



**UPPER STOODLEY
RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

ANNUAL REPORT

2019

**Presented to the Annual
General Meeting held on 19
December 2019**

Chair's report

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

The Association has, in the Chair's opinion, made a strong start in its first year. We have been successful in obtaining three grants. The first was from the British Heart Foundation and took the form of a grant towards an automated external defibrillator (AED, sometimes known as a heart restarter). After some very impressive fundraising by members of the association who made donations, ran, sold and bought raffle tickets and answered quizzes, we were able to meet the required contribution and to afford to have a heated cabinet for the AED to help prolong its battery life. Fitted free of charge by HEC Contracting, the AED is outside of the Top Brink and is open to use by anyone who needs it. Training was provided to a group of 24 of us by the Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust. We now need to raise funds again to provide for an AED sited in Harvelin Park on the other side of our membership area, for which again we have been awarded a British Heart Foundation grant.

The third grant came from Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council and provided us with money to purchase litter picking equipment, our website and training to help us become more aware of vulnerability and social isolation in our area. We also received some money to cover the costs of printing and stationery, for example, for this annual report.

We are very grateful to the British Heart Foundation and to Calderdale MBC for the confidence they have had in us and in their support.

During the year, we have continued the work of the Association as it was until the end of last year – an informal group – in protesting against the development, within the Lumbutts and Mankinholes Conservation Area, of what is called Incredible Farm but which is in fact a large training and food processing facility, with onsite accommodation arrangements and with both vegetable growing areas and facilities for livestock. We have agreed a policy statement on this development which clearly states that we take no position on its philosophy of food production, but we strongly oppose its siting within the beautiful Conservation Area.

We have held two social events. The first was a 'meet your neighbour' event at the Top Brink Inn, held on 28 February 2019. Feedback from the people who came was very positive so we organised a second event, a summer barbeque, on 13 July 2019. We were able to hold this on property belonging to Chris and Lynne Horsfall, to whom we are very grateful. The event was also a great success and we were fortunate to have a sunny, rain-free afternoon. We look forward to continuing a programme of social events in 2020. We are very grateful to the continued support of the Top Brink Inn which enables us to have access to free and comfortable meeting space.

The committee, with the support of general meetings, has held three meetings with elected members, including our ward councillors, from Calderdale MBC.

These meetings have covered a range of issues from Gaddings Dam and Incredible Farm, through to our emerging ideas to help address social isolation in our area. We have found elected members to be very supportive and helpful and we are grateful to them for taking the time to form a positive working relationship with us.

Looking to the future, we are confident that we can continue to grow and develop new and better ways of supporting our community, our beautiful environmental, and in being to make residents and visitors feel at home in our area. We will absolutely rely on the support of our membership to achieve this, and this includes the importance of the £5 per household membership fee. We will not have any Council grant funding this coming year to support us so the hosting and maintenance of the website, printing and stationery costs as well as existing commitments like the maintenance of our events insurance will be down to us and our funds alone. I hope that every current member will be able to renew their membership and that we can all help introduce new members from our membership area during the coming year.

I will end by warmly thanking my colleagues on the Association's Committee and in particular Carol Cantral and Martin Ashton, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Every member of the committee works diligently without complaint, always with a sense of humour, and with great generosity of ideas, time and money. Carol works exceptionally hard and very professionally to ensure that the business of the Association is managed smoothly for us all; Martin looks after the Association's financial affairs with skill and great integrity. It is a pleasure to be part of the team working for residents in the Upper Stoodley area.

Chris O'Gorman
Chair

Secretary's report

Firstly, I would like to say that I have enjoyed my first year as secretary and feel we have made great progress with a number of issues we have taken on. I have also got to know a large number of new people in the area and can even remember a lot of the names!

It has been a busy year since our inaugural meeting on 23 October 2018. We have held four general meetings :

04.12.18 (47 members present and 8 apologies)
07.03.19 (22 members present and 11 apologies)
03.06.19 (22 members present and 13 apologies)
05.09.19 (33 members present and 6 apologies)

In addition we have held ten committee meetings:

08.11.18
23.11.18
07.01.19
25.02.19
04.04.19
02.05.19
09.05.19
04.07.19
03.10.19
05.11.19

Membership currently stands at:

64 households and 109 individuals

We have done four litter picks during the year and I would like to thank everyone who turned out, even in some unpleasant weather, for their support and hard work.

The first two events in late Spring collected significant amounts of rubbish including some very large items which were collected and carried some considerable distance to get them to the roadside. Much of what we collected had been there for many years which was evidenced by some vintage bottles, cans and packaging which had not been seen for many years. We made a significant impact on the targeted areas. At the more recent events we collected significantly less rubbish which was pleasing and suggests we are having an impact on improving our area.

These events also help us to raise the profile of the association when people see us out and about taking positive action in our area. Quite a few people stop and chat about what we are doing and offer their support and thanks.

We hope to plan further litter picks for next year and also some 'balsam bashing' to help tackle the spread of Himalyan Balsam in the area.

A small group of residents started meeting during 2018 and formed the broadband group to try and progress the roll out of the installation of ultrafast broadband to our area. They recently arranged a meeting at the Top Brink for residents with representatives from Openreach and West Yorkshire and York Broadband which provided the latest update on progress of the installation of infrastructure to enable fibre-to-the-premise (FTTP) in our area.

The first part of the network is now installed and properties in Rossendale View and Manor Close are now able to order Ultrafast Broadband (FTTP). Work is still on-going to install the service to other areas but Harvelin Park and Stoodley Grange are expected to be live by the end of December.

Infrastructure work is still needed to deliver the service to Mankinholes and Lumbutts but properties from the Shepherd's Rest to Croft Gate are expected to go live by the end of March 2020 and the remaining properties from Croft Gate to the Top Brink by the end of June 2020.

We are very grateful to Trevor Davis, Don Kettleborough and Tamana Bleasdale for all their hard work that has enabled this work to progress much quicker than originally planned. They have been a key point of contact for the different agencies and organisations involved and have kept residents regularly informed on progress.

We have developed and produced two issues of the USRA Newsletter and we hope to continue to produce this on a quarterly basis. Thank you to everyone who has delivered copies of the newsletter to properties in the area to enable us to try and reach people who are not yet members.

I would also like to thank Don and Anne Kettleborough who have taken on responsibility for the production of the newsletter. Their input and skills are clearly visible in the much improved professional format of issue 2.

As I said at the beginning of my report I have enjoyed my first year as secretary and I have been fortunate to have some wonderful support from Chris O'Gorman who always provides a considered, balanced and calm input to the group as well as some much needed help with my IT skills! I would also like to thank Martin Ashton and all the other committee members for their work, support and positive input throughout the year.

Finally, I would like to echo Chris' comment and say it is a pleasure to be part of the team working for residents in this beautiful area.

Carol Cantral
Secretary

Treasurer's report

Thank you to Chris and Carol for their help and support throughout the year and to Andrea for her help when we were encountering problems when we set up the bank account.

The purpose of the association isn't to hold cash in large quantities but to raise enough to pay projects to enhance the community and for the essential running costs.

I feel we have achieved this with a total bank balance of £1,719.65 at the time of writing this with most of this restricted to be spent on a second defibrillator and on outstanding matters relating to the Council grant, e.g., community welfare training.

The balance sheet is available for anyone to view upon request and full documentation of all payments is also available. There are also copies being circulated this evening.

In the forthcoming year the subscriptions are to be maintained at £5 per household which should cover the running costs, however, we still need to raise more money for the second defibrillator and for the association insurance to cover events and volunteer work for next year.

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

1. Cash or cheque (made payable to USRA) to Martin at the Top Brink or any of the committee members
2. Direct into the bank account as a one off payment
3. Standing Order for an annual payment of £5. The bank details are:

Account name: USRA
Account number: 62091240
Sort code: 40-39-01

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

The accounts below are presented prior to independent examination. The independent examiner's view will be presented to the AGM and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

Martin Ashton
Treasurer

Upper Stoodley Residents' Association – annual statement of accounts for year 2019

<u>Funds Collected</u>		<u>Funds Collected</u>		<u>Funds Collected</u>		<u>Grant From</u>		<u>Summer BBQ</u>		<u>CASH AT BANK</u>	
<u>Unrestricted</u>		<u>IF Legal Fees</u>		<u>Defibrillator</u>		<u>Calderdale MBC</u>					
<u>Subs</u>											
64 members x £5	320.00	Donation	50.67	Internet	15.00	CMBC Grant	1625.00	Ticket Sales @£7	60	420.00	
		Donation	50.00	Internet	40.00			Over collected Martin	2.00		<u>Books</u>
Donation	45.00	Donation	50.00	Collected Pub	72.00			Over collected Andrea	2.00		Unrestricted
Donation	5.00	Donation	50.00	Sponsored walk	125.00			Quiz money	13.00		390.00
Donation	20.00	Donation	50.00	Sponsored walk total	252.00			Whisky Bottle money	29.00		IF Legal Fees
		Donation	50.00	Wilds	80.00				466.00		575.20
	390.00	Donation	50.00	Raffle 1	155.00	<u>Payments Made</u>					CMBC
		Donation	50.00	Raffle 2	895.00	Litter picking Equipment	250.12				685.98
		Donation	50.00	donations	200.00	Web - 1&1 set up		<u>Payments Made</u>			Summer BBQ
		Donation	50.00		100.00	and 1xmonthly fee	28.20	Prizes	13.00		£1,719.65
		Donation	10.00		100.00	Cat Byrne - Web Design	300.00	Butcher	74.08		
		Donation	5.00		100.00	Safeguarding training		paper products	45.96		
			465.67		10.00	Printing & Stationary	100.58	Morrisons	#####		<u>Bank Account</u>
					20.00	Bin Bags	26.52	Lidl	24.11		
				Defrib Training	6.00	Cat Byrne - Web Des. (phase 2)	200.00	Assosiation Insurance	89.60		28/11/2019
<u>Payments Made</u>		<u>Payments Made</u>			1918.00	Web - 1&1 set up			382.20		£1,719.65
		Marilyn Brichard	456.00	<u>Payments Made</u>		and 7xmonthly fee	33.60	<u>Other Costs</u>			
				British Heart Foundation	600.00			Flowers	25.00		
				Heated Cabinet	502.80						
				AED Training	240.00						
<u>Balance Remaining</u>		<u>Balance Remaining</u>		<u>Balance Remaining</u>		<u>Balance Remaining</u>		<u>Balance Remaining</u>			
£390.00		Surplus	£9.67		£575.20		£685.98		£58.80		

Subject to the independent examiner's opinion

Committee details

Chris O'Gorman, Chair – usrachair@gmail.com
Carol Cantral, Secretary – usrasecretary@gmail.com
Martin Ashton, Treasurer – usratreasurer@gmail.com

Bob Hannam, Ordinary member
Stephen Jones, Ordinary member
Andrea Ransom, 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 and by the British Heart Foundation