



Derbyshire  
Wildlife Trust

# WORKING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO WELCOME WILDLIFE BACK

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**WHO TO  
TALK TO**

**2**



**ASK FOR  
ANSWERS**

**3**



**TAKE  
ACTION**

[www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.derbyshirewildlifetrust.org.uk)



STAGE 1

## UNDERSTAND WHO TO TALK TO

**Don't be intimidated by working with local authorities. The first step is to learn about the different levels of decision making and understand who you can work with.**

There are **204** parish and town councils in Derbyshire. Allotments, cemeteries, playing fields and even the village green will be managed by your local parish council. They comment on planning applications on their patch and may be responsible for street trees and footpath management.



**SCAN ME**

*Find out more about parish councils here*

Borough councils manage larger public parks and some services like environmental health and waste collection. Depending on where you live, this will be either Derbyshire Dales District Council or High Peak Borough Council. They assess planning applications outside the **Peak District National Park**, and manage public parks like Ashwood Park in Buxton and the Bakewell Recreation Ground.



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*Find out more about their approach here*

For those lucky to live within the beautiful national park, planning is governed by the **Peak District National Park Authority**. The decision to grant approval for each planning application is taken by their Planning Committee, which is made up of people and councillors from across the national park. You can have your say on proposals too but remember, every time a planning application is revised or resubmitted, your responses are not carried forward to the new application. If you want to comment on the new application you need to submit your views again.



**SCAN ME**

You can learn more about the planning process on the National Park Authority's website



Derbyshire County Council are responsible for a wide range of issues like education, health and transport. But they also have a role in land management as they oversee a range of nature reserves and long distance paths like the Penine Bridleway and High Peak Trail. They also manage recycling centres like Northwood Household Waste Recycling Centre near Rowsley, where you can buy soil improver to help your wild garden flourish!





STAGE 2

## ASK FOR ANSWERS

**If you want to know how you can work with a local authority for wildlife, then ask!**

Derbyshire County Council recently pledged to:

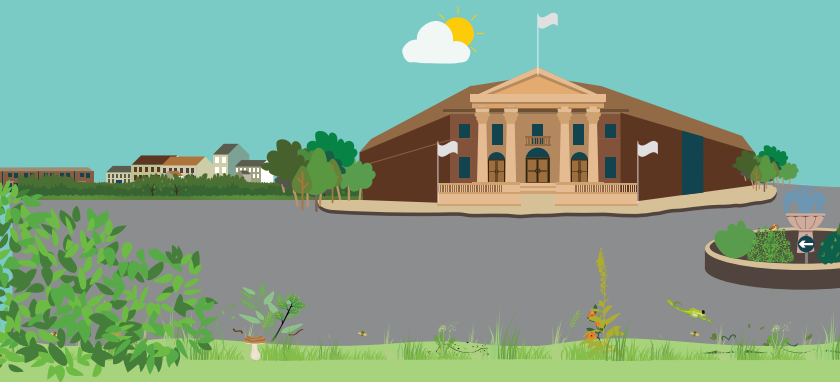
- manage at least 30% of public land for wildlife by 2030
- prioritise nature based solutions to flooding
- adopt a peat-free policy for all contracts.

**Why not ask your local representatives to take a similar step?**

*You can find out more about the nature recovery motion here.*



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You can ask questions in writing or in person at a meeting. If you have a larger question, then you can often ask an additional 'supplementary question', by attending a council meeting in person. Each local authority has their own procedures around submitting questions that you should check in advance. If you live within the national park and want to ask a question at a planning meeting you need to contact [democraticservices@peakdistrict.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@peakdistrict.gov.uk) before 12 noon on the Wednesday before the meeting.

You can also contact your MP to voice your concern around the rate of biodiversity loss, and ask them to find out what local action is taking place.

If you're unsure who your MP is, you can find out here.



**SCAN ME**





STAGE 3

## TAKE ACTION

Once you've learnt about the different layers of decision making and what is already happening in local government, work with them to drive positive changes for wildlife.



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If you want financial assistance for a community project that will benefit wildlife, then you can apply for a grant from one or more local authorities. Derbyshire County Council are distributing **£1.5 million over two years** to local groups through their Community Grand Fund.

Derbyshire Dales District Council have a range of smaller funding pots for voluntary groups that support a range of community activities.

find out more...



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You can have your say on the long term future of development by contributing to the Local Plan, which is revised only once every 5 years. The Peak District National Park Authority is currently revising their Local Plan and a public consultation is expected towards the end of 2022.

You can make planning more sympathetic to local wildlife by creating **a neighbourhood plan**.

There are already two neighbourhood plans in the Wye Valley, and these give their communities a greater stake in the planning system.



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**JOIN US**

Derbyshire's nature is facing unimaginable pressure from habitat loss, development and climate change. Becoming a member is one of the best ways to support our work protecting wildlife where you live.

By becoming a member of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, your money will help look after local wildlife and the amazing wild places in our area. You'll be joining a community of like-minded people and supporting us in all areas of our work, including conservation, campaigning and inspiring the local communities about nature.

**THANK YOU!**



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