If you have an email address, there’s an easy way to ensure you keep up to date with the services we provide for you, including any changes to bin collections.

Our e-newsletter will inform you, for example, when collections are affected by Bank Holidays or bad weather.

You can also sign up to have a say on issues affecting you by becoming one of our regular advisers as a member of the Citizens’ Panel. Tell us what you really think about our services and make your views known to the decision makers by signing up now. 16 to 35 year-olds especially welcome!

Simply go online to our website at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/enewsreg and tick the boxes you want to receive emails about, also including tourism and events, consultations, leisure and special interest sections.

Your District Council runs more than 30 parks and gardens across the beautiful Derbyshire Dales

If you run a small business with BIG ideas? Apply for funding: page 6

Your District Council runs more than 30 parks and gardens across the beautiful Derbyshire Dales
Despite the continuing squeeze on local government finances, we remain determined to deliver your top priorities, such as building more affordable homes for local people, keeping the Dales clean and safe – and saving money!

To balance successive government grant cutbacks, we need to make additional savings of £1.9 million over the next six years. Savings of £330,000 have already been identified following two reviews of our administration service and a merger of our grounds maintenance and street cleaning teams.

We will also tackle cuts through a combination of measures such as sharing services, reducing staff costs and generating additional income through increased fees and charges.

Ambitious
We remain ambitious for the district to generate high-wage, high-skill jobs (local wages are the lowest in Derbyshire), and to enhance the prosperity of our four market towns.

It may surprise you to discover that while tourism is important, it is actually a relatively small part of the Dales economy and we are keen not to be portrayed simply as “a tourist area”. Our main economic sectors include manufacturing, retail and the public sector, which together make up 65% of Dales employment. So while this beautiful area attracts 6.9 million visitors a year and a spend of £296 million, accommodation and food services account for only 9% of Derbyshire Dales jobs.

So we are committed to working hard to secure external funding such as the £51m in new housing investment that has enabled more than 1,000 new affordable homes for local people since 2002.

We make no apology for making a nuisance of ourselves in fighting to support and grow an economy that is dominated by micro-businesses (91% of local firms have under 10 employees) and our friends at Local Enterprise Partnerships will continue to hear us knocking loudly at their doors.

Cllr Lewis Rose OBE
Leader, Derbyshire Dales District Council

You’ll see on the front cover of dalesMATTERS that we’re again freezing what you pay in Council Tax for our services at around 50p a day.

About one third of our total budget comes from central government – the rest is collected through fees and charges and through Council Tax.

A ‘Band D’ household’s Council Tax bill in 2014/15 for Derbyshire Dales District Council services is again £189.66, or only £3.65 per household per week - approximately 50p per day.

Your District Council receives the lowest grant of any council in the county, but works hard to maintain your efficient, value for money services.

Here are some of the things we do for you:

Affordable homes – 1,000+ new homes enabled by the District Council since 2002. Housing statistics reveal we continue to perform better in this area than most other local authorities, securing over £51m in new housing investment.

Safe communities - latest Home Office figures reveal Dales crime is lower than almost anywhere in England.

Clean streets – 99% of our streets are clean.

Waste collection and recycling – our residents are now recycling more at home (55.5%) than any other area of Derbyshire. Our collection service is saving Council Tax payers £385,000 a year.

Active, healthy communities – Derbyshire Dales is the 5th healthiest place to live in England. We’re top of the league in the percentage of active adult women.

Leisure centres and sports activities – Arc Leisure Matlock, which we built in 2011, is a great success. We are proud to provide excellent leisure centres too in Ashbourne, Bakewell and Wirksworth.

Parks, play areas and skate parks – we recorded a 6th consecutive Green Flag Award for our Matlock Hall Leys Park and run more than 30 parks and gardens.

Your District Council also provides:

- Car parks – including residents’ free parking concessions and free parking in December
- Tough action on environmental crime
- Security equipment for burglary victims
- Food, health and safety inspectors
- Food hygiene ratings for local food businesses
- Dales events – such as Matlock Bath Illuminations
- Planning and building control
- Housing advice and benefits
- Markets – we run stall markets in your towns and our Agricultural Business Centre in Bakewell hosts one of the UK’s top Farmers’ Markets
- Toilets – refurbished throughout the Dales
- Running elections – general, European and local
- Online services – from paying bills to reporting fly tipping

View the Council Tax figures at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/counciltax

Beautiful Matlock’s Hall Leys Park is one of more than 30 parks and gardens we maintain for you.
Get a 2nd permit

You can now pay £60 to buy a second parking permit for your household – in addition to the free permit that enables you to park free in District Council car parks every day before 11am and after 4pm.

You’ll find your free resident parking permit – issued to all 33,000 households across the district – in the same envelope as this edition of dalesMATTERS.

For a second or replacement pass, pay online at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/parking or, for more information, call 01629 761100 or email carparks@derbyshiredales.gov.uk

Bridge restoration starts soon

Work to restore a Matlock Bath landmark to its former glory begins this spring after residents, traders and the local media campaigned for its refurbishment.

Your District Council is ensuring the future of the iconic Jubilee Bridge and returning it to the way it looked when first opened to celebrate Queen Victoria’s golden jubilee.

Restoration work starts in April, with the bridge re-opening in June in good time for the District Council’s 2014 Matlock Bath Illuminations season, which attracts around 100,000 visitors to the village.

All metalwork will be blast cleaned and defective metal re-plated, and the entire bridge will be re-painted with a 20-year guarantee. Safety tests will also be carried out.

Bank Holiday Bin Collections

Please note the following changes to your usual waste and recycling collections.

Collections on Good Friday (18 April) will take place as normal.

However, collections the following week (from Monday 21 April), will be one day later than usual and will include a Saturday collection. The same applies in the weeks beginning with Monday 5 May and Monday 26 May, both of which are also Bank Holidays.

Use our online search at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/waste to see which containers to put out and download a calendar.

You can also sign up to our e-newsletter to be kept informed of any changes to your bin collections www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/enewsreg

VIPS For You!

Two years ago the District Council announced improvement plans to save £110,000 by working with local businesses and organisations to provide Visitor Information Points (VIPS) at popular locations throughout the Dales in place of the council’s walk-in centres.

Matlock Station shop houses the town’s VIP - and it’s already an award winner.

We’ve now opened a purpose-built Visitor Information Centre at Ashbourne Town Hall (pictured above) and further VIPS in Hathersage and Hartington.

Council Tax payers told us that spending on visitor information is among their lowest priorities and that’s why this scheme works so well - in these financially challenging times, we are improving visitor services while cutting costs.
Delivering Food Caddy Liners

The annual delivery of food caddy liners to properties across the Derbyshire Dales starts on Monday 31 March.

It should take about two weeks to deliver liners for your kitchen caddies to all our households, but if you still haven’t received your caddy liners by the middle of April please email waste@derbyshiredales.gov.uk or contact our Waste Helpline on 01629 761122 by 30 April.

Caddy liners will not be delivered if requests are made after this date but will be available to buy from the Town Hall in Matlock and our Leisure Centres in Ashbourne, Bakewell, Matlock and Wirksworth.

Properties that use black sacks for household waste collections will also receive a roll during the first two weeks of April. The same applies to those of you who have subscribed to our compostable sacks scheme for garden waste - you will receive a roll of compostable sacks.

If you would like to subscribe to the compostable sacks scheme, please complete the online form at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/waste or call the Waste Helpline.

If you have not received your black sacks/compostable sacks by the middle of April please contact the Waste Helpline by 30 April. Sacks will not be delivered if requests are made after this date but compostable sacks will be available to buy from the Town Hall in Matlock and from our four leisure centres.

Flower Power

Sponsorship of roadsites sites around the Dales is helping us to maintain floral displays, ensuring our district looks beautiful both for residents and visitors.

Thanks to Derbyshire Self Storage, Mertrux, Rileys, Shalimar and Walkers of Ashbourne for their sponsorship.

Several sites are still available and we’re always happy to discuss sponsorship of land we own, including parks. To find out more, email parks@derbyshiredales.gov.uk or call Helen Carrington 01629 761392.

We're fitter,

Such great sports!

Olympic trap clay target shooter Caroline Povey took the top honour as the Derbyshire Dales celebrated an astonishing range of sporting talent.

Caroline (right), from Tansley, who won the British Championships and is ranked number one in England, was crowned 2013 Sportsperson of the Year at the District Council event, beating Matlock's European kickboxing champion Emma Erskine into second place.

Dales athletes competing at the very highest level rubbed shoulders at the awards with unsung heroes who support grassroots sport and help their local clubs and teams to thrive.

Derbyshire Dales Disabled Sportsperson of the Year Cathy Booth, inspired by the London Paralympic Games, progressed in just 11 months from attending a cerebral palsy sport taster day to competing in national championships and winning two silver medals.

Other winners included Club of the Year Darley Dale Cricket Club, whose Simon Cotterill was honoured as one of four Unsung Heroes. Junior coordinator Stuart Rudkin shared the Volunteer Coach of the Year award with Rob Wilson of Darley Dale Juniors FC and Mike Harwood, chair of youth cricket at Wirksworth & Middleton CC. Other Unsung Heroes were Wirksworth & Middleton Cricket Club chairman Sue Marshall, Steve Drury and Ashbourne Rugby Club president David ‘Sam’ Heath.

The Team of the Year title went to Darley Dale Girls’ U13 football team, Ashbourne Tennis Club picked up the Community Sports Project of the Year, Schawn Monteiro was voted Young Sports Leader of the Year, and the Veteran Sportsperson of the Year award went to World Championships triathlete Nicola Dick, from Arbor Low near Monyash.

Optimist dinghy class sailor Joshua Haynes, 14, from Matlock, took the Junior Sportsman of the Year title, and the Junior Sportswoman of the Year title went to British Champion wrestler Katy Colebourne, a student at Wirksworth’s Anthony Gell School and member of Middleton Wrestling Club.

Darley Dale Cricket Club winners (from left) Simon Cotterill, Richard Johnson, Andy Topley and Stuart Rudkin
Your District Council has published a free activity guide called Fitter, Healthier, Happier to help local people keep active through 2014.

You can download the guide at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/fhh

Activities included in the Fitter, Healthier, Happier programme include walking, jogging, cycling, exercise classes, orienteering and many events and courses.

All sessions are led by qualified instructors and leaders and many offer opportunities to socialise over a drink afterwards. People can simply turn up on the day - there’s no need to book.

The guide is well timed as Derbyshire Dales residents continue to set the pace when it comes to keeping fit and active – with women leading the way.

Sport England research reveals the Dales has the fifth highest percentage of adults taking exercise at least three times a week in the whole of England.

The figure has risen again in the past year from 29.2% to 30.5% - easily the highest level in Derbyshire.

Top of the table

And the Derbyshire Dales is top of the table for adult females taking part in sport – 31.6% is the best figure in England.

Sport England’s annual Active People Survey measures the activity of people over 16 over a period of four weeks and compares recorded levels with other local authority areas.

We don’t simply rely on our four leisure centres to generate such excellent statistics. Tremendous progress has also been made in recent times with our Village Games and Doorstep Sport programmes, and we continue to increase numbers on our free Walking for Health schemes.

Our new Clubs First project is also helping local clubs survive and thrive, and all these superb initiatives encourage more people to get out and be active. And a bonus for local Council Tax payers is that 80% of our sports development team is externally funded.

Club development coordinator Alan McGill is organising a series of training events and can be contacted by local clubs by email at clubsfirst@derbyshiredales.gov.uk or by phone on 01629 761380.

Major leisure centre upgrade

The District Council’s Ashbourne Leisure Centre pool area is to get its first major upgrade in 20 years. A £175,000 Sport England grant will see work begin this spring on a new open plan “changing village” for the swimming pool to complement the modernisation in 2003 of the centre’s reception area and dry side facilities.

At the same time, the District Council, which also operates leisure centres in Bakewell, Matlock and Wirksworth, is to fund improvements to the energy efficiency of the building. The pool will remain open throughout, but with some necessary disruption to changing facilities.
New funding for Dales business

Derbyshire Dales businesses with expansion plans can apply for funding thanks to a new support programme.

With £3 million, Global Derbyshire Business Support Programme provides grants for pre-start, start-up and small and medium-sized businesses looking to grow, collaborate, innovate and export.

The new programme aims to complement support available through local enterprise partnerships such as D2N2 (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire) and Sheffield City Region, both of which have strong links with Derbyshire Dales District Council.

Grants of between £4,000 and £75,000 are available, up to a maximum of 50% of project costs. An Expression of Interest form can be downloaded online at www.derbyshireeconomicpartnership.org.uk

For further information please email globalderbyshire@derbyshire.gov.uk or call 01629 538244.

The District Council’s own free service – Derbyshire Dales Business Advice – launched in 2011, has so far assisted 338 businesses and helped create 177 jobs. We can help with grant applications like Global Derbyshire.

Among the businesses helped are Peak Ales (pictured above), a thriving microbrewery based on the outskirts of the Chatsworth estate. They have recently been successful in securing grant assistance to expand their business.

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Email business.support@talkingcouncil.gov.uk or go online for more information and to book an appointment with our business adviser Heather Bradford at: www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/businessadvice

Communal gardens in Middleton by Wirksworth and Grindleford were among the winners as we celebrated the Blooming Dales.

The idea of Chairman of the District of the Derbyshire Dales Councillor Peter Slack, our awards were supported by Dales Housing, The Riverside Herb & Garden Centre at Hathersage and Matlock Sainsbury’s, all of which donated prizes.

Middleton School, represented by Michael Cooney, won the award for the best southern area communal garden. The north area award went to Michael Wren and Alan Jacques from Grindleford Allotments.

Best southern individual garden was Phyllis and Robert Marsden of 18 Malthouse Close, Wirksworth, and best northern individual garden was Mrs Sheila Watts, 38 Dimple Road, Matlock.

Runners up in the communal gardens section were Waltham House in Wirksworth and All Saints School in Matlock.

Individual gardens award runners up were Mr Peter Harrison, 45 Peak View Drive, Ashbourne, and Bob Musgrave, 1 Cliffe Lane, Hathersage.

Flash Floods

Flash floods happen when an exceptional amount of rain falls in a very short time – and, though still rare, climate change and an increase in thunderstorms means they are becoming more commonplace.

Be aware and know the signs. You can find information online at www.derbyshiredales.gov.uk/flood

Floodline Warnings Direct also offers advice about how to prepare for flooding - call Floodline on 0845 988 1188 or visit the Environment Agency website www.environment-agency.gov.uk/flood

Shop Watch Trial

Bakewell retailers have been given special keyrings to help them check for fraudulent bank notes.

Shops in the town have been handed leaflets with tips on how to identify fake money along with the UV device. The keyrings shine a blue light on bank notes, which contain several security features including watermarks, UV lettering and 3D holograms.

Retailers have been given the kit by Derbyshire Dales Community Safety Partnership, which includes police and your District Council.

It’s the latest in a series of steps taken to help protect Bakewell’s shops from crime. These include the town’s dedicated ShopWatch radio scheme, linking the outlets with police and each other.

Although official statistics show that crime dropped again across the Derbyshire Dales in the past year, your District Council is determined to push on with crime prevention initiatives that reinforce the district’s reputation as one of the safest places to live, work and visit in the whole of the UK.

We also joined forces with Ashbourne Safer Neighbourhood Team to advise retailers about protecting themselves against crime. A seminar took place in partnership between police, the District Council and the local Chamber of Commerce to encourage the prompt sharing of information.

Blooming marvellous awards!

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Maximising income, tackling debt and preventing homelessness continue to be the focus of our housing efforts.

We also improve housing choices for local people, support initiatives in the private rented sector and encourage investment for new affordable homes for local people, which continues to be our top priority.

Achievements, including putting in place measures to support local people affected by Welfare Reform, include:

- managing debt totalling £604,333 between April and September last year through our debt advice service, focusing on social housing tenants affected by welfare reform
- ensuring our new Council Tax benefit scheme lessens the burden on low income households. We also introduced a hardship fund for the most vulnerable
- preventing 725 households from becoming homeless through direct intervention by partner agencies we fund
- enabling development of 68 new affordable homes and gaining planning consent for a further 63
- supporting 117 vulnerable people through our innovative Escape Project
- winning £17.5m new housing investment in a government programme to deliver 164 homes in 2014/15.

All of the above has played a part in Derbyshire Dales District Council being shortlisted as a finalist for the 2014 UK Housing Awards in the ‘Strategic Local Authority of the Year’ category.

Looking for affordable housing in the Derbyshire Dales? Register with Home-Options, where every fortnight we advertise available housing association properties, private rented properties and homes for sale on our website www.home-options.org

Find out more online, call 01629 761311 or drop in to the District Council’s Town Hall offices in Matlock weekdays 9am-5pm.

Home-Options are also looking to work with private landlords in the Derbyshire Dales. If you have a property you would like to rent, contact Gemma Lane on 01629 761117.

A Matlock teenager used Road Safety Week to urge other young drivers to take advantage of a free safety drive funded by your District Council.

Schawn Monteiro (pictured) signed up for a free Drive Check with the Matlock Institute of Advanced Motorists (IAM) group. The first 25 Dales residents aged 17-26 who sign up get free training funded by the District Council.

Said Schawn: "Driving safely isn't something only young people can learn, but I'm aware that statistically young motorists are more likely to be involved in an accident.

"Passing your driving test is one thing, but I found the Drive Check course really beneficial because I was able to take on board feedback from my observer. In addition to safety tips, we also discussed issues such as fuel economy – really useful for a young person on a budget!"

Normally Drive Check - which is available for all age groups - costs £20 and includes a drive with an experienced IAM observer followed by a feedback session.

Signing up to Drive Check also includes a full year's membership of the Matlock IAM group. Any young driver who, like Schawn, wants to progress, gets a £20 refund on the advanced test. To sign up to Drive Check or any other IAM initiative, including Bike Safe, contact IAM on 01629 812 732.

Derbyshire Dales Olympian Ellie Koyander was the guest of honour at the official opening of Olympian Way in Darley Dale.

Ellie, the mogul skier from Tideswell, opened the development of 33 homes, comprising affordable rent houses and flats and six shared ownership homes at the former Cobb Slater factory site.

Your District Council funded the Nottingham Community Housing Association scheme with the Homes and Communities Agency.

Enabling affordable housing for local people remains the District Council's number one priority and we were delighted to make a significant £362,000 financial contribution to this scheme, using contributions from private sector developments.

The 2012 Olympics Torch Relay ran past the new development and Winter Olympian Ellie Koyander described it as "fantastic".

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The way our First Stop Shop at Ashbourne Leisure Centre works is changing from 1 April.

Leisure staff will take over responsibility for dealing with Gold Card applications, general enquiries, application forms and leaflets.

We’ll be installing a self-serve computer for online applications, payments and enquiries, together with a dedicated phone link to head-quarters staff for more detailed enquiries.

This change saves Council Tax payers’ cash and also maintains first class customer service for those who use our Ashbourne facility.

Changes will also be announced soon at our Bakewell First Stop Shop, based at the Agricultural Business Centre.

Where in the Dales?

Did you spot the four mystery locations - all of which are operated by the District Council - in our “Where in the Dales” in the Autumn 2013 edition of dalesMATTERS?

The answers were: 1 Bakewell Agricultural Business Centre (ABC), 2 Arc Leisure Matlock, 3 Ashbourne Recreation Ground, 4 Wirksworth Leisure Centre.

This newsletter is available free of charge in electronic, audio, Braille and large print versions, and in other languages on request. For assistance in understanding or reading this document, please call 01629 761195.