

A Heart for Hathersage

The aims and ambition of the Heart for Hathersage group are to meet the desire, expressed by the community, for a focal point to be created in the village. We hope to establish an attractive village centre where people can gather daily in comfort and safety, and for special occasions such as carol singing, Gala events etc. It will also be an informative place where visitors can rest, enjoy and find out about Hathersage and its surroundings.

The area identified as the 'heart' of Hathersage is the paved area around the Parish Rooms (currently occupied by Hope Valley Veterinary Clinic) and including the toilet/bus shelter block and surrounding pavements at the corner of Main Road and The Crofts.

Over the past decade the group has developed a set of proposals, always in consultation with every part of the community, and the latest iteration of these have now been put before Peak District National Park Authority's planning department for approval. The plans can be viewed at <http://pam.peakdistrict.gov.uk/NP/DDD/0912/0902>

Our History

The group was born out of the Wish List Day held in 2003 at the inception of the Hathersage & Outseats Village Plan.

Since then, we have had discussions with all four landowners of this complex plot, Councils at all levels, and individuals or groups with a special interest in the site. On many occasions we have developed ideas and put them before the public – during several Gala Weeks, via displays in the local Methodist Hall and on site, as well as in presentations to local interest groups and schoolchildren.

2008 saw the completion of a 'Campaign Pack' aimed at grant giving bodies, with much input and a Powerpoint presentation generously created by Weddle Landscape Design of Sheffield.

After such exhaustive planning and consultation, in 2011 we were finally able to employ a firm of landscape architects to draw up detailed plans to answer the community's brief.

Funding

Fees for the production of an initial site survey were met by a grant from Derbyshire Community Fund.

Designs produced by landscape architects for presentation at the Village Day in May 2007 were funded by the Peak District National Park Authority.

In 2011 a £10,000 National Heritage Lottery grant enabled us to employ Ares Landscape Architects to develop a set of plans and reference literature suitable for a planning application.

Although our group is made up entirely of unpaid volunteers, the various day-to-day costs of hall/stand hire, production of displays and stationery have been generously contributed to over the years by the Gala Committee and other good friends, to whom we would like to say a big ‘thank you’.

What’s next?

Once the Heart for Hathersage plans have been approved, our biggest task of all will commence – raising the money to build it. We have already opened up lines of communication with various large funding agencies and will be making applications to these as soon as possible. We hope to involve local and regional businesses in funding appropriate parts or materials for the project. And we hope, too, that local individuals might like to help us or to sponsor elements within the design.

If you are interested in what we are doing or would like to help build a Heart for Hathersage, please contact

Chris Winfield (Chair) gone_2_seed@yahoo.co.uk

Deanne Markham (Secretary) deanneunmarkham@googlemail.com

