



Matlock
TOWN COUNCIL

Mayor 2026-2027 - Councillor Ashley Orwin
Town Clerk – Simon Hosmer

Imperial Rooms
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Matlock
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David Barker Bequest Committee- Terms of Reference

The Committee is responsible to the Council and has the following remit:

1	MEMBERSHIP	The Committee will consist of at least 5 members of the Council. The Chairperson will be chosen by full Council and will hold office until the next Annual Meeting of the Council. All Council members not appointed to the Committee are to receive notification of the agenda and may attend in a non-voting capacity. Members/former members of the Matlock Civic Association can be seconded to the committee in an advisory capacity and as non-voting members.
2	QUORUM	The quorum shall be a minimum of 3 members
3	VOTING	Members shall vote by show of hands, or if at least two members so request, by recorded vote. The Chairman shall in the case of an equality of votes, have a second or casting vote.
4	MEETINGS	Meetings will usually be held every 3 months on a Monday evening as amount of business dictates. The public and press shall be admitted to all meetings, which may however, temporarily exclude them by means of a resolution. Confidential Business: Members of the Committee should not disclose matters of a confidential nature to any person not a member of Matlock Town Council. Any member doing so shall be removed from the Committee by the Council.

5	FUNCTION	To provide effective management of the David Barker Bequest. To ensure the charity constitution is followed. To ensure the following objectives are met: <i>1. To educate the public in the geography, history, natural history and architecture of the area of Matlock.</i> <i>2. The preservation, protection, development and improvement of buildings and other features of historic or public interest by promoting high standards of planning, design and architecture in or affecting Matlock.</i> <i>3. To design and implement civic improvement and heritage conservation projects.</i>
6	DELEGATED POWERS	The Committee has full delegated powers over the Council's running of the charity.
7	REPORTING TO COUNCIL	The minutes from each meeting will be presented to Full Council or A decision shall be taken at each Committee meeting as to whether any items should be referred up to Full Council.
8	REVISION	A review of David Barker Bequest Committee membership and its duties will be taken annually, in May.

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Protocol for Non-Voting seconded Members

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The primary purpose of establishing a protocol for the secondment of non-voting members is as follows:
 - To set out how the appointment and role of non-voting members is taken forward.
- 1.2 The David Barker Bequest Charity Committee is entitled to appoint up to three non-voting, seconded members to assist with its work as per the Terms of Reference agreed at the Annual Meeting of the Council on 18th May 2026. Non-voting secondees will be members of the Matlock Civic Association and are intended to bring expertise & experience to the work of the committee. They are expected to add value by performing the following roles:
 - To act as a non-party political voice for those who live and/or work in Matlock; and
 - To bring specialist knowledge & skills to the Committee.
- 1.3 For the purposes of this protocol, the term 'Seconded members/secondees' refers to seconded non-statutory, non-voting members.

2. Non - Voting Seconded Members

- 2.1 Most members on Committees are elected members and voting co-opted members. The decision making on appointment of non-voting, seconded members should take place at the beginning of each meeting of the Committee if necessary.
- 2.2 Non-voting, Seconded members will be an integral part of the Committee. The chair (through the Clerk) is advised to invite individuals who have specific and detailed knowledge of a particular issue to act as experts and/or external advisers instead of being applicable to the appointment process at section 5 below, as this will provide the Committee with as wide and as varied options as possible.
- 2.3 It is expected that appointed non-voting secondees will:
 - Attend formal meetings of the Committee, which are usually held 4 times a year, usually on the last Monday of the month.
 - Attend additional meetings and evidence gathering sessions such as site visits where necessary.
 - Prepare for meetings by reading the agenda papers and additional information to familiarise themselves with the projects being discussed.

- Prior to meetings, consider questions they may wish to put to Committee Members, officers, and each other.
- Help the Committee to make practical suggestions for improvements to projects.
- Assist in the preparation of reports and the formulation of recommendations.
- Establish good relations with members, officers and other secondees.
- Abide by the relevant sections of the Council's Standing Orders in terms of the rules and procedures for meetings.

2.4 Non-voting seconded members should also note the following:

- Secondees on the Committee will have no voting rights.
- Each seconded member will usually be appointed for a period of 1 year by the Scrutiny panel at their first meeting of the Committee and their membership reviewed on an annual basis by the Committee.

3. Appointment Process

3.1 The Committee will seek nominations from the Matlock Civic Association for Non-voting Secondee positions. Where the Committee identifies that a Non-voting Seconded member may be beneficial to the work of the Committee, the Chair of the Committee, supported with advice from the Clerk, will identify the appropriate person to invite to each meeting. This may not always be the same person depending on specific skills but the same core secondees should see any project through from start to finish where possible.

3.2 Where the above is not possible and a particular experience/ expertise is required to assist the Committee for the duration of a project, consideration can also be given to other members of the Matlock Civic Association who, in turn, would need to be seconded to the Committee using the above process.

3.3 Matlock Civic Association members will be sent:

- Information on the role of non-voting seconded members.
- Protocol for seconded non-statutory non-voting members (this document).
- Information on the relevant skills and experience being sought to allow the Committee to identify the appropriate individual to nominate.

- 3.4 The Committee Chair, along with the Clerk will invite suitable candidates to attend the next meeting of the Committee.

4. Term of Office

- 4.1 Non-voting seconded members will be appointed for the duration of the Financial year and the Committee will annually renew their membership according to consideration of the projects that are unfinished.
- 4.2 Any Non-voting seconded members shall be appointed at the next available meeting of the Committee. An agenda point will be put in to the agenda to specify the secondment and allow a resolution on the secondment to be made.
- 4.3 The specialist knowledge and/or skills that the proposed secondees will be minuted.
- 4.4 Secondees may terminate their membership by giving notice at least 30 days prior to the next meeting of the Committee to the Clerk.

5. Code of Conduct

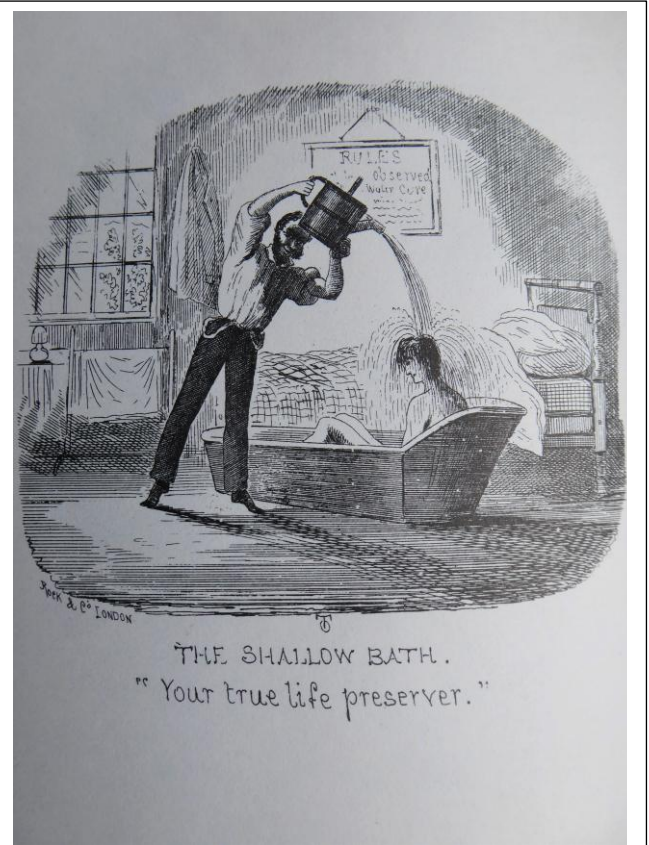
- 5.1 All secondees, including non-voting seconded members, are required to sign the council's code of conduct which sets out the standards of behaviour expected.
- 5.2 Secondees must also sign a declaration of interest form identifying any interests which an individual may have which require recording. Advice will be provided on these requirements by the Clerk.
- 5.3 Non-voting Secondees are voluntary positions and there is no allowance provision for this role.

‘The Bathman’ – A Proposed Hydro-themed Artwork on Matlock Station Approach

1. The Proposal

MCA has a long-standing aspiration to commemorate Matlock’s Hydro Heritage by a statue or artwork or fountain in the town centre. The idea of an artwork based on a human figure demonstrating one of the ‘water cures’ seems to have been accepted in previous consultations with the Town, District and County Councils. This is the basis of the proposal for ‘The Bathman’ artwork. A significant difficulty has been in identifying the funding for an ambitious project worthy of celebrating the town’s origins. Finding a suitable site and where one of the local Authorities could take ownership of a completed project has also been a problem. MCA has recently received a substantial bequest that should enable the funding question to be resolved. A new site has also been identified at the approach to Matlock Railway Station from the town centre – a fitting location as it was the arrival of the railway in 1849 that made the development of modern-day Matlock possible. Appendix 2 tells the story of Matlock and its Hydro-Heritage.

The proposal is an artwork statue of a Bathman applying one of the ‘Water Cure’ treatments. It would be based on a humorous book of cartoons by Thomas Onhyn from 1857 - *‘Pleasures of the Water Cure by a patient who has been well drench’d and wrench’d and restored to health’*. The illustration shows the Bathman pouring water over a customer sitting in a shallow bath. The original idea was for the artwork to also be a water feature (many spa towns have fountains in the town centre). However the initial cost would be more and the maintenance implications will be difficult for a Local Authority to accept. Therefore the proposal is for a dry artwork with the water being imagined. The idea would be worked up in consultation with a local foundry and engaging an appropriate sculptor to refine the proposal. It would be a feature with an historic reference but also with a gentle sense of humour.



next to the pedestrian crossing of Derwent Way and alongside the pedestrian link from the Station to the town centre across Matlock Bridge. It would be a slightly larger than life-size bronze figure (the lady in the photograph is on the suggested site). It would be a prominent feature on the bend of the main A6 road. One of the planting boxes could be repositioned to make space if necessary. It would also be desirable to relocate the existing 'Urban Clearway' sign a little further westwards.

3. Making the Project Happen

There are several ingredients to the next steps to make the project happen.

- a. This triangle of land has been used by the Town Council to site a series of planting boxes and seats under a Licence from the County Council. It is proposed that a variation to this existing Licence be sought to allow for the installation of the artwork. Securing this agreement in principle would be the first step. Once a detailed design has been agreed this could be the subject of a formal variation.
- b. MCA would act as agents for Matlock Town Council in working up a detailed scheme and securing the necessary consents. MCA would be working on the detailed design with Leander Architectural (a local business from Doveholes). MCA has worked with this business on the design and installation of bronze artworks for over 20 years. Leander will be able to advise on appropriate artists/sculptors and, once a design is approved, will be able to cast and then install the bronze artwork fixed to an appropriate plinth.
- c. Consultation with DDDC would be necessary to check on planning consent issues. We would also seek DCC agreement to relocate the Urban Clearway sign.
- d. Ken Parker (MCA) would be the project manager. He has undertaken this role on several MCA/TC joint projects over many years (eg Matlock Mural and Bailey's Tump). The Town Clerk would need to submit applications for Licences and any other permissions that may be required. The Orders confirming the contract for the work and the payment of Invoices would be best managed by the Town Council as this would enable the VAT to be recovered.
- e. Leander gave an indicative cost in 2024 of £65,000 to £75,000 + VAT for a single 7ft high figure in cast bronze on a plinth. An up-to date figure would be sought based on the idea above but a cost of up to £100,000 seems likely. Grants and donations would be sought. Appendix 1 shows an initial budget and potential sources of funds. The detailed funding formula will evolve following the outcome of sponsorship invitations and grant applications. It is proposed that the David Barker Bequest Charity (managed by the Town Council) would act as guarantor to cover any expenditure not met by grants or sponsorship. Currently the DBB Charity has some £170,000 invested so it is likely to be a substantial call on these funds (at this stage it could be up to £80,000 as explained in Appendix 1). There are no other projects under development that would make more than a modest call on the DBB funds.
- f. The completed project would become the property of Matlock Town Council who will need to organise maintenance and repair as necessary. Experience with other bronze artworks in Matlock suggests that very little maintenance is required. On-going responsibilities will also be specified in the Licence. The Town Council will also need to ensure that any conditions attached to grant offers and sponsorship are honoured.

4. Recommendations

- That Matlock Town Council agrees the arrangements proposed above.
- That the David Barker Bequest Charity allocates up to £80,000 to ensure the project as a whole can be completed (as explained in Appendix 1).

Ken Parker (Secretary to Matlock Civic Association)
June 2026

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APPENDIX 1 – Calculations of initial budget.

The 2024 initial cost estimate from Leander for a single figure 7ft high bronze figure on a plinth was £65,000 - £75,000 + VAT. A recent similar project in Hinckley (an 8ft bronze statue of computer pioneer Ada Lovelace) cost £95,000. **So £100,000 seems a likely cost.** Lottery funding is typically 50% but the conditions that would be attached to any Lottery grant are complex and would not only add to costs but would also create a substantial extra effort. It is not thought to be worth pursuing this.

There are many local grant funding opportunities. MCA has previously secured grants from DCC, DDDC, Foundation Derbyshire, Sainsbury's and the Derwent Valley Rail Partnership. Individual grants received from these sources have usually been modest. Matlock Town Council have grant aided several MCA projects and usually more generously (typically meeting 50% of MCA costs net of any other grants received). There is also a community grant fund managed by Severn Trent Water that might be approached. An initial contact has already been made with John Smedley's at Lea. The developers at the nearby residential development at the former RBS bank could be approached. It would be reasonable to assume that applications to several of these grant sources would be successful and, in total, they might amount to **at least £20,000.**

Leander will need to be confident that the funds to meet the total cost will be available before committing to too much work. In order to provide this confidence it is suggested that **up to £80,000** should be allocated from the DBB funds as a guarantee.

Depending on how much preliminary work is needed for grant and Licence applications Leander (and any artist that might be commissioned) may need to charge for their time (eg production of drawings and models). This cost would have to be met from DBB funds even if the project does not proceed for whatever reason.

APPENDIX 2 – A History of the Hydros, The Water Cure and Matlock

Present day Matlock owes its existence to the Hydro craze dating back to the 1850s. This was based on 'The Water Cure' – the external application of water through various devices – spraying, bathing and wrapping in wet bandages - that was believed to cure all sorts of ailments. The main proponent of the Water Cure in Matlock was John Smedley – a successful mill owner from Lea Bridge who had recovered from serious illness by taking the Water Cure in Yorkshire. He built his own Hydro on Matlock Bank. Encouraged by Smedley other Hydros opened along Matlock Bank so that by 1914 there were up to 30 Hydros together with associated shops and entertainment venues. Coming down the Bank to the railway station the town developed shops, parks and churches of various denominations. Housing for the hydro staff and for the wealthy retired spread along the Bank. A new town centre developed at Matlock Bridge based on what became Crown Square. Although the hydro boom ended with the First World War the decline accelerated between the wars and went into terminal decline after 1945 and the creation of the National Health Service. Smedley's Hydro adapted to become an inland pleasure resort with extensive sports facilities and ornamental gardens - in the end it was the last Hydro to close in 1955. The hydros have

gone but most of the hydro buildings remain with a host of new uses (Smedley's is now County Hall) and we still have a recognisable 'Hydro Heritage'.

Matlock's motto derives from this hydro history - *Aquae Salubritas Usu* = 'Health through the use of water.' Matlock still styles itself a Spa Town on road signs. However there is currently relatively little that celebrates this history. Rather like Banbury town centre has a statue of 'A Fine Lady upon a White Horse' (the nursery rhyme) and Coventry has its Lady Godiva statue, Matlock could celebrate its heritage in a similar way.

PROPOSED SEATS ON MATLOCK BANK

Summary.

It is a long steady uphill walk from Matlock Town Centre up Matlock Bank. There are already some seats in the area but the idea is to add six additional seats to make a comprehensive network. This would also encourage more people to walk up the hill. The seats could be simply to 'take a breather' but would also be an opportunity to enjoy the often spectacular views over the town to the hills beyond. Matlock Civic Association member Murray Gordon has prepared a report on the idea which has been adopted by the MCA membership (the Appendix below). Murray's report shows the proposed locations of the six new seats and a suggestion of the type of seats to provide (made by local manufacturer TDP from recycled plastic).

Organising the Project.

The proposal has the following key elements.

1. MCA to act as agents for Matlock Town Council in securing the necessary consents and organising the supply and installation of the six new seats. Most sites will need a Licence from DDDC or DCC (depending on the location). Some site works are likely to be needed (eg paving under the seat). The cost is likely to be in the region of £1,000 per seat.
2. Murray Gordon would be the project manager. Other MCA members would help as required. The Town Clerk would need to submit applications for Licences and any other permissions that may be required. The Orders confirming the contract for the work and the payment of Invoices would be best managed by the Town Council as this would enable the VAT to be recovered.
3. It is hoped the project could be largely financed through sponsorship from individuals as memorial seats to a loved one for a sponsorship of (say) £1,000 per seat. A simple commemorative plaque or inscription to a standard design and format would be organised (but they must not become 'shrines'). There would need to be a simple agreement between the Town Council and each of the sponsors setting out the terms of the sponsorship arrangement. Grants could also be sought if sponsorship is limited. The detailed funding formula will evolve as the outcome of sponsorship invitations and grant applications evolves. It is proposed that the David Barker Bequest Charity (managed by the Town Council) would act as guarantor to cover any expenditure not met by grants or sponsorship. At this stage it is suggested that up to £3,000 might be needed to cover the difference between costs and sponsorship + grants.
4. The completed project would become the property of Matlock Town Council who will need to organise maintenance and repair as necessary. Responsibilities will also be specified in the Licences. The Town Council will also need to ensure that the arrangements for sponsorship are honoured.

Clarifying the details

Assuming the principles of the project and the proposed working arrangements are agreed there are many details that need to be worked out. These include

- a. The details of the site works.
- b. Negotiations with DCC and DDDC over Licence arrangements (which may alter some aspects of the project).
- c. The form of the sponsorship agreements.
- d. Applying for grants if there is inadequate sponsorship and any necessary further revisions to meet grant conditions.
- e. Agreeing the precise details of any contract with TDP and the way in which any memorial dedication is incorporated into the design.
- f. Revising the budget in the light of the outcome of this detailed work.

It is suggested that all this detail will be for MCA to pursue and conclude, involving the Town Clerk as appropriate. Progress reports will be made to future meetings of the DBB Committee.

Recommendations

- That Matlock Town Council agrees the arrangements proposed above.
- That the David Barker Bequest Charity allocates up to £3,000 to ensure the project as a whole can be completed.

Ken Parker (Secretary to Matlock Civic Association)
May 2026

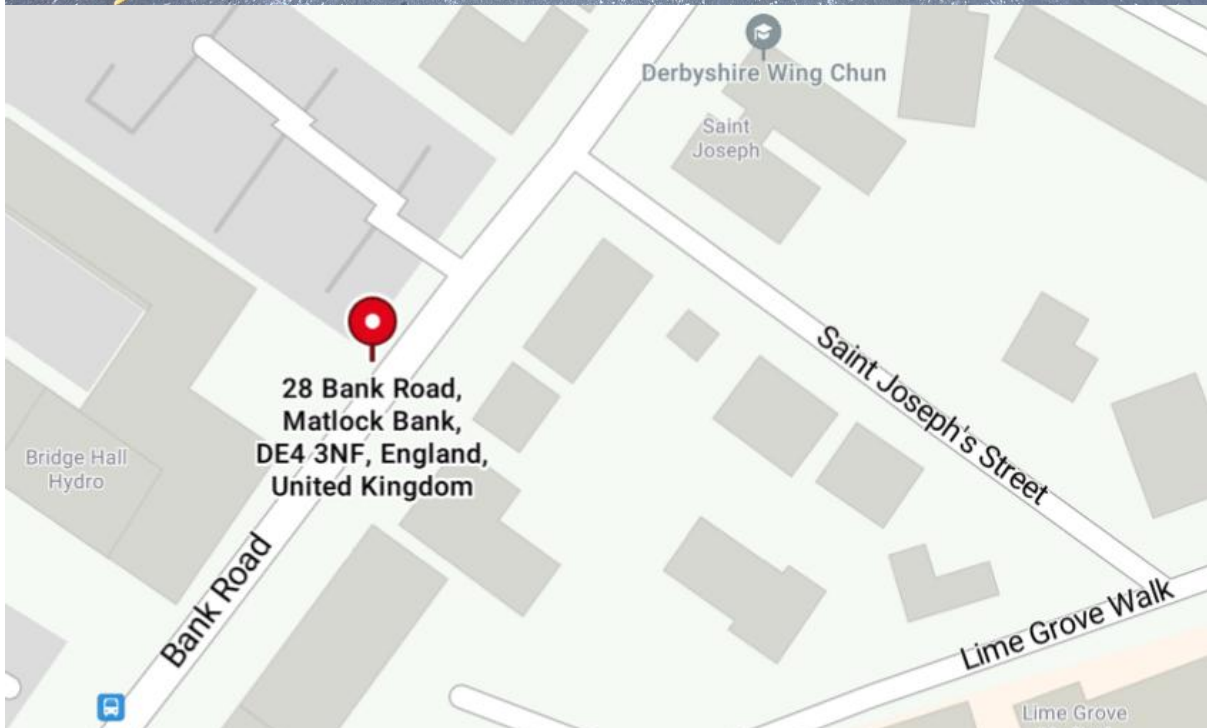
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APPENDIX. Details of Proposed sites for six seats and proposed seat design.

1. Bank Road - Outside Derbyshire Dales District Council Offices.

Footpath adjacent to Derbyshire Dales District Council main entrance there is an existing area recessed back from the pavement which looks as if it has previously been used for a seating area. The area has been levelled with a section of concrete and there seems to be remnants of previous legs to a seating area. The area is current clear of anything and would need very little preparation for a free-standing seat. This location is only approximately 100ft up Bank Road however is far enough for certain people to need to rest before any further climb up the road.

This appears to be on Derbyshire Dales District Council land. A standard TDP seat of appropriate dimensions is proposed (see below)



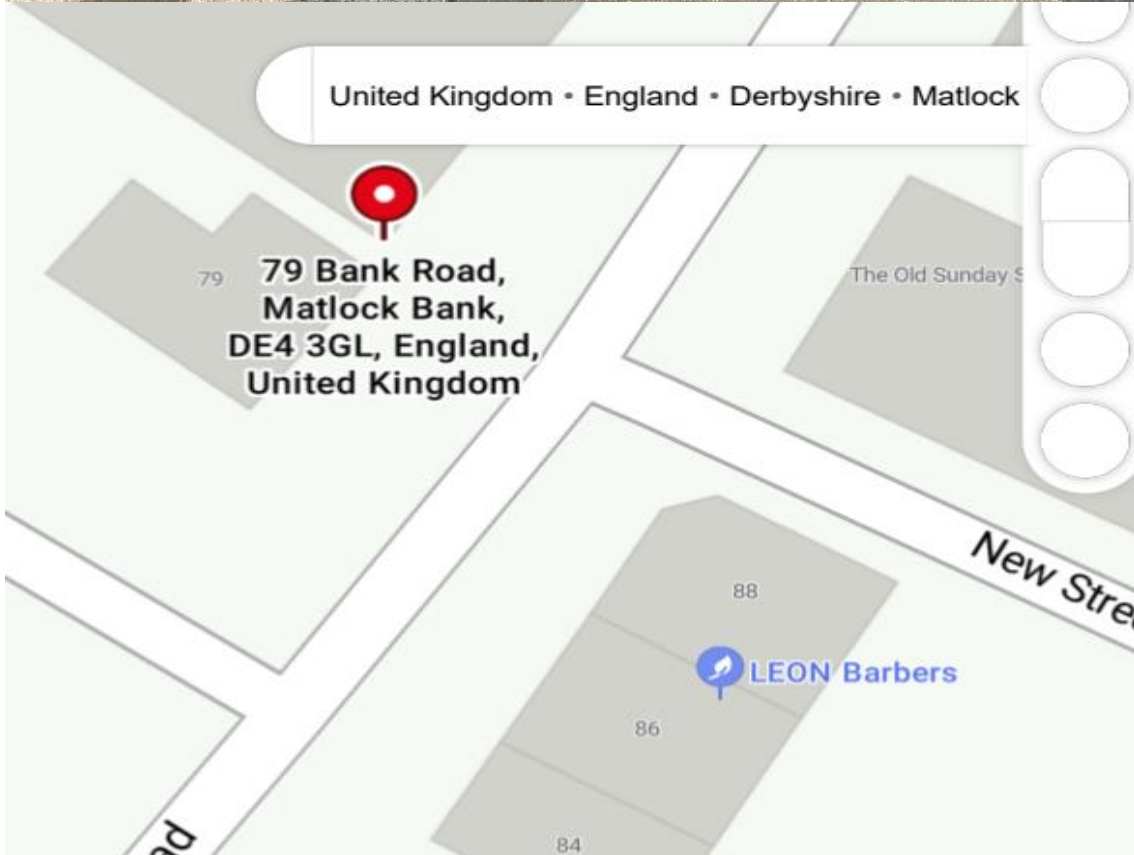
2. Bank Road - Quarter moon area just higher than the DCC carpark entrance.

This is just past the pedestrian arch walkway entrance onto Bank Road. The area is already concreted/asphalt and is clear of any obstructions. The seating area may well need to be bespoke due to the unusual size and shape of the area. There are very good views from this area looking through High Tor and Matlock Bath which would encourage people to stop to take their breath whilst admiring the view. There is currently a seating bench located just lower of the DCC carpark

entrance which has been there for many years. This bench is situated behind a low wall on grass previously been a house demolished to create the carpark entrance.

This appears to be part of County Hall ie Derbyshire County Council (DCC) ownership.

Recommendation is a bespoke quarter moon bench/seat which would fill the whole area. This could be supplied by TDP Limited but is not a standard product they supply.



3. Chesterfield Road - Overlooking Wellfield Allotments.

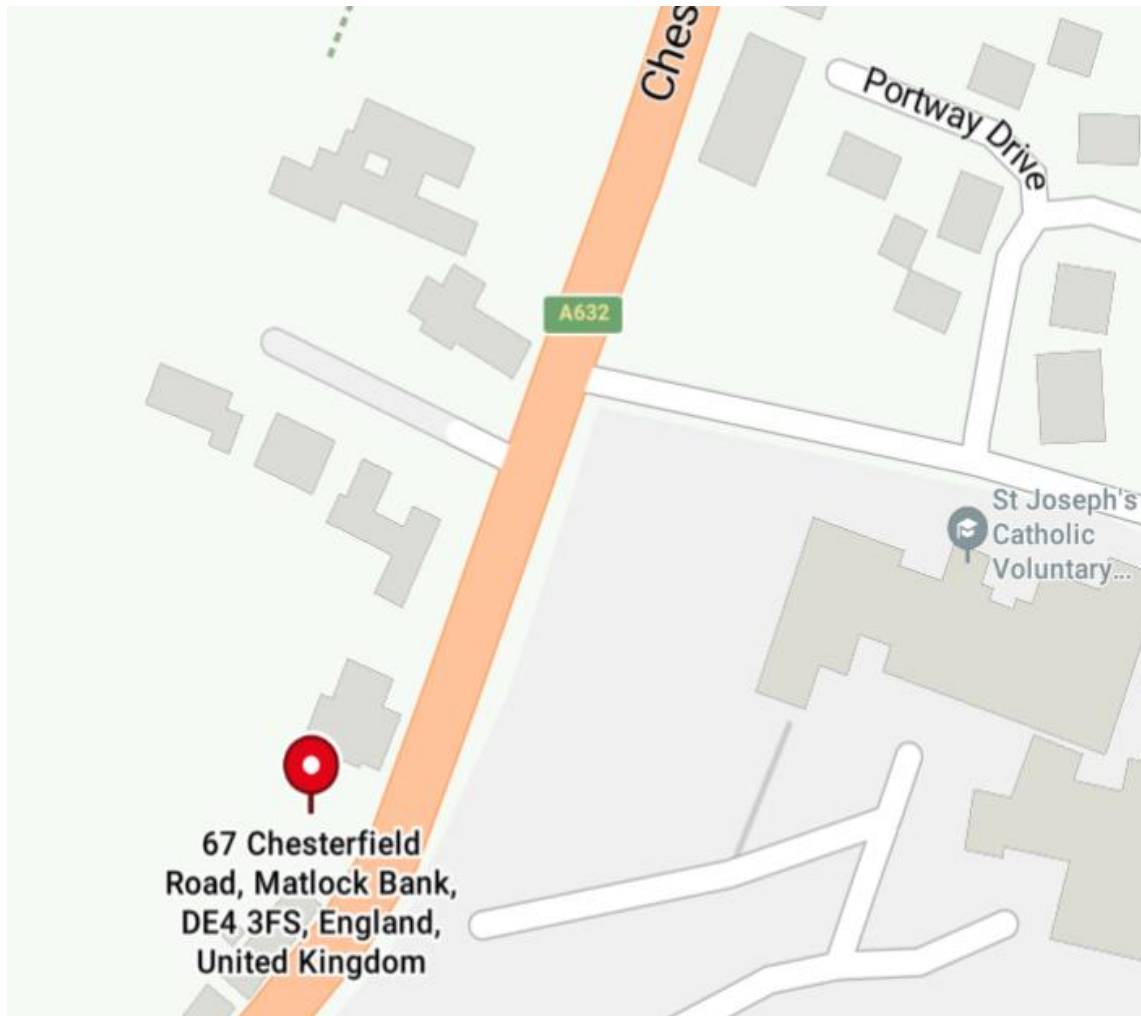
APPENDICES DBB CHARITY COMMITTEE 29.06.2026

There is a grassed area between the rear of the allotment car park and the start of the allotments that is slightly raised and may well need levelling. This area would offer great views over the allotments and further views over Matlock Town. This seating area could be doubled up and be used by allotment uses as well as people taking rest from the gradient on Chesterfield Road.

Presumably owned by Matlock Town Council.

Recommended TDP Limited Dale Bench shown in preferred supplier below.

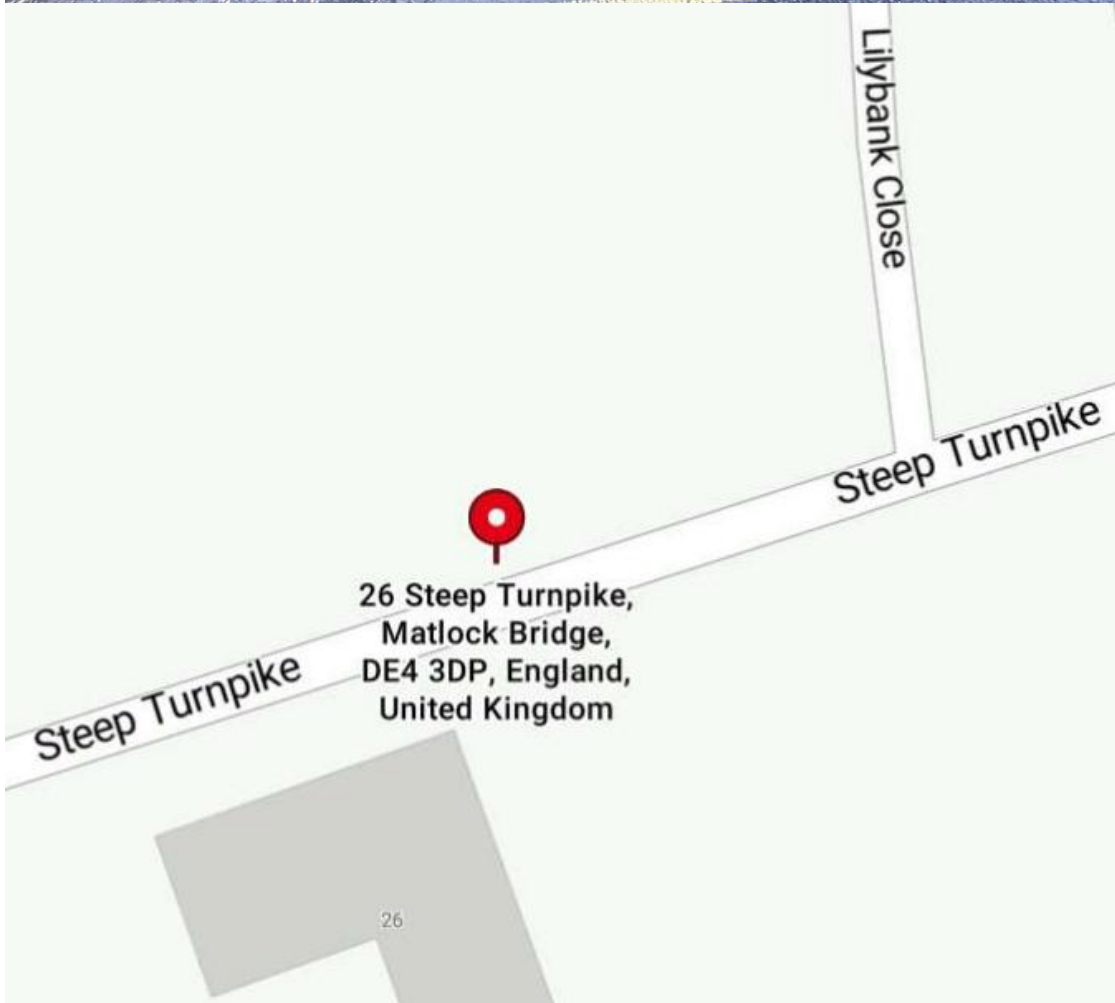




4. Steep Turnpike Just below Lilybank Close.

On the right as you go down Steep Turnpike there is an existing recessed area currently containing a yellow grit bin and a waste collection bin. The area is on a gradient and would probably need a concrete pad to level the area to accommodate a bench/seat. The yellow bin would need to be relocated with a suitable area 10/15 feet away further back up of Steep Turnpike on the corner of Lilybank Close.

Presumably DCC public highway land. Recommended TDP Limited Dale Bench shown in preferred supplier below.



5. Dimple Road/Hurds Hollow Junction.

The triangle on the junction of Dimple Road with Hurds Hollow the area is grassed with no hard standing area suitable for a seat or bench. The area is also not flat and will need a certain amount of work to level and install a concrete pad to accommodate a bench/seat.

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Presumably DCC public highway land.

Recommended TDP Limited Dale Bench shown in preferred supplier below. However will probably need concrete base installing for the bench stand.

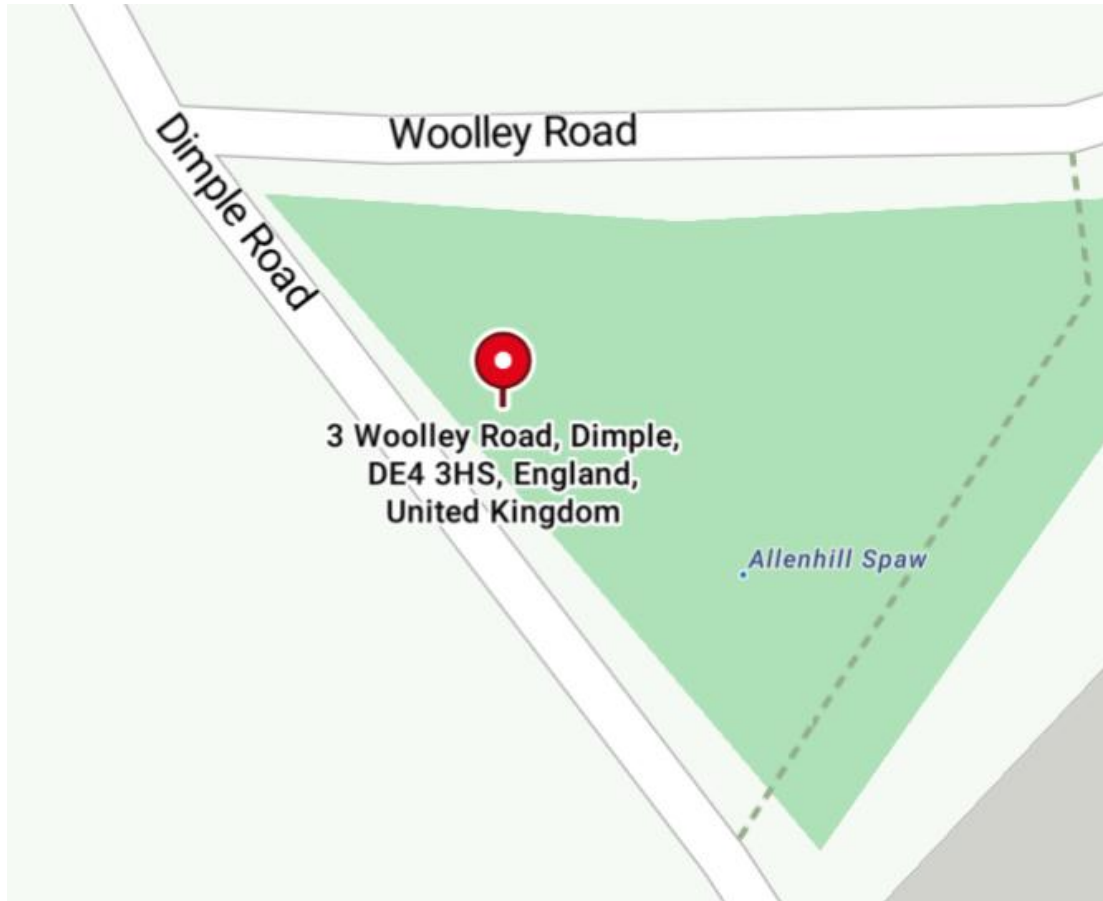


6. Dimple Road/Woolley Road Gardens

Towards the bottom of Dimple Road there is a footpath that climbs up through gardens to Woolley Road around Allenhill Spaw. Comments have been made about a previous seating bench being located inside the wall at the first bend in the footpath just before the footpath climbs up towards Woolley Road (see photo below). The previous seating bench has been removed.

Presumably DDDC land. Recommendation is either a bespoke round corner bench/seat following the curvature of the path which would fill the whole area or a simple straight bench across the area.





Preferred supplier TDP Limited,

Derby Road, Wirksworth, Derbyshire, DE4 4BG

Telephone:- 01629 820011

Email:- info@tdp.co.uk

Typical bench shown below is the “Dale Bench” with backrest and arms at each end available in a number of colours including Brown, Black, Blue, Green etc. Black would probably be the best choice. The “Dale Bench” comes in three lengths 1,200mm, 1,500mm and 1,800mm. the bench is made from recycled plastic and is made locally at TDP Limited’s Wirksworth factory. The current list price is £515+vat for the 1,800mm however there is a price increase due soon. The typical delivery time is 2-3 weeks however this will increase as we enter the summer period.

Bespoke benches are available and can be supplied and priced on an individual basis



Conclusion

Whilst these are desirable locations for seats/benches negotiations will be needed with DCC or DDDC (in one case Matlock Town Council) to agree the nature of the project at each site. Formal Licences will probably be needed for the DDDC and DCC sites. The Town Council will need to be the Licence holder.

Early discussion will also be needed with TDP who will need to produce bespoke designs in one or two cases. TDP would be best placed to organise the installation of the seats (including any necessary site works and hard surfacing). TDP may also be able to organise and fix the commemorative plaques. A specification for the work would need to be agreed and TDP would also need to provide a quotation for consideration before a contract is let.

Murray Gordon 9 March 2026 (updated 20 May 2026)