

**Minutes of the Kempsey PACT meeting held at Kempsey Village Hall
on Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: (20) Terry Ward (Chairman), Martin Allen (County Councillor), John Michael (MHDC), David Harrison (MHDC), Jan Harrison, Maxine Hemming, Joy Clee, Sue Cownie, Ann Smith, Nancy Morris, Bob Bowley (Parish Councillor), Mike Biddle, Simon Bott (Parish Lengthsman), Susan Bott (Parish Councillor), Chris Gillies, Brian Hewlett, Kath Padden, Marian Walters, Gerry Abbot, John Baker.

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The Chairman, Terry Ward, welcomed everyone to the Parish Hall and thanked them for attending.
2. **Apologies:** Chris Waller (Chairman of Parish Council), PC Dee Stanley (West Mercia Police), PCSO Brandon Knight, Sally Linsey (Cornflower Club), Rev Mark Badger, Bryony Baynes (Headteacher KPS), Bob Cownie, Dave Bevan, Andrea Halford, Ian Fenton, Helen Fenton, Newton and Wendy Coen, Melody Baker-Joyce, Roy Clarke, Margaret Gillies, Lynda Billingham.
3. **Reports from County, District and Parish Councils:**

COUNTY COUNCIL.

Cllr Martin Allen referred to the Historic Board which is now in place outside the Village Hall. It is very interesting and a fuller version is available on the Parish Council website. The installation of a third lane on the A38 to allow enhanced access to the Taylor Wimpey and Linden Homes development is under way and causing a number of problems. One of the main issues was the difficulty of crossing the A38 from the housing estate to the playing field, so Cllr Allen asked WCC Highways Dept to look at the situation after which they agreed to install a temporary crossing which will move as work progresses. Tarmac at Clifton is considering crossing the A38 at Clifton, but there are some question marks regarding this move. Two street lights near the bus stop opposite the Crown, are to be changed to red because there are bats in the area. Footways to be repaired/replaced are as follows:

1. The Limes (in May/June at a cost of £80K-£100K)
2. Elgar Drive.
3. Chapel Road.
4. Hetherington Close.
5. Church Street, (Patching) including the Laybys.
6. Lyfs Lane (Patching)

Between 1st August and 30th September, 92 motorists were caught speeding through the village. Cllr Allen had brought a motion to the County Council to provide free bus travel for veterans from April 2024, which was passed

unanimously. It was down to the Parish Council to part fund a Community Bus Service as the County Council have blocked any further applications. Speeding in Old Road North is a problem, but Cllr Allen said ramps would not be permitted.

DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Cllr David Harrison reported that 550 houses have already been built in Kempsey. 2504 are planned north of the village with 2 further sites for approximately 350 dwellings. 5 large industrial units have been built, one of which is so far let, and planning permission is in for two more. MHDC cannot show a 5-year housing plan and more news is expected during the week. Rubbish collection dates will be in the December issue of KLINKS. The bottle bank on the Talbot car park was removed during the summer, and the one in Severn Stoke is to be replaced by wheelie bin on 31st December. Soil is being transported to Severn Stoke from the new bridge but work cannot start on the bund until an archaeological survey has been carried out.

Where are people expected to come from to occupy all the new houses?

DH said affordable houses have to be registered for the first two weeks for Kempsey residents, then nearby parishes for the next three weeks. After that time it goes out to people in Worcestershire and lastly nationally.

Are there any plans for shops or other facilities?

Not at the present time, although a planning application (not live yet) is in for the new Welbeck development, for a small supermarket, a school and a doctors surgery.

Will the strategic gap be retained?

The SWDP originally said no further houses in Kempsey, but we already have 33 more than planned. An area in front of Open Barn is earmarked for industrial units. There is no plan to build on the Saxon Meadow open area.

Cllr John Michael said he has been busy sorting out issues with Platform and other housing associations. The footpath between the Sallowbed and Foxes hill is to be upgraded to allow wheelchair and mobility scooter access. He will approach Platform to ask if the lounge at The Firs could be used for a “war spaces” during the winter.

Post meeting update: This has been refused.

MHDC will be developing areas of “warm spaces” in the vicinity.

The plans drawn up by the architect for the Community/Sports hall at Pixham Ferry Lane, have to be revised due to rising costs and are therefore unrealistic. It appears there is little room for community space.

PARISH COUNCIL.

Cllr Chris Waller sent the following report.

Planning news

The Planning Committee now meets on the first Monday of each month in the

evening at the Community Centre. Members of the public are very welcome to attend and ask questions or express their views. Most interest is currently on three planning applications at Post Office Lane, Brookend Lane and around Bannut Hill which together propose nearly 240 additional dwellings. The Parish Council objects to them particularly because they are outside the development boundary and the effect of further growth on the village. Further information is required prior to a MHDC decision. More broadly, the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review and a Travellers Sites etc. Development Plan document are out for public consultation until 13 December. The consultations mainly concern their "soundness" rather than policies and proposals. Neither have new sites within the Parish other than 2ha. of employment land north of Kempsey, alongside the A38. Worryingly, this would erode the important gap separating the village from Worcester City.

Pixham Ferry Lane Community & Sports Centre

The effect of price increases on building costs post the pandemic and the current high level of inflation are having a significant impact on the project. We are currently working to downsize the initial aspirations for the project to fit the existing £2.1m budget whilst also seeking additional funding from other sources. The grant of £1.74m from the District Council is primarily directed at improving sporting facilities for young people and this commitment is being retained although on a reduced scale in the first phase of construction. A cafe, play area, basic pump track, trim trail and community space in the building are also being retained with space being left for a skatepark in the south west area of the site. An application to MHDC for full planning permission is being planned for February 2023 with a pre-application consultation being submitted next week. The public consultation on the proposed plans is likely to be held in early January.

Kempsey Survey 2022

We would like to thank the 552 people who responded to the survey, launched in April this year. A first review of the results shows that Kempsey is considered an enjoyable and safe place to live by its residents but would benefit from better facilities, including a bigger school and doctors' surgery with a better bus service and more shops. Over 60% of respondents felt that there was a positive sense of community in our Parish and that this should be built upon in the future. There was a very significant and unprompted objection to new housing development. We will be posting the full results of the survey on our website shortly and following up through meetings with resident's groups and clubs as stepping stones to proposing a vision for Kempsey for the future. I would in particular like to thank Councillor Cathy Garner for the time she has devoted to the survey. Cathy joined the Council October 2021 and is a great example of how individuals can contribute to the future of our community. The Parish Council currently has vacancies for two councillors to help take this project forward and contribute to the various other projects being run by the council.

4. Reports from School, Police and Church.

Bryony Baynes, Headteacher of Kempsey Primary School sent the following report.

The main event after our half term break was the Fireworks event at Plovers. This is organised by our PTFA and, every year, it gets better and better. We are incredibly grateful to the PTFA who raise much needed funds for the children in school. Particularly at the

moment, with the way school budgets are being squeezed, their work is invaluable in providing extras for all the children. Because of the success of this event, the PTFA are able to send all of the children to a Christmas pantomime at the Swan Theatre, at no cost to their parents.

We have been doing a great deal of work in school, looking at our curriculum. A key part of our curriculum is "the community" and we are hoping to teach the children how important it is to give back to the communities in which they live. It was that thinking which led to us re-establishing the Food Bank. We were also delighted to be able to start up the Kempsey Cafes again with a very successful event on Friday, 11th November. We greeted over 100 people in the hall and it was super to see the children acting as waiters and waitresses at the event. If you know of any members of the older generation who might like to come along to the next café, please pass along the date: Friday, 9th December from 10 am in the school hall.

A request for silent fireworks next year was made.

PCSO Brandon Knight sent the following report:

We are still having reports and complaints from residents of Church Street/Squires Walk about the group of youth that are gathering on the bench by the church. I am in talks with yourselves about the possibility of the temporary removal of the bench to move the youth on. From a police point of view, we appreciate it is a memorial bench, but positive action needs to be taken. We can advise them and penalise them, but as long as the bench stays there, they are going to keep returning there.

- On the 05/11/2022 at approximately 10:30pm, we had reports of 2 males who were causing damage to the Morrison's daily. This involved damaging the shutters, bins and the air conditioning units. We believe that one of the males is one of the same males that are in the group by the church. The other male remains unknown. If anyone has any information about this event, please report it to 101 referencing 00639_I_05112022.

Rev Mark Badger did not send a report.

5. Any other business.

- Mike Biddle who is a member of the Kempsey Surgery Patient Participation Group, said they were looking for new members. The group liaises with patients and the practice, and the only proviso is that members have to be registered with the Kempsey Surgery.
- Simon Bott encouraged everyone to support the Village Christmas Fayre which will be held in St Mary's Church on Saturday 26th November starting at 2.30pm. The Christmas tree will be lit outside the Village Hall on Saturday 3rd December.
- Following the previous PACT meeting, MW had written to Steve Winfield, manager at St Peters Tesco, asking if they could consider reinstating the Community Bus Service which used to run from the village to the store on a

Friday morning. She hadn't received a reply, but would write again after this meeting.

Post meeting update: I have received the following reply to my letter.

Regarding the Bus Service question, I'd be more than keen to help in any way I can, but I wouldn't be able to provide the service or fund the service I believe previously it was provided by the local bus company.

6. Date of next meeting. Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 12.30pm.

Date of next Litter Pick. Sunday 22nd January 2023 at 2.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.55pm.