

# Disley Parish Council Annual Report



Chairman's Review of Disley Parish Council's work for 2014-15 given by Cllr. Diane Guy M.B.E. at the Annual Parish Meeting 24th April 2015

## Election of Officers for the year 2014/15

At the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held in May 2014, Cllr. Diane Guy was elected Chairman, Cllr. David Kidd was elected Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Jackie Pattison was elected Chairman of Finance & General Purposes Committee, Cllr. Gaynor Marshall was elected Chairman of Planning Committee and David Kidd was elected Chairman of Personnel Committee.

## Summary

Disley Parish Council had a busy agenda during the year which covered a wide range of topics and initiatives. Items included progressing future development plans for the Community Centre, active involvement in A6 MARR mitigation measures, furthering the design schemes for additional facilities at Arnold Rhodes recreation area, arranging further improvements to the football pitch and new changing rooms at Newtown, improvements to Disley Dam, providing additional allotment sites, commenting on major planning issues, launching the Disley community bus service and last but not least arranging village events including commemorations for the Centenary of the outbreak of World War I in August, the Disley Cycling Festival in September and the Christmas Tree Lighting.

Your Councillors have carried out a considerable amount of work on all these projects and many more and I would like to thank them for their voluntary help and expertise. This work couldn't have been done, however, without valuable contributions from Mary Webb our Parish Clerk, Tracey Dawson our Deputy Clerk, Ray Webb our caretaker and our village handymen Daniel Hodgkiss and Colin Eckersley to all of whom I give our very grateful thanks.

## Community Centre

Cheshire East library service and Disley Parish Council have been working with an architect to maximise use of space, re-locating the Parish Council Office to this site and extending the community hall without taking any car parking space. The resulting plans will be discussed by the newly appointed Parish Councillors after the election on 7th May and final decisions made during the summer.

## A6 MARR mitigation measures for Disley

Disley Parish Council has been working closely with Cheshire East officers and other local councils (Stockport B.C. and Derbyshire C.C.) throughout the year as mitigation measures for the whole of the A6 corridor are needed in order to be effective. New housing estates in the Borough of High Peak and Disley as well as the SEMMS relief road to the Airport have to be taken into account when discussions are held for improved rail travel and car parking facilities as well as keeping the traffic flowing along the A6 so as to reduce pollution levels.

The SEMMS planning consent contains a condition that the relief road cannot be opened until satisfactory mitigation measures are implemented.

## Arnold Rhodes

Plans have been drawn up for additional facilities at this site but planning is delayed until Section 106 agreement monies from developers at the house building site in Redhouse Lane have been received. The same situation affects the planning for a new changing room at Newtown football pitch. It is anticipated that both these schemes will go ahead during the summer.

## Disley Dam

Disley Parish Council has continued to work with the Fishing Club to fund improvements to this important and well used fishing site for the village. Security fencing and improved accessibility to the lakeside are in progress.

## Allotments

Disley & Newtown's allotment sites are monitored regularly and work by our village handymen has resulted in several new allotments being provided at Greystones site in Newtown.

## Community Bus

Disley Parish Council's community bus service is well used and is administered by Tracey Dawson, Deputy Clerk. This bus has provided visits to Chatsworth, Handforth Dean, Lyme Park, Garden Centres as well as regular service to events at Disley Community Centre.

Disabled/wheelchair facilities are available and the bus can be requested to take passengers from home for village events. Group hire has been arranged for the Basement Youth Club, Disley Primary School and Disley Junior Football team amongst others. A monthly programme is printed and is available from the Library/Schoolhouse Surgery/Disley Parish Council Office or to download from the Parish Council's website. Many thanks are due to all our volunteer drivers.

## Parish Plan

Disley's Parish Plan has been a great asset to our village life and provided improvements to the towpath, work on the Station surrounds, organised our Community Choir, summer musical event and many others. The Parish Plan has now finished its current programme and some of the funds collected are being donated to good local causes.

## Neighbourhood Plan

Disley Parish Council has agreed that Disley should have a Neighbourhood Plan and several meetings have already been held with residents who are interested in promoting this. A neighbourhood plan can give Disley more say in every aspect of local planning.

## Village events

World War I commemorations were held in Disley on August 4th with a special service on the village green in which Disley Community Choir and Macclesfield Town Band took part. Then on the evening of August 5th a torchlight procession was made to St. Mary's Church for a service commemorating the 101 soldiers who died as a result of the War. Disley Parish Council has now made improvements to the Memorial Park on the A6 as a lasting commemoration. Our village handymen have been working very hard on the site making provision for a lectern showing the design by Peter Scott (centrepiece for the Well Dressing last June) and the Roll of Honour of the 300 men who served in the Great War. Two beautiful benches have now been installed at the site and the memorial will be officially dedicated in the next few weeks.

The second Disley Cycling Festival held in September was again a great success and the Christmas Tree Lighting event was considered by many to be the best yet.

## Disley Fountain

Disley Parish Council has appointed a specialist company for restoration work on this Grade II Listed Monument and the work is expected to be carried out in the next few weeks. Most of the funding will be provided by United Utilities and Disley Parish Plan with a contribution from Disley Parish Council.

## Disley Footpath Society

Disley Parish Council has supported the Footpath Society in its application to the Walkers are Welcome accreditation scheme which will be launched in the village centre on the Ram Green on Saturday 16th May.

## Awards

Disley Parish Council awards were presented to Mike Leach for his many years of work for Disley Football Club, to David Blythe for his leadership for the Jubilee celebrations and work for PRIDE well dressing events, Elspeth Wallace for her work with the Parish Plan group, Friends of Disley Station and the Music Festival and finally Leslie and Ken Fogg for all their contributions to village community life.

A final thank you is due to all the groups and societies in Disley who work so hard to make Disley such a great village. And a special thank you to fellow councillors who are standing down at the elections on 7th May. Cllr. Marshall who has been Chairman of the Planning Committee; Cllr. Linda Watson and Cllr. Paul Harris, all of whom have given valuable service for several years. Lastly, I am standing down after 28 years' service but I am happy in the knowledge that new councillors will continue in an excellent way with the work we have been doing.