

# Disley Parish Council Annual Report

## Chairman's Review of Disley Parish Council's work for 2013-14



### Election of Officers for the year 2013 /14

At the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held in April 2013, Cllr. David Kidd was re-elected Chairman, Cllr. Jackie Pattison was elected vice-chairman, Cllr. Paul Harris was elected Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Cllr. Gaynor Marshall was elected Chairman of Planning Committee for the year 2013/14.

### Summary

During the year, the Parish Council had a busy agenda covering a wide range of topics and initiatives for the village. Items included progressing future plans for alterations to the Community Centre, looking at new design schemes for expanding the facilities at Arnold Rhodes; improving the football playing pitch at Newtown; improvements to Disley Dam and allotment sites and a new village cycling event. The 2013/14 Parish precept was not increased, thanks to a prudent management of the budget.

### Community Centre

Community Centre "User Forum" events were held in May and February. These events are now held each year to consult and seek views from user's on the management and future use of the Community Centre. Feedback from the event continued to be very positive with users recognising high standards of management, cleanliness and appearance being maintained. Some suggestions were noted for continuing improvements. Room hire charges were adjusted to be more equitable on hiring the kitchen and the Centre was licensed for both selling alcohol and for entertainment. Architects were commissioned to draw up options for extending and reconfiguring the layout of the centre to accommodate relocating the Parish Council office, maximise use of space and to extend the community room. The Parish Council is presently moving closer to agreeing a preferred option which will be subject to further consultation during this year.

### Project work and improvements in the village

**Newtown Playing Field - Football pitch:** The Parish Council worked with Disley and Newtown football club to carry out extensive grounds maintenance work during the year to renew the land drainage on the playing pitch. This greatly improved the playing surface which became one of the only pitches playable in the locality during the period of wet weather.

**Arnold Rhodes Site:** Three design scheme options were commissioned for improving the recreational facilities and making use of the whole site at Arnold Rhodes to attract all age use. These options are now being further considered to inform the future use of the Planning 106 Agreement funding designated for this green space attached to the new housing development on the Harcostar site.

**Disley Dam:** The Parish Council worked with Disley Fishing Club to fund further improvements to this important and well used recreational fishing site for the village. These improvements are continuing and include installing new security fencing and improving accessibility to the lakeside for fishing.

**Allotments:** Improvements to the all three allotment sites were undertaken during the year by the Parish Council Village Handy man service and work carried out by Cheshire East Community Payback team to introduce new plots at Springfield and Greystone allotments.

**Improving the village appearance:** Six new hanging baskets were introduced in the centre of the village. Six more baskets are proposed for Newtown this year. Thanks also to the PRIDE Group for their continuing volunteer work throughout the year raising funds and carrying out planting in other locations throughout the village. A small grant was given to PRIDE to help their work.

**Parish Plan Partnership:** The Parish Council continued working in partnership with the Parish Plan Group and I take this opportunity to congratulate them on co-ordinating volunteer work and projects in the village. The Disley Parish Plan was launched in 2008 with five year period to deliver actions to improve the village environment and introduce some new community initiatives. Achievements include a Canal Towpath Action Group, Friends of Disley Station, setting up Heritage Trails and organising a successful village music festival weekend which now looks like being a future annual event for the village. The Parish Council gave small donations to support both the station friends and canal towpath groups. Attracting and maintaining volunteers is not always an easy task and the Parish Plan Group is now looking to promote and celebrate their achievements.

**Community Bus:** Partnership working with the Parish Plan Group has also recently secured a minibus previously used by the Dial-a-Ride service, which was on offer from Cheshire East Borough Council. This vehicle, together with grants awarded from Cheshire East will be used to operate a Community Bus in Disley. This new initiative is now being progressed which will complement the Disley Good Neighbours volunteer scheme and further improve accessibility in our community.

**Village Handy Man Service:** This is an important service for the village and has continued to work proactively during the year helping to keep the village looking tidy, making improvements and responding to issues as they arose. An example of response work was clearing up tree debris on a number of occasions in the village after the strong winds we suffered.

**Disley Cycle Event:** A new cycling event designed to attract families and to promote cycling in the village was held, working in partnership with Cheshire East and the National Trust at Lyme Park. The event was very successful with an excellent turnout, despite inclement weather. A sculpture was unveiled at the event on the Ram Green to give our future community long term recognition of Dame Sarah and Barney Storey's gold medal achievements in the 2012 Paralympics Games.

**Christmas tree lighting:** The annual tree lighting event in the village, culminating in a firework display proved to be highly successful and well attended despite the drizzle. Feedback was very positive with reports of a "best ever event".

### Issues affecting the village

The SEMMMS consultation process continued during the year, culminating with a planning application being approved by Cheshire East Strategic Planning Board in February 2014. A sub-committee involving some co-opted members from Disley community set up by the Parish Council met on a number of occasions during the year and formulated comments for the Parish Council to submit both in response to the consultations and on the final planning application. Comments related to the importance to Disley for securing adequate A6 mitigation measures prior to the completion of the SEMMMS scheme, together with improvements to public transport and attracting alternatives to car use to address projected future increases in traffic.