

Disley Parish Council Annual Report



Chairman's Review of Disley Parish Council's work for 2016-17 given by Cllr. David Kidd at the Annual Parish Meeting 19th April 2017

Election of Officers for the year 2016 /17

At the Parish Council Annual General Meeting held in May 2016, Cllr. David Kidd was elected Chairman, Cllr. Jackie Pattison was elected vice-chairman. Cllr. Liz Chavasse-Hadfield was elected Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee and Cllr. Pattison was elected Chairman of Planning Committee for the year 2016 /17.

Summary

Following changes in staff reported towards the end of last year the new Parish Clerk, Richard Holland and the Parish Administration Assistant, Helen Richards settled in well during their first full year. The smooth transition in the Parish business being run efficiently continued and a number of ongoing projects progressed, some nearing completion.

Community Centre

The Community Centre provides an important community hub to support health and well being in our community. Six new groups have hired the Centre during the year giving a total of 45 groups with no loss of regular bookings. I would like to thank Steve Taylor who joined the team in May as the new caretaker. The previous caretaker Ray Webb retired and I would like to thank him for all his work and wish him well. Steve has carried on the quality of service in cleaning and maintenance and for ensuring community groups booking the Centre were well looked after. We continue to receive good feedback from users.

Internal alterations for the relocation of the Parish office have commenced with the project due to complete in early August. Part of this work will include improving the entrance foyer which will be the new office reception area. The proposed extension to the Community Hall remains as a future second stage project to be informed by a further consultation of users to refresh the needs assessment information previously obtained in 2013/14.

A6 MARR Mitigation for Disley

Throughout the year, the Parish Council have been working with Cheshire East Borough Council and Jacobs to secure A6 mitigation measures to improve future traffic management through the village to mitigate against projected traffic increases. The MARR planning consent contains a planning condition requiring implementation of A6 mitigation measures prior to the MARR completion in October 2017.

Cheshire East Council presented A6 mitigation proposals in a community exhibition held at Disley Primary School over two days in February. This included a consultation to invite ideas for improving the Fountain Square as a village centre feature. Feedback from this event has been presented to the Parish Council and is informing some adjustments to the proposals. A first stage of the A6 mitigation work commenced with the installation of a permanent traffic light one way system on Jacksons Edge Road bend, near the Amalgamated Club. This work included a permanent new footpath to incorporate pedestrian safety.

Discussions also continued with Network Rail and the High Peak and Hope Valley Rail Partnership to secure improvements to attract more use of rail travel into Manchester. Improvements to the Disley station appearance and station parking are proposed in future.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Committee has continued to work during the year developing policies to be included in the final Neighbourhood Plan for Disley and Newtown. Policies on Housing and the Local Economy have been informed by a Housing Needs Survey and a Business Survey respectively, both of which attracted a good response from the community. The final Plan which is nearing completion will be subject to a formal approval through Cheshire East Council and a local referendum. I would like to thank the Steering Group for all their hard work throughout the year.

Village Handy Man Service

This is both a proactive and reactive service and 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. Work included maintenance on the allotment sites, parks and play areas, trees and hedges on parish land and clearing street litter. The village suffered a prolonged torrential downpour in June which gave rise to considerable flooding rarely experienced in the village and the Handy Man Service was able to react helping Cheshire East Council cleaning up the debris. Once again, I would like to thank Daniel Hodgkiss and Colin Eckersley for all their work delivering this service.

Community Bus

The Community Bus is now in its third year helping to improve accessibility in our community. There are currently 134 members signed up as individual users and 13 Group members. During the year trips have been very popular and have included; Bury, Ashton, Chesterfield and Bakewell markets, Marple Village, Bramhall Hall, Lyme Park and Chatsworth Christmas market

A passenger survey was undertaken which provided positive feedback particularly for the volunteer drivers. There are presently 9 volunteer drivers and I would like to thank them all for their commitment and flexibility. Without them the bus would not run. I would like to thank Helen for her work in co-ordinating the bookings and promoting the scheme. Operation of the bus does generate some income but the scheme is still mainly dependent on the initial funding awarded from Cheshire East when the vehicle was secured. The longer-term viability is being kept under review together with exploring future funding sources.

Business Group

Thanks to Richard, a new Business Group was established during the year to attract members from a variety of business sectors in the village. Main aims included; promoting local businesses, providing a network to address local issues and building a community spirit. Seven meetings were held across various business locations. Businesses came together for a Royal Treasure Hunt initiative to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday in June. A Business News ebulletin is now circulated to 90 business subscribers.

Village car parking

Parking in the village continues to give rise to complaints and feedback in Neighbourhood Plan consultations have highlighted this concern. The Parish Council has been working with Cheshire East Council to ensure parking enforcement is carried out in the village on a regular basis and is using the Neighbourhood Plan feedback as a basis to inform future actions.

Allotments

There are 33 allotments located across three sites in the Parish. Hagg Bank, Springfield and Greystones. There are seven residents presently on the waiting list. During the year, a review of the allotment management was undertaken and new agreements were introduced with an annual rental based on 15 pence per square metre. Two site inspections were undertaken during the year to ensure allotments were being fully cultivated.

Communications

The Parish Council continues to publish and distribute the popular Disley News Newsletter 2 or 3 times per year. In 2016, the Council relaunched its eBulletin which now has over 550 subscribers and can be joined through the Council's website. The Council also has a Twitter feed, @disleypc, which provides local information such as events, news and roadworks.

Christmas tree lighting

Once again, the annual Christmas tree lighting event in the village, culminating in a firework display was very successful and well supported by the community and local traders. The event was formally opened by Dame Sarah Storey.

Grants

Community Grants were awarded to Bridgfords (Business Group) for treasure hunt prizes; Disley PRIDE for public liability insurance; Disley under Fives for a shopping bag fund raising scheme, Disley Junior Cricket Club for equipment, Robbie Farris towards a Camps International expedition to Ecuador and St Mary's Parish Church for graveyard maintenance.

Awards

The Parish Council gave a very special Honorary Freedom Award to Dame Sarah Storey in recognition of her becoming Britain's most decorated female Paralympian in the history of the Paralympic Games between 1992 and 2016. Her award was presented at the Christmas tree lighting event. Civic Awards were presented to Andrew and Sharon Pringle on Civic Sunday in October. Andrew and Sharon selflessly undertake many jobs in the village such as weeding, planting flower beds and being members of the PRIDE group.

General

A main day to day function of the Parish Council is being a focal point of contact for the community signposting residents to the Principal Authority, Cheshire East Borough Council and to other agencies for securing and confirming actions where needed. During the year, over 200 enquiries were dealt with, issues ranging from street and road maintenance, litter and graffiti, street light and parking. A loose horse and loose sheep were among some of the more obscure enquiries.

The Parish Council is also a statutory consultee on planning applications submitted to Cheshire East Borough Council. During the year 2016 /17 44 applications were considered by the Council.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish staff and fellow Councillors, for their help, support and hard work during the year in maintaining a very busy Parish Agenda.