**Harpur Hill Residents Association AGM 28th May 2013.**

Chairman’s Report 2012 – 2013:-

As always this has been a busy year. Two major problems have dominated meetings the Blue Lagoon and Proposals for housing developments in Harpur Hill as outlined in the “High Peak Local Plan Preferred Options”.

Harpur Hill Residents Association has attended a number of meetings concerning the problems of Blue Lagoon.

Pressure from us and our local councillors has ensured that this problem has caught the attention of both H.P.B.C. and D.C.C. both of these authorities have been working on how to solve this issue, but as yet a permanent solution to the problem is still some way off. However a sum of £1000 has been made available to dye the water so as to make the lagoon less attractive to visitors, there will be more information on this matter in the ordinary meeting that follows this AGM.

As an Association we have worked hard to keep residents up to date with proposed housing developments for Harpur Hill. With this in mind we organised two meetings to give residents a chance to formulate and express their views concerning housing developments. At the second of these meetings H.P.B.C. planners and local councillors were in attendance and many of the 180+ who attended gave vent to their feelings, it was not a comfortable evening for our guest speakers.

Following on from the second of these meetings, held in September 2012, the Association held a meeting at the ‘Railway Hotel’ on the 22nd November 2012 to which all interested parties within Buxton were invited to come along to this meeting to see if a united town view could be developed in response to H.P.B.C’s local planning proposals. Though sparsely attended it was an interesting experiment to try to widen the influence of the association. It is an experiment worth trying again at some time in the future.

Another first for the association is the fact that we put forward questions at two of the full council meetings held early this year. In an attempt to clarify how S106 monies and the contributions to the community infrastructure fund would be spent if new housing were built in Harpur Hill. Sadly the answers we got were not entirely satisfactory, but at least the association put forward questions, often asked at our meetings to our duly elected representatives.

We have had several guest speakers at our monthly meetings and these have included our High Peak MP Mr Andrew Bingham, on the 18th January this year, also councillor Guy Martin of Chapel-en-le-Frith, who gave us a very interesting and informative talk on how to set up and run a neighbourhood plan.

At our monthly meetings we also enjoy the regular attendance of PCSO Alan Nield who is ever willing to explain policing policy in Harpur Hill. If you have any problems that you feel need his attention then our meetings have given people a chance to chat to him in friendly and pleasant surroundings.

However we are a truly active group in every sense of the word. Last May 2012 we held a litter pick at the bottom of Harpur Hill road, to try to clean up the approach to Harpur Hill. We managed to fill 11 black bin bags in just over one hour.

On November 11th 2012 the association was represented at a very moving and well attended Remembrance Day service outside the Hoffman Club.

However we also like to have fun when we can fit it in. Consequently our family Halloween party, organised by Cerise Banks and Mel Davis, on November 1st 2012 was well attended with over 180 parents and children, everyone had a great time. These two ladies with the assistance of Mandy Sugden organised our annual Christmas lunch for a number of our senior citizens at the local primary school on December 13th 2012, again everyone who attended thoroughly enjoyed the event and, as usual the school was a wonderful host.

Our press coverage has greatly improved thanks to the efforts and skill of Colin Boynton. People keep mentioning that they have read about our activities in the Buxton Advertiser, even if they don’t live in Harpur Hill.

In addition we have enjoyed another year’s membership of Facebook thanks to the work of Elaine Ratcliffe.

From time to time we even venture onto the airways courtesy of High Peak Radio.

All in all people are being made more and more aware of us and our activities, a trend that I hope will continue.

This year we even managed two leaflet drops, advertising our consultation evenings, to every household in Harpur Hill. I would like to thank everyone who delivered those leaflets, they did a great job.

I think you will agree that it has been a busy year. As a result of the efforts of so many of us the association has achieved a good reputation for trying to facilitate discussion on matters of importance to the residents of Harpur Hill. We have achieved a good working relationship with H.P.B.C. and D.C.C. officials, especially those working in the planning departments. We have maintained good relations with all our local councillors and they usually attend our monthly meetings.

At this point I would like to thank Pam Reddy our ex-D.C.C. councillor for all the work she has done for Harpur Hill residents during her term of office and wish her all the best for the future.

At this point I would like to welcome Caitlin Bisknell our newly elected D.C.C. councillor and say how much the association is looking forward to working with her in the future.

Finally, I would like to say a big thank you to Peter Sloan. Peter started the year as our chairman and most of what I’ve outlined happened because of his commitment to and efforts on behalf of Harpur Hill Residents Association. After Christmas he had to resign the post of Chair due to work commitments. He navigated this association through some stormy waters during his 20 months as chairman, and because of his leadership we are in the position we are today. I hope he will rejoin our main committee as soon as the demands of work allow.