

What we have now

Some people still find it hard to get to open space where they can enjoy their free time. This is true even though much of the High Peak is in the Peak District National Park or is protected from development in other ways.

Recreation and tourism are important parts of the economy of High Peak. Over 13 million visitors came to the National Park in 2018, and the surrounding areas also receive many visitors. This puts pressure on the environment. It also causes problems with traffic and parking, and the needs of visitors sometimes conflict with those of residents.

The popularity of the High Peak means it can be hard to balance all these pressures with environmental protection.

What the Green Party proposes

There are many partners involved in looking after the countryside and other green spaces. The Green Party will work with partners, most importantly local communities and the Peak District National Park Authority, to protect these spaces for current and future residents. The Green Party will also work with partners across district and county boundaries to strengthen action for the natural environment.

Green spaces

- Protect green spaces when this is within the Council's power
- Do not permit buildings, roads and similar developments on green space owned by the Council
- Give open public access to green spaces such as parks and woodland
- Favour development which increases green space for residents
- Manage fly-tipping effectively.

Wildlife Habitat and Species Protection

- Update surveys of wild animals and plants to protect them effectively
- Work with partners to preserve habitats including moorland as an important habitat and store of carbon
- Make sure all planning decisions protect wild species, whether animals or plants
- Prosecute those causing cruelty to wild animals
- End the hunting of wild animals
- With local communities, encourage re-wilding and other conservation efforts
- Work with partners to use the most humane methods of pest control.

Tourism and the countryside

- Keep paths in good condition to encourage visitors to keep to the paths
- Provide information for visitors on protecting the countryside, including farmland
- Look at the landscape and environmental impact of any planning applications
- Look at the economic sustainability of activity, including employment it will provide.
- Take into account views of local residents, and effects on the local economy and the environment, when making decisions
- Work with partners to improve public transport, especially buses, and encourage the use of public transport to the National Park and other green spaces
- Provide better facilities for walkers and cyclists.