

Parish Statement - Great Longstone Update

Introduction

Great Longstone is located approximately 2.5 miles north of Bakewell. Now it is a quiet residential village within the Great Longstone Conservation Area (1995) set around a small green with an old cross along with nearby hamlets of Rowland, Hassop and Little Longstone.

The village lies under the ridge of Longstone Edge that rises to some 400m high. It has some charming old limestone cottages along the main street, a handsome Georgian manor house and the church of St Giles dating from the 13th century.

The manor house, Longstone Hall, has its origins in the 14th century, but was rebuilt in the mid-18th century. That century was one of prosperity, with lead-mining and shoemaking. There are two public houses in the main village: The Crispin Inn, named after St Crispin, the patron saint of shoemakers, and The White Lion.

Longstone and the surrounding hamlets have changed significantly over the past 70 years. From the 1950's to the 70's there was a big programme of house building and significant population growth. Thornhills Produce, Furness & Hassell Builders and Thornbridge Teacher Training College were all significant local employers.

By the 1990's all three of these employers had disappeared, along with the local railway service that ceased in 1968, and many local people were commuting to jobs in Sheffield and Chesterfield.

As we entered the new Millenium change was starting to happen and by 2011, nine years before Covid, 35% of people in Longstone were working at, or mainly at, home (Derbyshire Dales = 18.6%, Derbyshire = 10.5%).

Facilities

Sports & Social Clubs	Longstone and District Horticultural and Garden Society, Card playing, Exercise and mind classes, History society WI Longstone Events & Activity Planning (LEAP) Longstone Area Sports & Recreation Association (LASRA) Football Club (with Baslow) Cricket Club Pickleball Group Badminton Club Film Club
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	Snooker Club
Traditions	Well dressing
Events	Fell Race Horticultural Show Flower Festival Open Gardens Regular events at the churches and public houses Village Week Annual Sports Day Christmas Eve Carol Concert

Community aspirations for Great Longstone - Proposal

We want to ensure that Great Longstone continues to be a community of all ages,

- for people to be able to start and raise families here
- for young people to be able to grow and develop without having to leave the Parish
- for older people to enjoy fulfilling lives here.

To maintain a community made up of a balance of businesses and services for both residents and visitors. We need to ensure that the service needs of residents are met and that Great Longstone provides an environment which encourages people to set up a range of businesses, providing employment opportunities for local people.

While we welcome tourism, we want to ensure that Great Longstone's economy does not become dependent on tourism, nor the proliferation of holiday cottages spoil the essence of village life.

We wish to develop a connected community with access to viable options for using public transport and technology for work, health, education and leisure.

Community Aspirations

To preserve, enhance and share the rural nature of the parish whilst strengthening and promoting the following:

- To work together with other villages in the Great Longstone area to produce a plan through extensive engagement with residents
- To sustain a viable community within the character of the village whilst welcoming those on vacation, walkers and cyclists who use the Longstone Area as a focal point
- To understand and promote the history and heritage of the Great Longstone area
- To ensure the continued viability of our, School, Church, Village Hall, Thornhill House and Recreation Ground, local businesses and hostelrys

- To encourage affordable housing
- To reduce the negative impact of traffic by the reduction of speed and to encourage consideration by all drivers and road users when driving and parking
- To create safe footpaths or walkways for pedestrians and mobility scooter users
- To sustain environmental resilience and encourage respect for all habitats, promote and maintain wildlife areas
- To listen and value varying opinions in the community
- To help make Great Longstone a good place for children and teenagers to live
- To continue and build on the support network set up for vulnerable and older residents
- To be committed to looking after the social well-being and safety of the parish
- Work with the existing partners such as neighbourhood watch schemes and the police on projects to tackle crime
- Use of social networks/newsletters to provide improved communication about village issues to all residents and visitors, recognising advantages and limitations of technology.