PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK AUTHORITY PRESS RELEASE

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| **15 February 2011****Come and talk to us about planning** A surgery is being organised for Peak District National Park residents to talk about planning issues that matter to them. The Peak District National Park Authority has organised the event on Tuesday 29 March at Cliff College, near Calver, so residents can speak to senior planning managers and officers. John Herbert, the chair of the authority’s planning committee, will also be present. Residents will be able to book 20 minute private appointments to discuss specific planning cases, whether dealing with past, present or future issues.   Appointments can be booked by ringing the authority’s customer service team on 01629 816200 or emailing customer.service@peakdistrict.gov.uk before Friday 25 March. The sessions will be held between 4pm and 8pm in the Chatsworth Room at Cliff College, off the A623 Baslow Road.  The move is part of work to respond to a residents’ survey carried out by the authority which found local people wanted more events about planning issues and to see more of the authority’s members in the community. John Herbert, chair of the authority’s planning committee, said: “We have listened to the views of residents and are responding to them. “This event is an opportunity for any national park resident to have a 20-minute private appointment talking about a planning issue that concerns them and for us to also learn lessons from past planning cases. “Anyone who is unable to make the event but wants to discuss a planning concern or get advice before making an application can phone, email or come and see one of our planning officers any weekday between 9.15am and 12.45pm at our offices at Aldern House in Bakewell.” The authority has run regular planning surgeries at different communities around the national park for many years offering opportunities to talk about current or future planning applications. The event on 29 March will build on this by enabling the public to talk about previous cases as well, with the authority keen to hear from residents and businesses about how they think planning can be used to improve life in communities. Planning is one of many services run by the authority to assist local communities. Other key work includes Live & Work Rural, which helps to set up new businesses and support existing ones, and providing advice for farmers and land owners on grants they can get to support their operations.  In the coming months it is also proposed to increase the number of community events involving members of the authority.

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| Further information and guidance about planning issues in the national park can be seen at [www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning](http://www.peakdistrict.gov.uk/planning) |  |

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