone are appropriate practical natural materials in a woodland setting.

In conclusion, it is noted that following the Parish Councils decision further details on planting and construction will be forthcoming as required.

TREE SURVEY

No.	Type	Action
1	Beech	Trim off lower 2 upright branches
2	Small Beech	
3	Hawthorne	Shape/control canopy, Ionicera, underplanting
4	Climbing Rose	Prune heavily, encourage new growth
5	Cotoneaster	Remove rubbish pile adjacent
6	Ash, 2 Stem	Remove ivy
7	Beech Shrub	Remove dead growth
8	Holly	Reduce height, encourage side growth
9	Ash	
10	Cherry	Prune, remove dead branches
11	Beech?	Remove Ivy
12	Beech?	Remove, leaning heavily
13	Holly	Top and shape, remove ivy
14	Beech?	Remove, leaning heavily
15	Beech?	Remove, leaning heavily
16	?	Remove, leaning heavily
17	Ash, 2	Stem Top and shape
18	Shrub	Shape
19	Flowering Currant	Growing into wall, Remove
20	Cherry	Leaning over Road, Remove
21	Cherry	Leaning over Road, Remove
22	Laburnam	Remove ivy and dead branches
23	Whitebeam	Shape
24	Chestnut	Lower canopy, shape
26	?	Remove
27	?	Remove
28	Oak	
29	Whitebeam	Remove
30	Whitebeam	
31	Whitebeam	
32	Beech ?	Remove
33	Laburnam	
34	Beech	Remove
35	Beech?	Remove
36	Oak	
37	Elder	Remove
38	Elder	Remove
39	Cherry	Shape

40	Elder	Remove
41	Elder	Remove
42	Beech	Remove
43	Elder	Remove
44	Hawthorne	Shape Canopy
45	Cherry	Shape or possibly remove
46	Whitebeam	
47	Holly	Shape
48	Beech?	
49	Oak	Try to avoid by diverting path

It will be noted that the recommendation is removal of quite a few trees. However it is important to realize that most of the trees on the site are self set. Many are too close together. The aim is to select the best trees of their species and condition and by removing less desirable trees, we give the more important trees the space to grow and flourish. We have been advised that the Whitebeams are rare and where possible should be given adequate space.

In addition to those numbered there are about 10 small trees that have been recently planted along the northern boundary. These were donated and planted by the owner of the Hall who is happy to have them relocated should it be necessary.

Many of the trees on the boundary with The Square's private garden are past their prime and leaning dangerously. An alternative planting plan of smaller scale trees and shrubs is suggested to promote goodwill, encourage wildlife and meld this area into the woodland glade.