



DISLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Richard Holland *Disley Parish Clerk*

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Disley Parish Council Annual Report 2021/22

Chair's review of Disley Parish Council's (DPC) activities for 2021-22 prepared by Cllr. Sue Adams.

Introduction

As we start to live with Covid and try to get some normality back into our everyday lives, as Chair of Disley Parish Council, I would like to take this opportunity to thank fellow Councillors, Council Officers and the wonderful Disley and Newtown community for all their support through challenging times. The strength and support of our whole community has enabled Disley and Newtown to come together throughout the pandemic.

Election of Officers for the year 2021/22

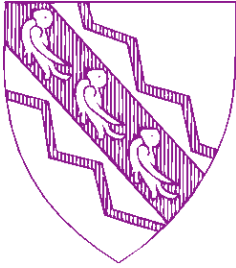
At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May 2021 the Council unanimously agreed:

- Chair of the Council - Cllr. Sue Adams.
- Vice Chair - Cllr. Simon Brownbill.
- Chair of the Planning Committee - Cllr. Jackie Pattison.
- Chair of the Finance Committee – Cllr. Cath Birchall.

Disley Parish Council Services and activities

1. Community Centre

- Following the easing of Government Covid restrictions, regular hirers returned to Community Hall throughout the summer.
- Nearly all pre-Covid hirers have now resumed their activities.
- Saturday coffee mornings started regularly again in February 2022 and attendances have been growing.
- The Parish Council welcomed some new regular hirers including an art class and WI Bridge.
- Following extensive damage to a wall at the Community Centre the Parish Council maintained services throughout the rebuild.
- New, safer purpose-built storage cupboards were installed in the hall.



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- Revenue for the Community Centre is returning to near pre-pandemic levels and total revenue for 2021/22 is £15,653.

2. Ranger Service

2021/22 was the first full year for the Parks and Assets Ranger and Village Centre Ranger. Projects and work undertaken by the Rangers included:

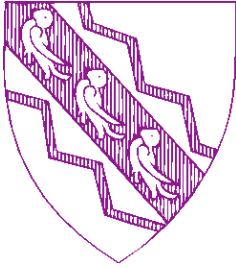
- A programme of repairing and re-painting village benches.
- Repairing the roof and renovating the bus shelter at The Ram Green.
- Partnering with Disley Footpaths Society to improve the steps at the Gritstone Trail gateway by the railway station and constructing a new planter at this location.
- Removal of large amounts of fly tipping which has increased in recent years.
- Refurbishing all the play equipment at Newtown play area.
- Improving paths at the Memorial Park and Arnold Rhodes Playing Fields.
- Undertaking fencing repairs to Council land.
- Trees maintenance and emergency tree/branch removal.
- Regular tidying, litter picking and improvement work in the village centre.

3. Community Bus Scheme:

- The Weekly Shoppers Group continued throughout the year with a return to the 12 passengers per week in November 2021.
- Social trips resumed in August 2021, the majority of which have been fully booked.
- Outings included pub lunches, garden centres and the ever popular Bury Market.
- The bus has 7 regular volunteer drivers with 5 volunteers on the waiting list for training.
- Helen Richards, the Council's Admin Assistant, has been instrumental in maintaining contact with bus users and ensuring that this superb community asset remains successful and available to all.

4. Allotments:

- The Council owns 34 allotment plots across Hagg Bank, Springfield and Greystones in Newtown.



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- 8 new tenants were welcomed over the past 12 months which has significantly reduced the waiting list.
- Two site inspections were carried out during the year to ensure allotments were being fully cultivated and well-maintained.
- The Council undertook improvement works on the allotments including repairing a leaking stop tap, removal and disposal of accumulated rubbish, strimming of paths and vacant plots and removal of a number of trees.
- The Parish Council continues to have good working relations with the local Allotment Association.
- Allotment rentals have remained fixed for the past 6 years (2017-2022) so, following a rent review in 2021, councillors agreed an increase from 1st January 2023.

5. Parks and Play Areas.

All Council parks and the outdoor gym are subject to an annual independent safety inspection and monthly safety inspections by the Parks and Assets Ranger who is ROSPA Play Area Inspection qualified.

Arnold Rhodes:

- A number of encroaching trees and trees of concern have been removed over the past 12 months.
- Safety work to the cableway, swing nest and gates has been undertaken.
- A programme of strimming and surfacing improvements is underway.
- A new timber trail has been installed ahead of the Easter holiday.

Newtown:

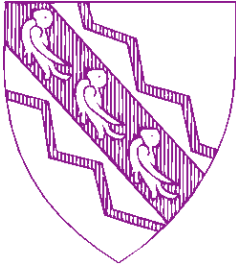
- The new changing rooms are expected to be operational by the summer.
- The play equipment has been repainted and refurbished with new seats and chains etc.
- The surfacing in the play area is due to be replaced in 2022.

Station ballcourt:

- The ballcourt surface and surrounding area has been spruced up.

6. Electric Vehicle ChargePoint:

- The Council installed an EV ChargePoint at the Community Centre in September 2021.



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- The ChargePoint is averaging 60 vends per month and approx. 180 charging hours per month.
- The ChargePoint has been very well received by users and usage has increased as awareness has grown the community.

7. Tree Management:

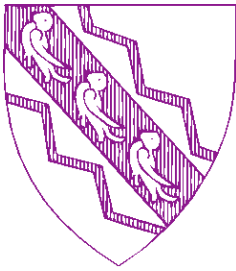
- Disley Parish Council commissioned a Trees' Condition Assessment for all trees on Council land in 2021.
- All Priority 1 (High) work has now been completed including the removal of a large unsafe tree in the Memorial Park overhanging the A6.
- Priority 2 work is due to be completed in 2022.
- Emergency tree work is undertaken as required.
- Trees work is completed by a specialist tree surgeon or the Parks and Assets Ranger who recently completed a City & Guilds Level 2 Cross cutting and maintenance course.

8. Communications:

- The Council's monthly eBulletin has over 600 subscribers receiving news updates and details of local events etc.
- The Disley News hardcopy newsletter is distributed twice per year and is hand delivered to every home and businesses in Disley and Newtown.
- The website at www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk has been updated with Electric Vehicle Charging, Environmental and Disley Volunteer Network pages recently.
- The Council produced a fully revised version of the Parish Map and Walking Guide which has been well-received.
- An updated version of the Disley Official Guide is due to be distributed shortly.

9. Village Events:

As lockdown restrictions eased, the Parish Council was able to resume a number of village events.



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- Civic Sunday – hosted by the Chair of the Council, Cllr. Sue Adams, this event in October acknowledged and celebrated villagers' contribution and support to the Disley & Newtown community.
- Remembrance Sunday – the first public Remembrance since lockdown, this was a very well-attended and poignant occasion.
- Christmas Extravaganza – Fireworks, Santa's Grotto and live music all made the extravaganza one of the highlights of the community year. The Christmas tree, Nativity scene and Disley's unique big presents gave the village a wonderful festive atmosphere.
- Litter picks – the Council organised two successful community litter picks in 2021.

10. Planning:

- During the year 2021/2022, the Parish Council debated and commented on 47 planning applications.
- The Council attended the public hearing for the Cheshire East Local Plan and spoke in defence of the green belt in Disley under the Site Allocations Draft Planning Document for housing needs to 2030.
- The appointed Planning Inspector has recommended that no areas of green belt should be made available for development before 2030.

11. Civic Awards and Commendations:

Each year the Parish Council presents awards to residents or groups who have made exceptional contributions to the Disley and Newtown community. The 2021 recipients were:

- Rhiannon Adams for volunteering work with Disley Beavers, the Friends of Dane Hill Close Play Area and Disley Forest School.
- Disley WI Committee for supporting members and the community throughout lockdown.
- Jenny Kidd for her long-term community support through coffee mornings, St. Mary's Church activities, PRIDE Well-dressing and Long Table Lunches.
- Glenys Millins for the personal support given directly to a neighbour during the pandemic and beyond.
- Lucy Mitchell for her work with Disley Forest School and Disley Beavers
- Jean Oakley for playing a leading role in village life for many years with the Rams Head Bowling Club, Cancer Research U.K. and more recently running the whist club.



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- Tim Rogers as a member of the Friends of Disley Station and for contributing ideas and inspiration to make substantial improvements at the station.
- Connor Wyse, a young man with incredible community spirit who became the Disley Spiderman to put a smile on the faces of the local children and adults.

In addition, Civic Commendation letters were presented to:

- Suzanne Gregson and Disley's Community Store for invaluable fundraising for the Disley community and beyond.
- Friends of Disley Station (FODS) for the improvements to make Disley Station attractive and welcoming.
- The Long Table Lunch team for delivering lunches to people's homes throughout the pandemic.

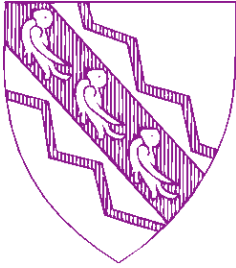
12. Parish Council enquiry service:

- The Parish Council dealt with 176 logged enquiries in 2021/22. This is up by 60% from the previous year, when the Council Offices were closed for periods during lockdown.
- The main issues were roads and pavements issues (38%), overgrown hedges and footpaths (8%), fly tipping (6%) and streetlighting issues (6%).
- Other enquiries included missed bin collections, drains and flooding, roadworks, dead animals, inconsiderate parking and grit bins.
- The Council signposted residents to relevant outside bodies such as Cheshire East Council, BT, United Utilities, the Environment Agency and Peaks & Plains Housing Trust.

13. Community Grants:

In 2021/22 the Parish Council awarded Community Grants to:

- Disley Allotment Association – for new fencing at Springfield allotments
- Disley Policing Team – for bike security marking kits
- Thomas Ouff Charity – for Public Liability insurance of land with public right of way.
- Friends of Dane Hill Park Play Area – for replacement play equipment.



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14. Coronavirus:

- The Parish Council adopted a cautious approach to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions, encouraging the continued use of face coverings and good room ventilation at the Community Centre.
- The Council continues to support the Street Co-ordinator Scheme with the fantastic help it provides in supporting the community.

15. Disley Volunteer Network:

- The Parish Council has recently set up a network for Disley and Newtown volunteers to encourage community involvement.
- There is a page on the Council's website containing volunteering opportunities, resources and general information.
- The Council is looking to organise training for volunteers e.g. defibrillator and health walk training.

16. Health & Well-being:

- Healthwatch Cheshire East Bus visited Disley in October 2021 and a number of local issues were raised by residents in the recently published report. These issues are being followed up by the Parish Council.

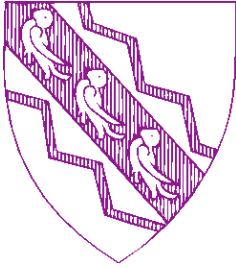
17. Air Quality:

- A real-time analyser (RTA) is due to be installed in Disley shortly and this will measure particulates as well nitrogen dioxide levels. This is as a result of the on-going partnership between the Parish Council and Cheshire East Environmental Health.

Disley Parish Council projects and activities for 2022/23

Newtown Nature Trail and environmental initiatives:

- The Council is looking to create a nature trail around its extensive grounds in Newtown to encourage exercise, well-being and environmental awareness.
- Benches and interpretation boards are planned.
- Improved land management will lead to better biodiversity.
- Tree planting scheme.



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Disley Community Showcase:

- The Parish Council will host a new event on Saturday 30th July at Disley Community Centre.
- The aims of the event are to highlight the fantastic array of voluntary and interest groups across the village and encourage membership and involvement.

Community Centre improvements:

A programme of improvements to this widely used community space include:

- renewing the entrance path and surrounding area.
- Installing exterior benches and planters.
- New seats for the Community Hall.
- Repainting the Hall.
- Improved exterior signage.

Parks and Play Areas:

- Removing and replacing the play area surfacing at Newtown Play Area.
- Continue to support improvements at the Dane Hill Close Play Area, owned by Cheshire East Council.