

Local Council responsibilities and how to raise concerns.

Introduction.

Parwich Parish Council frequently receives requests from residents regarding services provided by other local authorities. This is not surprising as there are several different bodies each with their own responsibilities. These are quite strictly separated so that accountability is clear and they don't fall over each other trying to carry them out.

The Clerk is always happy to help residents identify the appropriate body to deal with their concern. The purpose of this guide is to share some of this advice.

Who does what?

A list of some common responsibilities (there are many more).

1. Parwich Parish Council. (PCC)
 - Maintenance of Parish owned land and buildings. E.g. mowing, repairs and improvements.
2. Derbyshire Dales District Council. (DDDC)
 - Waste Collection
 - Dog fouling and dog waste bins.
 - Housing.
3. Derbyshire County Council. (DCC)
 - Highways, including potholes, pavements, verges, street lights and public rights of way.
 - Flooding.
4. Peak District National Park Authority. (PDNPA)
 - Planning Applications.

Why doesn't the Parish Council just raise issues with the relevant authority?

Firstly, contrary to popular opinion, the Parish Council generally has no special access, or influence when raising issues. (Except for Planning – see below). For the Council to raise an issue on behalf of a resident tends to require that:

- The resident gives all the information needed to make a report. (often including map references and photos.
- The Council, at its next meeting, has to agree that it wants to make such a report and the wording of the concern.
- The Clerk can then submit this information, just as a resident would.
- The Clerk, not the resident, can then monitor the progress of the enquiry.

So often the advice will be that it would be quicker and easier for residents to report their concerns directly to the relevant authority.

If the Council, rather than a particular resident, decide they want to raise an issue they will ask the Clerk to do this. (e.g. speed limits in the village).

The Clerk will also assist residents who may have difficulty raising issues with other authorities because this needs to be done on-line.

Anecdotally many believe that if multiple requests are made by different residents this may help prioritise a response.

Derbyshire County Council

The Derbyshire County Council website offers a customer portal for raising a number of issues for which they are responsible.

It can be accessed here:

<https://my.derbyshire.gov.uk/en>

Although it requires you to register it offers a number of advantages over just writing to them or phoning.

- It creates a permanent record of your request.
- It routes your enquiry automatically to the work queue of the right department.
- It prompts you to provide all the information they are likely to need in order to help you.
- You can track on-line what has happened to your enquiry.

Derbyshire Dales District Council

DDDC operate a similar service which can be accessed here.

<https://selfserve.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/Login>

Peak District National Park Authority

The PDNPA invite the Parish Council to comment on Planning Applications in the Parish. Technically they are not obliged to consult with the Parish Council. But they are required to notify the Parish Council of applications in their area. The Council can then use the same platform to comment on applications as any other resident.

The Parish Council does get some special treatment. Often a bit longer to make a response to allow for a meeting to take place. And it has been suggested that Parish Council opposition may make it more likely for a decision to be reviewed by the Planning Committee rather than just approved by the Planning Officer.

Generally, the Parish Council will respond on behalf of residents as a whole rather than in support of the views of individuals. Individuals, whether they are near neighbours of an

application or not, can also make their own comments via the Planning Portal (no login required).

All applications and supporting documents can be accessed here.

<https://portal.peakdistrict.gov.uk>

Just search "Parwich" to see the latest

If all else fails.

If you feel you are not getting the response you want (or no response at all) then you may also want to contact one or more of the following.

Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Local Councillor.
Nigel Edwards-Walker
Dovedale, Parwich and Brassington.
nigel.walker@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Derbyshire County Council.

Local Councillor.
Simon Spencer.
Dovedale.
Simon.Spencer@derbyshire.gov.uk

Cabinet member for Highways Assets and Transport.
Charlotte Cupit.
Charlotte.Cupit@derbyshire.gov.uk

Central Government

Local MP.
John Whitby.
john.whitby.mp@parliament.uk