

Disley Parish Council Annual Report



Chairman's Review of Disley Parish Council's work for 2015-16 given by Cllr. David Kidd at the Annual Parish Meeting 22nd April 2016

Election of Officers for the year 2015/16

At the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held in May 2015, Cllr. David Kidd was elected Chairman, Cllr. Jackie Pattison was elected Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Liz Chavasse-Hadfield was elected Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Cllr. Jackie Pattison was elected Chairman of the Planning Committee for the year 2015/16.

Summary

This year has been a year of change in the life of the Parish Council. At the 2015 local elections, four new Councillors were elected; Sue Adams, Liz Chavasse-Hadfield, Duncan Harrop and Alan Kennedy. Harold Davenport, David Kidd and Jackie Pattison were re-elected onto the Council.

The Parish Clerk, Mary Webb retired towards the end of the year after serving the Parish Council extremely well for 12 years. Tracey Dawson, the Deputy Clerk, also left to further her career. New appointments were subsequently made at the start of this year. Richard Holland is now the new Parish Clerk and Helen Richards is the Parish Administration Assistant. I am very pleased to report that with these two new appointments we are well placed to continue moving forward as an active Parish Council.

Despite these changes, the Parish Council's busy agenda continued as normal, covering a wide range of topics and initiatives to benefit the village.

Community Centre

The Community Centre continues to provide an important community hub to support health and well-being in our community. I would like to thank Ray Webb, the caretaker, who has again maintained an excellent quality of service throughout the year in cleaning and maintenance whilst at the same time ensuring community groups booking the Centre were well looked after. Ray is also due to retire shortly and the Parish Council is in the process of securing his replacement.

A planning application to both extend the Community Centre and relocate the Parish Office into the Centre has recently been approved by Cheshire East. Working with Cheshire East Library, internal alterations for the relocation of the office will be progressed as a first stage with a targeted completion before the end of the coming year. The extension to the Community Hall will remain as a future second stage project which will involve exploring opportunities for securing additional funding.

A6 MARR Mitigation for Disley and Newtown

Work on constructing the Manchester Airport Relief Road on the A6 is now well underway. The Parish Council together with co-opted members from the community continue to be in discussions with Cheshire East Council and other local Council's to ensure adequate measures are applied to mitigate against projected increases in traffic. The MARR planning consent contains a planning condition requiring implementation of mitigation measure prior to completion. Discussions are also continuing with Network Rail to secure improvements to attract more use of rail travel into Manchester.

Village Handyman Service

This Service continued to provide an important contribution to both maintaining and improving the village appearance on a day-to-day basis and in managing Parish-owned land. I would like to thank Daniel Hodgkiss and Colin Eckersley for all their work delivering this service.

Arnold Rhodes Play Area

The Village Handyman Service erected a new fence around the perimeter of the Arnold Rhodes Play Area to increase safety for play area users and improve the appearance of the area.

Allotments

On-going maintenance work at the Council's three allotment sites has been undertaken and the Parish Council is working with the allotment holders and Cheshire Police to explore ways of improving allotment security following thefts of equipment and produce during the year.

Trees maintenance

A three year safety inspection of trees on Parish land was undertaken by a specialist arboricultural contractor in 2015 and trees identified at risk were dealt with on a priority basis by both the contractor and the Handy Man Service.

Community Bus

Disley Parish Council's community bus service has continued to operate improving access within Disley and to locations outside the village. The bus has provided visits to Eyam Plague Village, Castleton, Ashbourne, Hartington Village, Chatsworth Christmas Fair, Castleton Christmas Lights and Marple Village.

Disley Dam (Angling Club)

The Parish Council continued to work in partnership with Disley and New Mills Angling Club to improve facilities by providing more car parking space within the site to address a history of parking problems on Red Lane. Thanks go to the Angling Club for their work in helping to making these improvements.

Village car parking

Working with Cheshire East Council, a Traffic Regulation Order introducing enforcement of a 3 hour free parking limit in the Community Centre car park was applied during the year. Enforcement is being undertaken by Cheshire East wardens. This has improved the availability of short stay parking spaces for shopping and visits to the village.

Disley Cycle Event

A third and successful Disley Cycling event was held working in partnership with Disley Amalgamated Sports Club. The event was very well attended with even more participants than in previous years.

Christmas tree lighting

The annual tree lighting event in the village, culminating in a firework display was again successful and well supported by the community and local traders.

Awards

The Parish Council gave a very special Honorary Freedom Award to Diane Guy in recognition of her 28 years voluntary service working for local government representing Disley Parish as a Councillor and for her tireless contributions to the Disley community. Diane stood down as a Parish Councillor at the 2015 election. Disley and Newtown also received a Joint Runner-up for the Best Kept Village Award from Cheshire Community Action. This award was a significant achievement for Disley given the village is assessed alongside many other rural villages across Cheshire. I would like to thank all the volunteers in the community who help to keep the village well-presented, particularly the PRIDE group who I know work hard raising money for planting sites twice a year. A "Clean for The Queen" national litter pick was organised in the village recently with a good turnout from the community.

The Parish also received a "Little Gem" Award for the Cycle sculpture on Ram Green. This award recognises special care and attention to areas or artefacts in Cheshire Parishes.

General

A video was commissioned to promote life in Disley for visitors and people wanting to live and work in the village. This will appear on the Parish Council website during this coming year.

Finally I would like to thank all the Parish staff and fellow Councillors, both old and new for their help, support and hard work during the year in maintaining a busy agenda amidst all the changes.