



**UPPER STOODLEY
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

2020

**Presented to the Annual
General Meeting held on 10
December 2020**

Chair's report

This is the second annual report prepared for the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association as a formally constituted body.

When we prepared the first of our annual reports for last year, no one could have envisaged how different 2020 was to be when compared to 2019. The coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 and the disease it causes, Covid-19, have of course dominated our lives in every way.

From the beginning, the Committee of the Residents' Association was keen that we use the Association's structures and networks to provide support to people in need across our area, who were affected by Covid-19 either directly or indirectly. Thanks to the generosity of members, we were able to establish a pool of volunteers willing to collect medicines, do shopping or deliver food for people who were self-isolating or shielding. We established a dedicated mobile phone line and email and we revised our policies and even produced a short training film.

As it turned out, demand on the services we had ready was not great and we were never under pressure, e.g., by more demand than we could supply. But I believe our state of readiness was excellent, and I know that the people who did use our services, much appreciated them.

The best of thanks therefore goes to everyone who volunteered to be in our pool, to Stephen for holding the mobile phone on a continual basis, to Carol for liaising between clients and volunteers and to everyone who made our arrangements work. We are ready again now for what looks like a long and hard winter, and our services will again be available for anyone who lives in our area, whether they are members of the Association or not. More details are always on our website, www.usra.org.uk

During the year, we received a further grant from the British Heart Foundation towards an automated external defibrillator (AED) and this has been sited on Lee Bottom Road since March. We also received two grants from the Calder Valley Ward Forum, one towards two litter bins which are now sited near Fellside and Broadgate, respectively and also towards signage on the Lumbutts Road near Gaddings Dam. The Town Council also awarded us a grant for the same purpose of signage relating to Gaddings Dam. We are very grateful to all our grant-givers and as several of these grants required additional funding from us, we are also very grateful for everyone who contributed to our fundraising efforts.

We have continued to be involved in various initiatives linked to both protecting our local environment and promoting our area as a place for tourism. In particular, I have represented the Association on the Gaddings Dam Steering Group, which has brought together elected members and officers of both the Town Council and Calderdale Council, together with interested parties such as ourselves and the Gaddings Dam Preservation Society, to maximise the safe

and sustainable use of the Dam and its surrounding area whilst minimising the negative side-effects such as inappropriate car parking and abuse of residents.

I will end, as I did last year, by warmly thanking my colleagues on the Association's Committee; Carol Cantral works tirelessly as Secretary and a very large amount of what we achieve is down to her work. During the year, Martin Ashton resigned as Treasurer owing to the pressure of work at the Top Brink and his place has been temporarily taken by Andrea Ransom. I am very grateful to both Martin and now Andrea for their professional approach to managing our accounts which, although relatively small in terms of the money we have, are also quite complex with various income and expenditure streams for different projects and initiatives. I am very glad that Andrea has agreed to stand as Treasurer at the AGM, and that Martin has offered to stay on as a Committee member. Every member of the committee has worked so hard this year – everyone has adapted to meeting by Zoom, and people have kept their sense of humour and positivity, brilliantly. We are all very fortunate to have such a dedicated and skilled team. My sincere thanks to them all.

I wish you all the best Christmas you can have, and that you and the people you love remain safe.

Chris O'Gorman
Chair

Secretary's report

To say this has been a strange year is a massive understatement, we could never have imagined that the world would change so dramatically and we would all have to behave so differently. It has however made me very grateful that I live in such a beautiful place surrounded by people who genuinely care about each other, both in the immediate neighbourhood and in the wider Todmorden area. People have really stepped up with offers of support, help and kindness in an effort to keep everyone safe and well. I am very glad I live here and am part of this community.

Despite having general meetings planned for the year we only managed to hold one prior to the lock down:

14.01.20 (22 members present and 11 apologies)

We have held ten committee meetings - seven of which were via Zoom:

09.01.20
27.02.20
20.03.20
14.05.20
26.05.20
09.07.20
03.08.20
13.08.20
30.09.20
30.10.20

Membership currently stands at:

73 households and 129 individuals which is an increase on last year of 9 households and 20 individuals.

All the planned litter picks and balsam bashing events were of course cancelled as well as the summer BBQ.

The roll out of ultrafast broadband (FTTP -Fibre to the premises) in our area has continued and the majority of residents at Rossendale View, Manor Close, Harvelin Park, Mankinholes, Stoodley Grange and part of Lumbutts now have access to this service. The remaining part of Lumbutts is expected to go live in January 2021.

We are continuing to support residents who do not have access to FTTP with a gigabit voucher application to try and ensure everyone has access to the same level of broadband service.

During the year we have produced three issues of the USRA Newsletter which we have distributed online to members as well as delivering copies of the last issue to all properties - nearly 300 - in our area. Thanks go to Don and Anne

Kettleborough for the production of the newsletter and to everyone who has delivered copies.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee, it really is a pleasure to be part of the team. On behalf of the committee members I would like to particularly thank Chris for his constant hard work, brilliant letter writing skills and constant professionalism, we are very lucky to have him and I am really pleased that he has agreed to stand again as Chair at the AGM.

I look forward to seeing you via Zoom at the AGM.

Best wishes

Carol Cantral
Secretary

Treasurer's report

Thank you to Martin for keeping such a good record of the accounts since the last AGM in 2019. I have been able to take over from August without any problems. I know you're always there to help me out in the future, so thanks for your support.

Also thanks to Chris and Carol for their help and advice when I took over as **Acting Treasurer**. Martin has had a thousand and one things to deal with in this strange pandemic year, so I was happy to help, and change roles with him for the remainder of 2020.

The purpose of the Association isn't to hold cash in large quantities, but to raise enough to pay for projects to further the aims of USRA and for essential running costs.

It has been a very unusual year, and we haven't been able to hold our normal meetings face to face.

The grant we received from Calderdale Council for combatting **Loneliness** has been used in ways we didn't anticipate!! To date we have used £180 to produce **a newsletter** aimed at telling isolated people what services we could offer, and to help keep everyone updated and involved when we were unable to hold any meetings. We will use more of this to pay for **an annual zoom subscription** which will enable us to hold virtual social events to tackle lockdown loneliness.

We can hold the AGM virtually via Zoom, and it will also assist the committee to hold their Zoom meetings without a time restraint. We also purchased a mobile phone to allow people to call a member of the committee if they needed assistance with shopping, collecting prescriptions etc during the pandemic.

We have spent the grant for **litter bins** and with some additional funds have sited the 2 bins.

The **2nd Defibrillator** has been purchased and sited on Lee Bottom Road. Many thanks to everyone who donated to the fund raising events we held.

We were also able to obtain professional **Legal Advice** regarding **Incredible Farm** with the very generous contributions from USRA members. We were left with a surplus which has been allocated as shown in the accounts.

A summary of financial transactions is attached along with this report, along with the balance sheet. Our balance by 31.10.2020 was £2261.92

In the forthcoming year the subscriptions are to be maintained at **£5 per household**, which should cover running costs.

Subs are now due again. There are a few ways you can pay:

1. **Our preferred methods** are direct to USRA Bank Account as a one off payment or a standing order for an annual payment of £5.
2. Cash or cheque (payable to USRA. To Martin at Top Brink or any committee member

Bank details are as follows:

Account Name: **USRA** Account Number: **62091240** Sort Code: **40-39-01**

Thank you for all your support always and for your prompt payments.

Andrea Ransom
Acting Treasurer

**Upper Stoodley Residents' Association – annual statement of accounts for
year 2020**

Accounts 2019-20 are available as a separate document.

Independent examiner's opinion:

I have conducted an independent examination of the accounts of the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association for the year ended 31 October 2020 and I confirm that they are an accurate and satisfactory record of the Associations' financial activities for the period.

Rebecca Davis CPFA

Committee details

Chris O'Gorman, Chair – usrachair@gmail.com
Carol Cantral, Secretary – usrasecretary@gmail.com
Andrea Ransom, Acting Treasurer – usra.andrearansom@gmail.com

Martin Ashton, Ordinary member
Bob Hannam, Ordinary member
Stephen Jones, Ordinary member
Wendy Wright, Ordinary member

Bankers: HSBC

Independent examiner (accounts): Rebecca Davis CPFA

Website: www.usra.org.uk

The Committee of the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association warmly acknowledges the support given to the Association by Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, the British Heart Foundation and Todmorden Town Council



**British Heart
Foundation**



**Todmorden
Town Council**