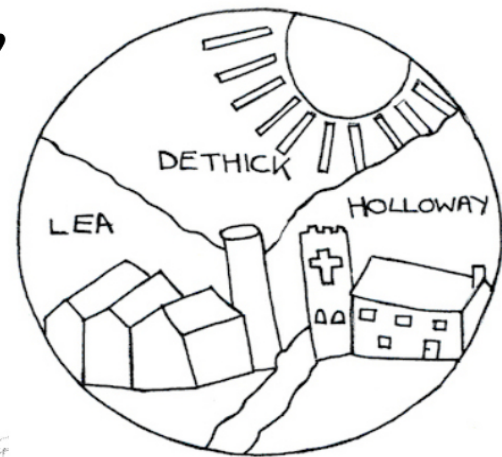




***A Village Plan for Dethick, Lea Bridge
Lea and Holloway
2011-2015***



This Village Plan is being produced in two different formats:

The Full Plan – is being published on the Village and Parish Council websites. It will be in full colour and include all the text, detailed Action Plans and photographs. The Plan can be viewed on the screen and will also be available to be downloaded as a PDF document. The progress will be monitored and reported online and in the Village Magazine.

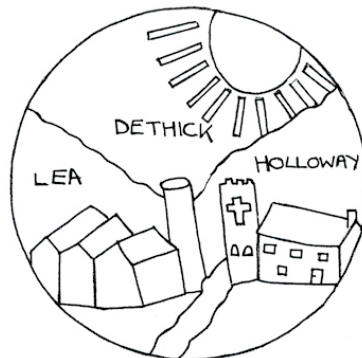
A Summary Plan – is being printed in a booklet and will be distributed to every household in the villages. Due to cost constraints this Plan will be in a simple black and white format and will include all of the text, including the recommendations for actions in written form but it will not include the detailed Action Plans and it will not be updated. If you have received the Summary Plan and do not have access to a computer but wish to see the detailed Action Plans, copies can be requested from Maggie Shields.

The Village Plan was produced by the following members of the Steering Group set up to deliver the Plan:

Duncan and Kate O'Connor Parker, Maggie Shields, Sue and Steve Hannath, Claire O'Reilly, Dave Scott, Julie Overend, Alex Carter, Alison Godfrey, Denis Sauzier, Joe Dunster, Jennie Taylor, Richard Rathbone and Lyndsay Steele.

With thanks to everyone in the Village who contributed by attending open meetings, filling in questionnaires, attending working groups and by just talking to members of the Steering Group about what was important to them.

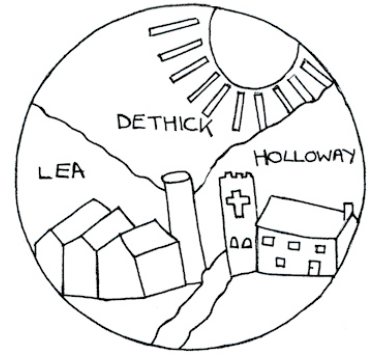
The Plan was produced using grants provided by the Parish Council and Carnival Committee



The Logo for the Village Plan was drawn by
Alice Malone
Lea Primary School

October 2011

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1. FOREWORD

This Plan, formulated for the parish of Dethick, Lea and Holloway, has been developed over the last two years. It should never claim to be finished since it will require regular periodic review as circumstances change and new issues arise. It represents a vision of how our community might develop over a five year period and in this regard it has endeavoured to identify local key issues and priorities for action.

There are those who question the need for such a plan. An obvious response is that a village plan is an invitation to everyone to say what they think about the social, cultural, economic and environmental issues affecting our community. Consultation and involvement are therefore fundamental features of the process and the enthusiastic members of the Steering Group and working groups have tried to keep faith with these basic principles.

The Steering Group has been sensitive to the danger of producing a plan in isolation from the wider planning framework and have therefore conducted discussions with representatives of Amber Valley District Council and Derbyshire County Council. Their input has been valuable.

The major challenge now is the implementation of the Plan's recommendations. Some of these fall within the purview of the Parish Council. Others will require volunteers to lead them towards an effective conclusion. It would be an immense pity if the Plan were to fail on account of a lack of volunteers. If you would like to become involved at any level please contact any member of the Steering Group. The intention is to include as many people of all ages as possible.

As Chairman of the Parish Council, which initially commissioned the Plan, I very much welcome the strategic planning framework which the Plan provides for the Council and would like to thank all those who have so far given their time, energy and talents to its creation.

Mike Wiser
Chairman
Dethick, Lea and Holloway Parish Council
October 2011

2. ABOUT THE VILLAGE

Dethick, Lea and Holloway is a civil parish in the Amber Valley Borough of the English county of Derbyshire. It is located south east of Matlock, and as its name suggests, contains three main settlements - Dethick, Lea and Holloway, as well as Lea Bridge. Situated in a rural area surrounded by hills, fields and woods, it has remained a popular place to live in thanks to its good access to road and rail transport.

At the time of writing the village has a population of 1096, in 478 households.

List of local amenities and opportunities

- Florence Nightingale Memorial Village Hall
- Rooms available for use in Chapel and Church buildings
- Local Village Primary School
- Doctor's Surgery and Pharmacy
- Jug and Glass Public House
- Lea Rhododendron Gardens and Tea Garden Café
- Lea Green Outdoor Centre
- Small Scout Hut
- 2 children's play areas in Lea and Lea Bridge
- Public toilets
- Over 30 local clubs/societies and organisations
- Popular Village Carnival Week
- Local Rights of Way and other footpaths
- 3 shops - Art Gallery, Boutique gallery/gift shop and factory outlet shop at Smedley's Clothing Mill
- Post Office and general stores
- Local Butchers
- 2 Motor repair garages
- 4 Churches (2 x C of E, Methodist and Evangelical Chapel)

The village attracts visitors to its network of footpaths, to the Lea Rhododendron Gardens and tea rooms, and to the factory-outlet shop at Smedley's clothing mill.

Historical Background

Four important families have been central to the history and development of the village: the Dethicks, the Babingtons, the Nightingales and the Smedleys.

Robert Dethick was the first Derbyshire M.P., who sat in Parliament in the 13th century in the reign of Edward 1.

Anthony Babington, born at Dethick Manor in 1561, was a staunch Catholic supporter of Mary, Queen of Scots, and was executed in the Tower of London in 1586 for treason against the Crown after plotting the failed assassination of Elizabeth 1st. It was the coming of the industrial revolution and the development of mills along the Derwent Valley that formed the present-day village. The Nightingale family initially built its fortunes on lead mining. Peter Nightingale then extended his interests to work briefly with Richard Arkwright at Cromford, and to contribute to the development of canal building by constructing his own Leawood Arm to service a hat factory and Lea Mills.

Peter's grand-daughter, Florence Nightingale, spent many summers at the family home, Lea Hurst. During the 1880s she nursed her mother and was active in charitable work and caring for the sick in the parish.

John Smedley was a great Victorian industrial innovator. His father took over Lea Mills in the late 18th century, and John developed whole new processes there with wool instead of cotton. He was an enlightened employer and generous benefactor to the village, building the Methodist Chapel in 1852. While the lead works and the hat factory have long gone, Smedley's Mill has been in continuous production since 1784. In the early 20th century, John's heir, J B Marsden-Smedley, continued the tradition of involvement in the village by supporting the building of Christ Church.

In 2001 the Derwent Valley Mills gained the status of a World Heritage Site and this includes Lea Bridge with Lea Brook and the site of the present Lea Mill. Many of the houses in the Village are of architectural interest and the whole Village is a Conservation Area.

Economic Profile

An Economic Profile of the Parish was produced in February 2011, based on data extracted from the Office for National Statistics. A full copy of this Profile is available to everyone on the Village Website, under the Village Plan page. This information has been used as the reference for the work done by the Steering Group and the four working groups.

In many respects, the economic profile of Dethick, Lea, Lea Bridge and Holloway is very much in line with those of Amber Valley, East Midlands and England as a whole. However there are some significant differences. Compared with these areas, the highlights are that DLLH has:

- a significantly lower population density
- a lower level of full time employment and a higher level of self employment
- a much lower proportion of job seekers
- a 30% higher proportion of retired people
- a 60% higher proportion of people who work at or mainly from home
- a lower level of people with no qualifications and a much higher proportion of people with degree or professional qualifications
- a higher proportion of owner occupied properties that are owned outright and a lower proportion of homes with mortgages
- a much higher proportion of second or holiday homes: 10 times the average for England
- a higher mean age profile: 46 compared with 40 for Amber Valley
- the official statistics confirm that the parish enjoys an extremely low crime rate.

Nowadays

The village is a lively place with a strong community spirit fostered through a wide range of interest groups at every age level. Each June the Village Carnival hosts a week of festivities which are always actively supported by villagers. Special events, such as the Florence Nightingale Heritage Festival in 2010 create an awareness of history and identity. During the consultation for this Plan there was an excellent response, and a frequent comment was a wish to 'maintain the character of the village'. Defining that 'character' and determining what is necessary to 'maintain' it became the task of the working groups; the Plan here provides a series of actions which can, with continuing village involvement, ensure that this can be achieved.

3. HOW THE PLAN WAS PRODUCED

The Parish Council started the process of producing a Village Plan in June 2009. They wrote to every household, outlining the idea and asking for volunteers to become involved.

Following an initial couple of meetings with the Chair, an independent Steering group was established in September 2009 which was given the brief of consulting with local people and producing the Plan. Over the next few months the steering group set about identifying what needed to be done, seeking advice from Rural Action Derbyshire, an organisation set up to provide help and advice to local parishes in the county, and sorting any funding needed. The group decided on an identity and strapline of DLLH 2015 (Dethick, Lea, Lea Bridge, and Holloway and 2015 being the life of the 5 year plan).

The consultation process began with a house to house leaflet drop, posters and an article in the local Parish Magazine advertising an open meeting in the Village Hall in February 2010. Despite it being a very snowy evening over 70 people attended the first meeting. Those who attended were asked to discuss four key questions:

- What do you like about living in the village?
- What don't you like about living in the village?
- What would you like to see changed?
- What would you like to keep that might be threatened in the future?

The Steering Group built on this initial interest by targeting other groups and people that they thought were under represented at the initial meeting (young families, young people etc.) and having questionnaires widely available around the village asking the same questions.

The responses were then collated and grouped under a series of headings against each of the questions. The Steering Group then sought to get further reaction from local people to these initial findings by making them available for comment at a Drop in Day at the Village Hall in April 2010 and at the Village Carnival in June 2010. People were asked to indicate preferences for some of the some of the responses, and to make comments on post-it notes.

The Autumn of 2010 was spent collating all of the reactions and responses to the consultation, and grouping these under four themes:

- Social and Economic.
- Environment and Culture
- Transport, Roads and Traffic
- Amenities, Leisure and Recreation.

As the process went along other people expressed an interest in certain topics and an appeal also went out in the Parish magazine for more people to get involved. As a result of this over 30 people became involved in developing four working groups to discuss the four topics in more detail (based on the consultation findings) and to produce comprehensive individual action plans. This happened during the early half of 2011.

The completed results and draft plan from this lengthy process were presented to the members of all the working groups and then to the village as a whole at the Village Carnival in June 2011.

One major benefit of this process is that its very existence has already led to actions being taken in advance of the completed Plan. Such actions include:

- A new village website has been launched with more information being available about the village and what is going on than ever before, including the setting up of a calendar of events.
- The Parish Council has already been asked to look at options for developing a children's play area in Holloway.
- There are articles in the Carnival Programme providing more details about several local amenities and businesses such as Lea Green, Lea Gardens and local shops.
- Discussions have already taken place between the Headteacher from Lea Primary and the school governors representing the local community about how to improve those links.
- To encourage the County Council to provide a house- hold amenities site in the Matlock area.

As it says in the introduction, this is just the start of the process. The Village Plan needs to keep moving forward, Action Plans need to be continually refined and then delivered and consultation with local people needs to be ongoing.

4. DISCUSSIONS OF ISSUES

Social and Economic

For a small village, DLLH has a healthy social and economic profile based on a network including a village store and Post Office, a butchers, 2 motor repair garages, a pub, an art gallery, a gift boutique, Lea Gardens, the oldest functioning textile Mill still flourishing, and surrounding farms. These enterprises provide employment and are evidence of local economic activity. The Economic Profile on previous pages also highlights the importance of self-employment here with many working from home. In a world of increasing technology this is likely to develop and with adequate broadband resources offers opportunities for those with appropriate qualifications.

With this range of commercial activity, the presence of a lively village school, and active voluntary work in the churches and clubs, the village has a strong sense of community and a stable social basis. This is reflected within the village by the low level of anti-social behaviour and crime and a strong informal neighbourhood support network. The village benefits also from an appreciation of its historical background, and as part of the Derwent Valley World Heritage Site, and with its connections to Florence Nightingale, there is already a tourist presence.

However, as with many other attractive villages, DLLH has seen young people forced out of the community by inflated house prices and the spread of second homes. The need to enable young families to live here is vital to the future of the village and to the continued existence of the school. The balance between private, rented, holiday and sheltered housing needs careful monitoring and liaison with the Parish Council and Amber Valley Borough Council. There may be opportunities for the community to become more influential in this area with the implementation of the forthcoming Localism Bill.

Whilst valuing the advantages already contributing to the village's current healthy social and economic status, the Working Group felt the following recommendations should be acted on to ensure a sound future.

Social and Economic Recommendations:

To improve channels of communication between the village and wider authorities, [Derbyshire County Council, Amber Valley Borough Council and the Parish Council]; and particularly to increase community awareness of the Parish Council, by organising an Open Evening of the Council to explain their role and method of operation and to encourage people to get involved.

To improve feedback from local authorities on current issues under discussion which affect the community by nominating an individual to survey Amber Valley Borough Council's websites and to report back.

To review the management of housing association properties, and to identify and address the perceived concerns of tenants by establishing a working group to carry out a survey and report back to the Parish Council and Amber Valley Borough Council.

To address the need for more affordable housing within the parish, and to that end to develop a community-led initiative to obtain information regarding local authority plans and available finance.

To exploit the commercial potential for local businesses of the extensive historical buildings and associations within the parish, by generating and promoting information and establishing historical trails.

To enhance internet access and usage in the village for personal, social and business purposes by setting up a working group to investigate the need for public access and training in IT skills which could then be provided at a suitable local venue.

These recommendations have been expanded to form individual action plans which can be found on the Village website.

Environment and Culture.

During the consultation process it was clear that people value the surroundings and environment in which they live, and want to ensure that it is protected for future generations. They want the green spaces between the villages to be preserved, the woodlands and fields maintained and colour to be added to the local environment with the possible introduction of village Christmas trees, hanging baskets and flower tubs.

The issues surrounding local footpaths, their restoration, maintenance and policing produced a great deal of response and is a key area for development in our Action Plan.

It has become clear that people wish to show a community commitment to the development of an Ecological Strategy for Dethick, Lea, Lea Bridge and Holloway, in order to maintain, manage, protect and preserve the environment and rights of way and habitats, as well as looking at issues of sustainability.

There is also a very strong feeling that people wish to maintain the character of the villages and the cultural richness which exists within them. Whilst acknowledging that nothing can stay the same, progress can enhance the wealth of musical, cultural, artistic and fun activities with which the community has an excellent reputation. By celebrating and developing local talent, the character of our community will continue to grow.

The churches are central to community life and many people have expressed the need to maintain and develop the character and tradition of the churches whilst developing their spiritual, social and cultural uses to ensure that they will thrive in today's society.

Environment and Culture Recommendations.

Footpaths and bridleways:

- To establish where all the existing rights of way are within DLLH.
- To identify any paths which may have disappeared.
- To look for missing gaps in the paths network for different users
- To publicise all local definitive footpaths, bridleways and permissive footpaths.

Appearance of the villages:

- To create more colour in the environment.
- To make the war memorial more visible to the community.
- To enhance and develop community gardens in the community.
- To improve the maintenance of dry stone walls in the parish.
- To keep the green spaces between the villages.

Litter and recycling:

- To improve local recycling facilities.
- To encourage the County Council to provide a house- hold amenities site in the Matlock area.
- To encourage villagers to report all fly tipping.

The local environment:

- To develop an ECO strategy for the community, including the promotion of biodiversity
- To have more information available about the handover of Leawood to the Woodland trust.
- To raise awareness of our unique community owned woodland.
- To encourage village groups to participate in Natural History and wildlife walks.
- To develop an area for allotments.
- To raise awareness of local community supported agricultural projects.
- To improve street cleaning and the maintenance of drains.

Cultural recommendations:

- To maintain the character of the villages and the cultural richness which exists within them.
- To maintain and develop the character and tradition of the churches whilst developing their spiritual, social and cultural uses.
- To promote historical interest in our community.
- To celebrate and develop local talent.

These recommendations have been expanded to form individual action plans which can be found on the Village website.

Transport, Roads and Traffic

Lea Bridge and Holloway are situated on the road from Cromford to Alfreton/Ripley with connections to the A38, and the M1. It also connects to the Derwent valley railway line at Cromford or Whatstandwell. So it has easy access to major transport routes. However this brings a considerable volume of traffic through the villages, which presents familiar problems relating to speeding, HGV traffic, and parking.



The village benefits from a reasonable public bus service, although not currently serving Lea, which has to depend on the Community Bus service. It is also regrettable that the connections to bus services on the A6, and to trains are far from useful. An analysis of bus-train connections revealed an almost wilful pattern of near misses. Proposals have been made to the relevant authorities and a response is awaited. The village has the added resource of community transport which is run by volunteers. Details of this service are available through the Parish Magazine and the Village Website.

Transport, Roads and Traffic

Recommendations:

To reduce the amount of speeding vehicles: continued efforts to be made to introduce a community speed scheme with assistance of local police through Parish Council.

To improve public transport links: consultation with Derbyshire County Council to improve timetabling of buses to connect with trains and Transpeak buses on A6, and to explore the possibility of a bus service to Lea.

To reduce parking problems: further discussion with Smedley's Mill and their employees to address the parking problem at Lea Bridge, with consideration of a one-way system to assist with traffic flow and visibility at the junction. To monitor car parking along Church Street.

To improve road conditions throughout the year: to help with a co-ordinated approach to clear snow from driveways and local roads

To monitor HGV traffic: the group recommends an occasional survey to be conducted by villagers in consultation with Derbyshire County Council to ensure that the 7.5 tonne weight restriction for vehicles is adhered to. To promote Long Lane as a Quiet Lane to give more priority for walkers, cyclists and horse riders.

The group recommends the setting up of a small traffic monitoring group which can oversee the implementation of recommendations above.

This group could also organise community projects to improve roads such as Little London which are not maintained by Derbyshire County Council.

These recommendations have been expanded to form individual action plans which can be found on the Village website.

Leisure and Amenity Issues

Dethick, Lea, Lea Bridge and Holloway is very well served for leisure, recreation and local amenities. Local facilities include a well used Village Hall, the use of rooms in two local Churches, a small Scout Hut and the local pub, the Jug and Glass, which has a skittles alley and acts as a meeting place for the village. There is also the very popular Lea Gardens and Lea Green, the County Council's outdoor activity centre for young people, which has sports and activity facilities to hire and two local playgrounds for younger children.

There are over 30 local clubs, societies and organisations providing something for everyone. All ages are catered for from a Mums and Toddlers group, through the Brownies and Scouts to Tai Chi group, whose eldest member is over 90. For the more active there are opportunities for local people to take part in a range of sports such as football, karate and indoor bowls. Other interests such as horticulture, whist and films are also catered for.

There is a very popular local Carnival, attended by the majority of the Village, which is the culmination of a week long series of events and activities in June, including Sheep Racing, Songs of Praise, a village BBQ and a Barrel Race.

As would be expected the results from the consultation in the village highlighted the importance local people placed on all of the local amenities under the question about what people most liked about living in the area and what they would most like to keep.

The questions about what people did not like about living in the area and what they would like to see changed in respect to recreation and local amenities centred on concerns about lack of information and communication between local people and providers or organisers. There were also comments about the lack of facilities in Holloway with the closure of the pub and no play provision for younger children. Another issue was the inadequate size of the scout hut and the need for larger premises.

A working group met on several occasions to discuss the issues that had been raised as a result of the consultation and a detailed list of suggested recommendations and actions has been produced.

Leisure and Amenity Recommendations:

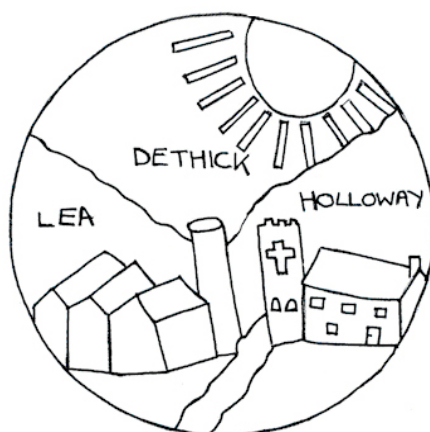
To improve the availability of more information about local amenities - including a new website for the village, more use to be made of notice boards, a calendar of events to be produced and kept up to date and encouraging better information about the local groups and organisations.

To improve links between the providers of local amenities and facilities and the local community - by providing support for the local Doctors Surgery, exploring the potential to improve links between the Village School and the community, to help with the long term management and running of the Village Hall and to improve the dialogue with Lea Green

To improve facilities for young people - by supporting the project to build a new Scout Hut in the village, to investigate the provision of a children's play area in Holloway and the refurbishment of the one at Lea Bridge and to keep in touch with young people about what they would like.

To improve facilities that benefit all local residents - review the provision of the public toilets in the village and to look at any suggestions for new facilities that come out of the ongoing process

To encourage more people to become involved with village life



These recommendations have been expanded to form individual action plans which can be found on the Village website.

5. WHAT NEXT?

This Village Plan marks the end of some very good work over two years. But it is only a beginning. There is already one very tangible benefit delivered as a direct result of the DLLH 2015 project: the creation from scratch of a Village Website. This provides substantial information about everything going on in the village. It can only continue to be of benefit if everyone with internet access uses it and contributes to it. The Village Plan points us towards several more achievable improvements. With our support the Parish Council will tackle those Village Plan actions for which it is responsible. But there are several other actions for which the Parish Council has neither the authority nor the resources to act upon. **This is our opportunity and responsibility, as individuals**, to get involved and make a difference for the betterment of the village. If we don't -no one else can, and no one else will.

The other essential ingredient for our collective success is the creation of some '**community structure**' to facilitate our individual contributions and turn them into real achievements for the community. A Steering Group was set up with the brief to produce this Plan so their work is now complete and consideration needs to be given to a replacement group to coordinate our efforts, working in partnership with the Parish Council, harnessing personal commitment, developing imaginative funding solutions, and creating different ways of delivering results: all these are within our grasp. **In DLLH, We can.**

Individual efforts are essential. Marshalling these is what achieves the best results. And we can fit this within whatever time and talents we choose to offer: young and not so young, in employment, self-employment and retired, newcomers to the village and long standing residents. We each have our unique contribution to make - and there is no one else who can make that but us. Let us not waste any time debating how all this fits inside or outside the Government's Localism or Big Society agenda. For us on the ground, only two things matter: does it make sense for us to get stuck in as a community? And if we don't, who will?

In DLLH, We can do it.

NOTES

Layout by Andy Britland.

The Logo for the Village Plan was drawn by Alice Malone Lea Primary School.

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