



UPPER STOODLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Policy statement on development within the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association area

1. Aims of the Residents' Association

The Upper Stoodley Residents' Association exists for the following purposes, as set out in the Constitution:

- To promote the common interests of all the residents within the membership area
- To provide a means of identifying areas of collective benefit, e.g., improvements in the local environment and infrastructure, and for undertaking the relevant work necessary to secure those benefits
- To provide a means of identifying residents' common concerns about the membership area, including concerns about infrastructure, the environment, planning issues, the maintenance of the Conservation Area which affects a portion of the membership area, tourism and local heritage
- To provide a means to convey residents' common views to and from key stakeholders including Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council, Todmorden Town Council, key infrastructure providers and Natural England.
- To promote social and leisure activities for residents, their families and friends

All of these aims have a connection with development in our membership area, including those that are exempt from and included within the planning regime in force at any time.

2. Principles guiding responses to planning and development issues

From time to time, the Residents' Association is asked to respond collectively on members' behalf to planning and development issues. This policy statement sets out the principles which will guide the Association in any response

a. Visual, environmental and historical concerns

The area covered by the Residents' Association is of great natural beauty: it includes important habitats for diverse species of plants and animals, and it is bordered by a Site of Special Scientific Interest (Langfield Common). It also contains buildings and

other structures of considerable historical interest, relating both to Todmorden's industrial past and to earlier periods.

The Residents' Association will challenge developments that compromise the visual, environmental and historical assets of the local area.

b. Road safety and access

The Residents' Association's membership area consists of a series of settlements linked, in the main, by narrow roads bordered by dry stone walls and/or steep hill sides. The main access roads to the area are steep and have length and width restrictions.

Road use in the membership area is acknowledged to be high and the Residents' Association has received multiple reports of vehicles travelling at excess speed, roads blocked as a result of unsuitable vehicles attempting to navigate them, and damage to historic structures (e.g., Shaw Bridge) as a result of unsuitable vehicular traffic.

The Residents' Association will challenge developments that are likely increase the volume of traffic in and through the area by a material and sustained degree, especially where the likely increase relates to larger vehicles such as mobile homes.

c. Climate change and environmental sustainability

The Residents' Association strongly affirms that all residents have a role to play in tackling climate change, in partnership with all publicly funded bodies and commercial enterprises.

The Residents' Association acknowledges that action may be necessary in every community to tackle climate change and to reduce the impact of adverse weather events. Reducing the impact of flooding is especially important in our area.

The Residents' Association will challenge developments that are likely to have an adverse impact on flood risk or to contribute in an adverse manner to tackling climate change.

d. Good and inclusive communities where everyone is valued

The Residents' Association strongly affirms that it wishes to promote good neighbourliness amongst all residents, and a welcoming and inclusive approach to visitors, guests and to all newcomers to our area.

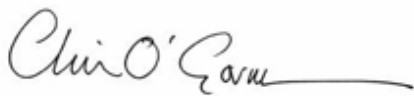
The Residents' Association will challenge developments that reduce good neighbourliness and which have a negative impact on community relationship and inclusivity. At all times however, the Residents' Association will seek to act fairly and reasonably and will not, by its own actions, seek to inflame or ignite disputes unnecessarily or unfairly.

e. *Always acting lawfully*

The Residents' Association will always act in line with relevant guidance and planning law, and where necessary will take professional advice to ensure that its actions are consistent with relevant guidance and statute.

This policy statement was approved by a General Meeting of the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association on 18 April 2023

Signed on behalf of the Upper Stoodley Residents' Association:

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris O'Gorman" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris O'Gorman
Chair