

Disley Parish Council Annual Report



Chairman's Review of Disley Parish Council's work for 2017-18 given by Cllr. David Kidd at the Annual Parish Meeting 26th April 2019

1. Election of Officers for the year 2018/19

At the Annual Parish Council Meeting held in May 2018, Cllr. David Kidd was elected Chairman and Cllr. Jackie Pattison was elected Vice-chairman. Cllr. Liz Chavasse-Hadfield was elected Chairman of the Finance Committee and Cllr. Sue Adams was elected Chairman of the Planning Committee for the year 2018/19.

2. Disley Parish Council Services and activities

Community Hall: In the past year, 50 groups booked the hall including several new Saturday coffee morning hirers and 3 new regular hirers. This represented a reduction of 2 hirers from the previous year. Bookings were taken for 10 private children's birthday parties and family celebrations. New enquiries about the hall are received from word of mouth, various websites and advertising in the village and e-Bulletin. Since the Parish Office was relocated to the Community Centre, there had been more interaction between users of the Community Hall, the Library and the PCSO, achieving the aim of creating a Community Hub in the village.

Village Handyman Service: The Handyman Service continued to maintain and improve the village's appearance and look after the Council's assets. Projects and response work have included:

- Installing a WW1 silhouette at the Memorial Park.
- Creating a new base for a bench on Buxton Old Road.
- Emergency removal of a fallen tree on Jackson's Edge Road.
- Installing a new manhole cover at Newtown playing fields.
- Relocating a cast iron planter at Hollinwood Road/A6 junction.
- Building, installing and lighting a beacon for the WW1 commemorations event held in Lyme Park.
- Installing a new storage unit at the Community Centre.
- Maintaining play equipment in the parks.
- Carrying out tree management safety work.

The Council purchased a van in 2018 to provide the Handyman Service with more flexibility to undertake community tasks and to raise awareness of Parish Council services.

Community Bus Scheme: The Scheme started in 2012 to improve accessibility using a second hand vehicle donated by Cheshire East Council. The scheme has proved so successful that the Parish Council has now purchased a brand-new replacement minibus. The Fiat Ducato can take up to 14 passengers and has a rear tail lift and wheelchair anchors to allow better accessibility. Funding for the bus was a real community effort with substantial grants from Disley Parish Council and The Big Lottery Fund and grants from local groups, Poynton Area Community Partnership, Cuppa An' A Chat and Good Neighbours. There were also many generous contributions directly from users and residents. There are 14 volunteer drivers (5 new drivers trained in March 2019) and without their continuing commitment the scheme could not exist. 45 new members signed up during 2018/19 giving a total membership of 223 individual members.

Approximately 100 of these are regular users. There are 21 group members including 4 new members during 2018/19. Weekly trips are very popular and have included new destinations such as Chester, St Anne's on Sea and The Imperial War Museum in addition to the old favourites like Bury, Skipton and Bents Garden Centre. Pub lunch outings have proved popular with less-mobile users. A weekly Shoppers Group offering a door-to-door service was set up in September 2018 to take a regular group of less-mobile residents to a supermarket. The scheme has proved extremely popular and feedback from passengers included comments such as "wonderful service", "what a blessing this service is", "10/10 to all drivers", "be lost without the service".

Allotments: There are 33 allotment plots across three village locations. Four allotment holders left at renewal time opening spaces for new tenants from the waiting list. There are currently vacant plots at Greystones and there are 8 people on the waiting list. Two site inspections were carried out in Spring and Autumn to ensure allotments were being fully cultivated. Improvement work carried out during the year by the Council included repairs to leaking standpipes, new fencing at Springfield and replacement padlocks for the gates.

Tree Management: The Parish Council undertook a Trees Condition Assessment for all the trees within Council land in 2018. The report produced highlighted any safety concerns and all trees with a Priority 1 (High risk) and all trees within public areas with a Priority 2 (Moderate risk) have been made safe. All further Priority 2 tree works will be undertaken in 2019/20.

Speed Indicator Device (SID) Monitoring Programme: Working in partnership with the Cheshire Police PSCO, the SID unit has been used to carry out regular traffic speed and volume monitoring at locations including on the A6, Buxton Old Road, Jackson's Edge Road, Hollinwood Road and Redhouse Lane. Where appropriate this information has been fed back to residents and Cheshire East Highways.

Communications: The Council's bi-monthly e-Bulletin now has 480 subscribers, providing news updates and details of local events and meetings etc. The Parish Council Twitter feed has nearly 300 followers and the Council now has a Facebook page at @disleyparishcouncil. The Council continues to produce the hardcopy Disley News newsletter three times per year, and this is distributed

to all homes and businesses in Disley and Newtown. In early 2019, the Council also published and distributed a new edition of the Disley Official Guide. A new Parish Council website was launched in 2018 with content being continually updated.

Disley video: The Parish Council launched a short video in 2018 to showcase what a fantastic place Disley & Newtown is to live, visit and work. The video will be used to promote Disley & Newtown to prospective new residents, businesses and visitors, as well as reminding current residents how much there is going on right on our doorstep. The video is available to view on the Parish Council website at www.disleyparishcouncil.org.uk.

Village Events: The Parish Council organised several events during the year including a WW1 Beacon Lighting event in Lyme Park; Health & Well-being Show; Community Litter Pick; Doorstep Crime Awareness Event; Local Business Meetings and the Christmas Tree lighting event.

Planning: Cheshire East Council consulted the Parish Council on 45 planning applications. They also issued a wider consultation on a Draft Site Allocations Development Policy as part of the Cheshire East Local Plan to meet housing needs to 2030. This draft document identified proposals for future housing in 12 Local Service Centres including Disley with a proposal to designate Safeguarded Land for housing on the edge of the green belt. The Parish Council ensured that this consultation was well publicised at a local level and arranged a presentation by the Head of Strategic Planning at Cheshire East to address residents' concerns. The Parish Council issued a statement and a response to this consultation. Cheshire East issued a "Call for Sites" inviting landowners and developers to identify land with potential for future development. The Parish Council, as a landowner, declared the Greystones allotment site as a site with a proviso that the allotments be relocated and improved in line with the Neighbourhood Plan.

Civic Awards: Each year the Parish Council presents awards to residents for outstanding volunteer work or for wider individual achievements. This year's awards were presented to:

- Kat Croxford - For her hard work with Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.
- Peter Scott - For his continuing efforts with both PRIDE and the Well Dressing Festival.
- Steve Brown - As Disley Footpaths Society (DFS) footpath maintenance officer getting the footpath network up to scratch through coordinating the regular DFS working parties.
- Godfrey Matthews - As member of Disley Arts Society and longstanding member of the Rams Head Bowling Club who mows the green every week. He is also Father Christmas at the Christmas Lights event.
- Izzy Waddington - A valuable volunteer at Disley library for several years, being involved in the reading challenge, preparing and helping with craft activities and also helping at one of the youth clubs in Disley.

General enquiries and complaints: The Parish Council dealt with 50 formal enquiries in the past year including drains and flooding (13%), overgrown hedges and footpaths (9%), fly tipping (8%), potholes and pavement trip hazards (7%) and street lighting (6%). Other enquiries such as dog waste, missed bin collections, graffiti and vandalism involved referrals to Cheshire East Council, BT, United Utilities, Environment Agency and Peaks & Plains Housing. Regular contact with Cheshire East Highways secured the repair of many potholes and gully clearances.

Community Grants: Parish Council grants were awarded to Community Together (£150); PRIDE Well Dressing 2018 Event (£250); Girl Guiding in Disley (£225); Disley and Newtown Whist Club (£150); PRIDE Well Dressing 2019 Event (£500).

Work placement students: The Parish Council was delighted to host two work placement students from Marple College in 2018. One carried out photographic work for the council and the other helped to set up the Parish Council's Facebook page.

3. Village issues

Air Quality: This remains a significant concern for the village which has a designated Air Quality Management Area along the A6. The opening of the A555 in October 2018 has given rise to more concerns relating to traffic congestion and potential increases in pollution levels. Cheshire East Council is the principal authority with responsibility for monitoring and action planning to reduce vehicle pollution levels. The Parish Council, being the local contact point, continued to receive many enquiries and complaints from residents. In response, the Council issued an Air Quality Statement to clearly set out the Parish Councils' role and a commitment which includes tracking monitoring data, taking part in action planning, lobbying for change and providing information at local level. A review of the Air Quality Action Plan for Disley is to be undertaken by Cheshire East Council which will involve the Parish Council and representatives from the community.

A6/MARR Mitigation: The Parish Council has been disappointed that additional Stage 2 mitigation work in the village centre scheduled for spring 2018 was not carried out and have been in further discussions with Cheshire East Council to secure an agreed scheme now to be undertaken in 2019.