

Kempsey Parish Council



ANNUAL REPORT

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SPRING
2023

WELCOME

A Malvern Hills District Parish
Alongside the River Severn



The Year in Review – Cllr Chris Waller, Chair

This is the new format for the Parish Council's Annual Report which we hope that you will find more attractive and more informative than the short black & white reports that for many years have been delivered to each household in the Parish, but which we suspect are largely unread.

Kempsey Parish Council (KPC) comprises a maximum of 13 councillors and is the largest Parish Council in the Malvern Hills District. During the year just past, councillor numbers varied from 11 to 13. Cllrs Tony Windsor, Bob Bowley and S-J Smallpage resigned from the Council and Cllrs Paul Cooke and Jim Waugh joined, with Cllr Susan Bott rejoining after three months of absence. From April 2022 to March 2023, the Parish Council met formally on 15 occasions with our various committees meeting formally on 40 occasions. In addition a significant number of informal meetings were held to progress projects or to represent the Parish in discussions with other organisations.



Photo Courtesy T. Geens

Mr Simon Bott continued to provide his services as Lengthsman carrying out maintenance works on verges, dealing with fly tipped rubbish, removing graffiti from signs, managing the VAS traffic speed recorders and generally looking after the village and surrounds. Mr John Watkinson continued as the Assistant Lengthsman until January this year bringing to the end many years of service. KPC is currently recruiting for the Assistant Lengthsman's position.

During the year the Kempsey Sports Association closed down due to the retirement of the trustees and its remaining funds were transferred to the Parish Council which now manages the playing fields and sports pavilion at the Plovers Rise grounds.

Mrs Sharon Baxter continued to give unstinting support in her role as Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer, a job title that understates her position as the executive officer of the Council, and was ably supported by Bethan Emerick as Administrative Assistant.

New Council 2023 – 2027

The term of each Parish Council is four years and an election for a new Council of 13 councillors was to take place on 4 May this year. However on 5 April, only 9 nominations for Parish councillors had been received by Malvern Hills and those individuals were therefore duly elected to the Council. The Council now has vacancies for four additional members to be appointed by co-option and these vacancies will be advertised shortly. We hope that this report provides a greater insight into the work of the Council and will encourage parishioners to join in with the projects reported here.

The highlights of the year included:

- the award of up to £1.73m from the District Council for the new Community & Sports Centre being planned at the recently acquired community land at Pixham Ferry Lane.
- the appointment of Calfordseaden LLP as the consulting architects for the projects after an extensive national tender process
- the Parish Survey 2022 for which we received over 550 responses. We are all indebted to Cllr Cathy Garner for so successfully leading this project.
- the award of £50k from the District Council to employ a Community Builder for two years to take forward refining a community development plan through wide ranging consultations across the Parish and to encourage and support new interest groups and activities in Kempsey.
- Smart Water – Kempsey Parish awarded ‘ Smart Water Village’ status. Approximately 3 out of 5 properties in the Parish are now Smart Water protected which is a brilliant deterrent for crime and its associated harm. Congratulations Kempsey!!
- some 45 planning applications commented on by the Planning Committee, with significant effort on the plans for the South Worcester Urban Extension , the revision to the South Worcestershire Development Plan and in opposition to three new housing schemes being proposed for Kempsey which could add up to 237 new dwellings to the ‘village’.
- works in the Rocky – a grant of £550 from Natural Networks to carry out biodiversity enhancement and tree management works at the Rocky.
- Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations organised by volunteers and supported by KPC and other donors which paved the way for the establishment of Kempsey Promotions Community Interest Company.

Parish Finances and Budget Precept

Kempsey Parish now comprises some 2100 dwellings contributing to the precept, that part of the Council Tax that comes to the Parish Council. These funds substantially pay for the Council’s staff, the maintenance of the Community Centre, the Youth Centre, the Sports Pavilion and the playing fields at Plover’s Rise, the 256 acres of common land owned by KPC, the Rocky and also funds a number of the projects being run by the Council. Parish Councillors are, of course, unpaid parishioners either elected at the four yearly elections or co-opted onto the Council between elections.

The distribution of dwellings in the different Council Tax bands at January 2022 and January 2023 is given in the table below.

The increase in the year in the number of households paying Council Tax derives from a reduction in the number of households claiming exemptions and also to new housing being occupied in the St Modwen development in Broomhall, which is within the Parish boundary.

The largest increase came from Band D houses, though the highest proportion of the housing stock in the Parish remains in Band A-C properties (53.8%).

| ... | <u>January 2023</u> | | <u>January 2022</u> | | <u>Increase</u> |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Properties in each band | Actual | % | Actual | % | |
| Band A (2/3 of Band D) | 158 | 7.5 | 151 | 7.8 | 7 |
| Band B (7/9 of Band D) | 242 | 11.5 | 211 | 10.9 | 31 |
| Band C (8/9 of Band D) | 730 | 34.8 | 685 | 35.5 | 45 |
| Band D | 417 | 19.9 | 343 | 17.8 | 74 |
| Band E (11/9 of Band D) | 272 | 13.0 | 270 | 14.0 | 2 |
| Band F (13/9 of Band D) | 170 | 8.1 | 164 | 8.5 | 6 |
| Band G (15/9 of Band D) | 110 | 5.2 | 105 | 5.4 | nil |
| Band H (Band D * 2) | 1 | 0.05 | 1 | 0.1 | nil |
| Total | 2100 | 100.0 | 1930 | 100.0 | 170 |

Data from Malvern Hills District Council

Financial position

The end of year accounts are given in the following table, subject to audit. The Parish Council's accounts are audited annually both by an internal auditor appointed by the Council and by an external auditor appointed by the Worcestershire County Association of Local Councils. The Council continues to enjoy excellent audit reports thanks to the diligence of our Parish Office staff.

The Council's income in 2022/23 amounted to £203,861 of which £125,050 or 61% came from the precept. Total expenditure was £201,609. Of the Council's reserves, £355,773 is allocated to the new Community and Sports Centre at Pixham Ferry Lane (pending receipt of S106 funds from MHDC) and £8,509 is allocated to other projects or held on behalf of PACT.



| ANNUAL STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2022/2023 | | | | |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| RECEIPTS | BUDGET 2022-23 | | Received to 31.03.23 | Variance (+/-) to 31.03.23 |
| | £ | | £ | £ |
| Precept | 125,050.00 | | 125,050.00 | 0.00 |
| Wayleaves | 500 | | 484.67 | (15.33) |
| VAT recovered | 0 | | 14,665.82 | 14,665.82 |
| Utility Reimbursement | 4,900 | | 3,981.96 | (918.04) |
| Room 1 Hire / Rents | 28,325 | | 34,683.74 | (4,282.35) |
| Grants/Other | 0 | | 2,090.42 | 2,090.42 |
| Bank Interest | 350 | | 2,734.60 | 2,384.60 |
| Youth Centre Hire | 8,000 | | 12,696.00 | 4,486.25 |
| MRWP Use CIL | 4,445 | | 0.00 | (4,445.00) |
| Sports Clubs | 6,250 | | 1,281.03 | (4,968.97) |
| Lengthsman W.C.C Contribution | 2,555 | | 3,476.99 | 921.99 |
| Natural England Grant | 2,730 | | 2,716.00 | (14.00) |
| TOTAL RECEIVED | 183,105 | | 203,861.23 | |
| PAYMENTS | BUDGET 2022-23 | Carried Over 21/22 | Spent to 31.03.23 | Variance (+/-) to 31.03.23 |
| | £ | £ | £ (inc VAT) | £ (inc VAT) |
| F&GP Committee | 103,133 | 3,350 | 114,310.19 | -7,827.19 |
| Environment & Recreation Committee | 33,958 | 8,100 | 19,612.24 | 22,445.76 |
| Commons & Hams Committee | 12,000 | 34,691 | 4,156.68 | 42,534.32 |
| Community Centres Committee | 34,014 | 9,350 | 15,562.13 | 27,801.87 |
| Infrastructure Committee | 0 | 0 | 47,967.57 | -47,967.57 |
| TOTAL SPENT | 183,105 | 55,491 | 201,608.81 | |
| BANK RECONCILIATION TO 31.03.2023 | | | | |
| | | | £ | |
| *HSBC Current Account | | | 74,931.75 | |
| ** HSBC Pixham Ferry Lane Account | | | 81,803.87 | |
| *Close Brothers Business Notice Account | | | 88,207.85 | |
| *Cambridge and Counties | | | 86,363.37 | |
| *Unity Trust Bank | | | 84,820.00 | |
| Total Bank Account balances | | | 416,126.84 | |
| Less cheques uncleared | | | 6,101.52 | |
| Closing Balance as of 31.03.23 | | | <u>£ 410,025.32</u> | |
| EARMARKED RESERVES | | | | |
| ** For new Community Infrastructure & Development Project at Pixham Ferry Lane | | | | |
| ** Includes £4K ring fenced monies to develop a skatepark as agreed at the Parish Council meeting on 13.12.2021 | | | | |
| * For new Community infrastructure & Development Project at Pixham Ferry Lane | | | | |
| KEY | | | | |
| * Includes £8675.26 (up to 31.03.2023) ring fenced funds for maintaining Ashmoor Common SSSI site | | | | |
| * Includes PACT Money balance (up to 31.03.2023) of £229.70 | | | | |
| * Includes Community Infrastructure Levy £7677.06 to be spent 5 years of receipt 10.04.2019 | | | | |
| * Includes Community Infrastructure Levy £19268.95 to be spent 5 years of receipt 31.10.2020 | | | | |
| SUBJECT TO AUDIT | | | | |

Report of Planning Committee - Cllr Rob Gardener

The Planning Committee now meets regularly on the first Monday of each month, although changed on occasion because of Bank Holidays. Similarly, while we prefer evening meetings at 7:30pm to allow more parishioners to attend, that, too, has been changed sometimes due to councillor availability. Meetings and agendas are always publicised, so look out for them.

In another busy year we considered around 45 applications, mainly for planning permission for new development but also for works to listed buildings and to display advertisements. Unsurprisingly, it is the larger schemes which have required most attention because they will affect the Parish most and because of the numerous reports and plans which come with them. They have included housing and employment developments in the South Worcester Urban Extension (SWUE), particularly between Broomhall Way and Taylors Lane, where building is already well underway, as shown in the aerial view below.



Aerial view of proposed housing developments.

Courtesy of the South Kempsey Action Group

Most attention has been on the three housing applications on Post Office Lane, Brookend Lane and Napleton Lane, the latter with access from the A38 (outlined in red above). Together, these could add 237 dwellings to the village. We have objected to all three for various reasons but overlaying them all is that they are outside the development boundary and in the countryside.

There is also concern at Kempsey losing its village character and that local services could not cope with the increased population, particularly with the over 500 new dwellings added in recent years. This is shared by the large number of objections made by local residents. The Post Office Lane application has been refused planning permission and a public appeal inquiry is to commence on 25 April 2023. The outcome is unlikely to be known in time for the Annual Parish meeting. Napleton Lane has also been refused permission, without an appeal as yet, while Brookend Lane has not been decided at the time of writing.

Hartlands' Nursery and farm shop has closed and is to become an 'Ecopark' with employment units using biomass energy, a new farm shop/café and two live/work units. We objected to the scheme because of its design and location away from the village, with added concern for development creeping along the A38 frontage. MHDC thought otherwise and granted permission.

We also commented on several planning reports. Most significant is the South Worcestershire Development Plan Review which is at the final stage before being submitted for Public Examination. We repeated our objection to an employment site at Open Barn Farm, alongside the A38 just north of the village, since it would intrude into the Significant Gap intended to prevent Worcester merging with Kempsey.

Similarly, we commented on the Travellers and Travelling Showpeople's Development Planning Document although, again, additional travellers' sites are not proposed in Kempsey. Finally, we responded to an updated Green Infrastructure Strategy. This sets out a shared approach to securing a network of green spaces in the county involving local authorities, interested organisations and developers. This was generally welcomed and a number of additions suggested.

There are several social housing schemes on the former Astons Coaches site and on the north side of Broomhall Lane and alongside the A38. While the SWUE area is committed for development, we have been disappointed by the quality of the schemes proposed and at the lack of a comprehensive approach to the layouts to ensure, for instance, that there is a comprehensive road network, that new junctions and crossings on the A38 are kept to a minimum and that multiple drainage schemes do not increase the risk of flooding in the village. The major part of the SWUE has now received outline planning permission after several years negotiation.

Public Consultation 2022 - led by Cllr. Cathy Garner

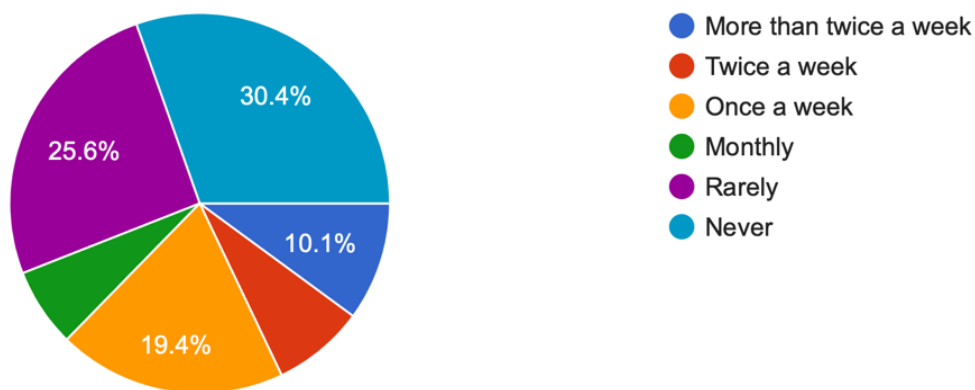
From April to November 2022, the Parish Council asked residents to complete a survey entitled 'Kempsey – what matters to you?' The survey was available online and in hard copy on request from the Parish Office. In the event, almost all forms were completed online. The last survey Parish survey was in 2014 and achieved a much smaller number of responses.

We received in all 552 completed forms, which by survey standards is a very significant number of responses. 98% came from postcode addresses within the Parish, both from Kempsey village but also including Baynhall, Kerswell Green, Stonehall Common, Green Street, Broomhall and Clerkenleap.

The three main messages of the 2022 Kempsey survey are:

1. Residents appreciate the beauty of Kempsey's countryside and want to maintain its status as a rural village. There was a very significant and unprompted objection to any new housing development that would threaten its rural location and the agreed 'Significant Gap' between the urban extension to the south of Worcester city and Kempsey village.
2. Most people enjoy being part of a friendly community where they feel safe and value the existing activities and amenities.
3. Many people express a wish for a wider range of facilities, a café, sporting and health care facilities, more provision for children and teenagers, a bigger school, a better bus service, more small shops, and environmental projects to build future resilience.

The table below shows the range of responses to the question:
How often do you attend clubs or activity groups in Kempsey?



More than half of respondents (56%) rarely or never attended any club or activity group in Kempsey and slightly less than half of respondents (44%) rarely or never attended any activity club or group outside of Kempsey.

Community Builder - Cllr Chris Waller

In January this year the District Council invited Parish Councils to apply for funding up to £50,000 over two years to employ a Community Builder who would work across the Parish to build and support connections and community engagement through activities such as events, clubs, sports, walks, social meet-ups and other ways to promote community connections.

The Parish Council has secured an offer from MHDC for the full amount of the funding and is currently in negotiation with the District Council on the funding agreement. It's the Parish Council's intention to extend the consultation started last year with the Survey 2022 to build a 'vision' for community development in Kempsey for the next decade whilst implementing the objectives of the Community Builder remit. We hope to be in a position to advertise for the Community Builder role from May onwards.

Environment & Recreation - Cllr Tom Travers

The main areas of work planned for the year were improvements and maintenance to the Plovers' Rise play area, continuing improvements to the Rocky, replacement of damaged refuse bins and supporting the work of the Main Road Working Party.

Also, much of the routine general maintenance was done by the Lengthsman and the Assistant Lengthsman, including performing work on hedgerows, trees, grassed areas, gullies and other tidying of debris. Sadly, also performed was some work repairing damage caused by vandalism. We were sorry to lose the services of our Assistant Lengthsman after eight years of valued work. It is hoped to recruit a replacement within the current Council year.

Work at the Rocky under the terms of a Natural Networks Grant was completed. Although the grant was modest, it provided a useful impetus and came with helpful advice not to mention a proliferation of bird and bat boxes! It is hoped permanent improvements can be made by channeling efforts of those willing to contribute and adopting a more careful approach to managing wild flowers and vegetation.

Although replacement of rusty bins has not yet taken place, the order of six new bins has been approved and installation is planned during April. Maintenance work on play equipment at Plovers' Rise was carried out and a job to improve ground works on the larger swing equipment in the far corner of the playing field is underway which should be completed before report issue. Tree pruning was carried at next to the Plovers Rise car park.

Individual sports clubs continue to thrive with junior football proving particularly popular. The increase in the use of the tennis courts seen during Covid continued. Cricket returned to pre-Covid levels of activity and rounders also resumed.

The 'Main Road Working Party' had another productive year and a separate report has been provided.

Main Road Working Party - Cllr Stephen Clamp

The Parish Council's initiative to improve the environs of Main Road is ongoing. The road has many attractive buildings, and our aim is to enhance the street scene further by making the roadside itself more attractive. A series of projects have been implemented and planned.

Our village history has been added to the Parish Council website and summarised in a history board which has been installed outside the Parish Hall.



The spectacular annual display of daffodils, is to be extended over time with the help of volunteers and property owners.

We encourage all properties which front the Main Road to join in, and we aim to begin expanding this into other parts of the village and Parish.

We have three smart cast iron planters, and now three raised flower beds to extend our floral display with colourful bedding plants across the seasons.

The Summer 2022 drought was unfortunately challenging for maintaining the flower display, and hence a towed watering

bowser is being procured to improve the situation going forward



New Community & Sports Centre - Cllr Chris Waller

In previous Annual Reports we have described the very lengthy and time consuming process of acquiring a site for this new facility, acquiring legal title to the site, completing an independent 'Needs Assessment' required by the District Council and applying for the main body of funding.

In May last year MHDC approved KPC's 300+ page application for £1.74m of funding that had accumulated from Section 106 social contribution funds paid by the developers of the six housing developments that had considerably expanded Kempsey village from c. 2015 onwards. Although the funds arose from housing developments in Kempsey, there was no guarantee that the funding would come to Kempsey and both of our District Councillors have worked hard to ensure that this happened.

During the year a design team of five members has been working with our architects, Calfordseaden LLP, to design the site and to prepare the documentation required for application for Full Planning Permission to MHDC. The MHDC response to a pre-application submission in November last year did not identify any significant issues.

The location and the outline design of the site is shown in the artist's impression below, seen from the west.

The entrance to the facility will be slightly north of the junction of Pixham Ferry Lane and Old Road South with the main access route from the A38 being down the lane. After many years of discussion between Taylor Wimpey and County Highways, agreement has finally been reached on the provision of passing bays along the lane. Work on constructing the passing bays will hopefully commence this summer when the ongoing works on the A38 have been completed.

The site will need to be developed in phases, though the bulk of the development is expected to occur within Phase 1, comprising the building with a community hall and kitchen, a café, storage, manager's office and toilets. The building will also include four changing rooms to serve the sports pitches which will primarily consist of four football pitches, though these will also be available for other sports particularly in the summer

A play area for children is also included in the Phase 1 design as is a trim trail around the site and the main car park with parking for 100 cars. When completed, the football activities at Plover's Rise will transfer to the new site allowing cricket and other activities to develop at the existing playing fields.



Artist's representation of the proposed site layout seen from the west

The design includes provision for a skate park and BMX track (to be funded separately) towards the west of the site as well as opportunities for adding picnic areas, a demonstration mini-orchard and wild flower and habitat bio-diversity areas for both environmental and educational purposes.

The large building shown in the layout above is a community / sports hall and will come in a later phase when funds permit. Our architects have also been costing the project as the design has evolved particularly as construction costs have risen significantly with the increased cost of energy. Compromises in the design have had to be made along the way, however the intention remains to build an all electrically powered facility with on-site solar power generation and water storage and recycling.

Following the latest cost analysis the project remains within budget, 86% of which is currently fully funded. An informal invitation has been received from The Football Foundation for £350k and this opportunity to achieve full budget funding provision is being pursued.

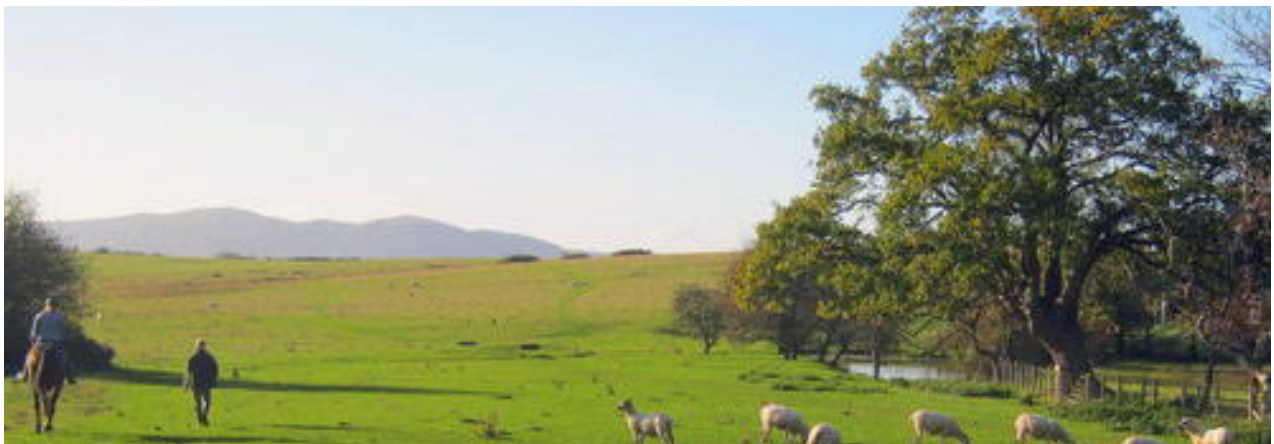
A public consultation on the scheme had been planned for March this year but was delayed due to design modifications necessary for the project to remain within budget. These open days, to be held at the Youth Centre at Plover's Rise, will go ahead shortly and will display the details of the site layout and options for the final appearance of the buildings. Please consult the Parish Council website for the dates of the event.

Commons and Hams - Cllr Trevor Geens

Normoor and Stonehall Commons have been cut, and the hay baled and removed. At Kerswell Green Common, sterling work is being carried out by a local resident to establish an area as a wildflower meadow and pollinator area. The group of coniferous trees there have been managed to give more space to the adjacent Oak tree, with some of the cut timber being used to create a habitat area for wildlife and insects.

We hope this is all approved of as a way of enhancing the local area. Should anyone wish to assist in maintaining and progressing this good work, please ask through the Parish Office.

This coming year we intend to carry out work to reduce the amount of gorse growing on Kempsey Common. This will be done in order to manage the open areas of the common, and for the good health of the gorse itself which provides such important habitat.



A view across Kempsey Common - one of Kemspey's great assets.

Community Centres - Cllr Neil Stevens

The Parish Council owns and is responsible for three buildings in Kempsey – the Community Centre (on Main Road), The Youth Centre (at Plovers Rise) and the Sports Pavilion (also at Plovers Rise).



Community Centre

is the old school building on the left hand side as you leave the village heading north towards Worcester.

Much of the building is occupied by Magic Moments Children's Nursery and the Hair Gallery but there is also a meeting/function room in the building, known as Room One, together with a small kitchen area. This room is used extensively by the Parish Council for its main monthly meeting and also for

a number of committee meetings.

However the room is also used for Pilates on Monday mornings, the Bridge Club on Wednesday afternoons and by Slimming World on Saturday mornings. Over recent weeks the room has also been used on Tuesday mornings as part of the Warm Spaces initiative run (in conjunction with the Parish Council) by the newly formed Kempsey Promotions Community Interest Company. The room itself measures approximately 30ft long and 16 ft wide and can be hired via the Parish Council Office – the current fee is £10 .00 per hour. It has free high speed wi-fi, provided by Air Band.

Sports Pavilion

Also located at Plovers Rise Playing Field, this building is used by our local village football clubs at weekends and by the cricket club in the summer months. It is also used as an additional indoor space when special events are held on the sports field. Refurbishment of the building is planned during 2023.

Youth Centre

Located at Plovers Rise Playing Field, the Youth Centre is currently used by a wide variety of groups and societies during the week.

These include yoga, pilates, dance fitness, craft group, the WI, toddler group, dog training and slimming groups as well as scouts, cubs and beavers. The table below gives details of how the venue is used on a daily basis.



It's great to see village venues being used for such a wide range of social activities and the Youth Centre is also often made use of at weekends for family parties. Apart from the main hall (measuring approx. 49ft long and 26ft wide) there is also a fully equipped fitted kitchen.

This venue can also be hired via the Parish Office and the current fee is £12.50 per hour

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|----------------|----------------|
| morning | morning | morning | morning | morning | morning | morning |
| <u>Pilates</u> 09:30 - 10:30 | <u>Craft Group</u> 1st and 3rd Tuesdays each month 10:30 - 12:30 | <u>Slimming World</u> 10:00 - 12:00 | <u>Toddler Group</u> 10:30 - 12:30 | <u>Over 50s</u> dance-fit class 09:45 - 10:45 | Available | Available |
| afternoon | afternoon | afternoon | afternoon | afternoon | afternoon | afternoon |
| <u>W.I.</u> Third Monday of each month 1:30 - 4:00 | Available | Not Available | <u>Pilates</u> 1:00 - 2:00 | Available | Family Parties | Family Parties |
| evening | evening | evening | evening | evening | evening | evening |
| <u>Yoga</u> 6:30 - 7:30 | <u>Cubs</u> 6:30 - 8:00 | <u>Slimming World</u> 7:00 - 9:00 | <u>Dog Training</u> 6:00 - 8:00 | <u>Beavers</u> 6:00 - 7:00 <u>Scouts</u> 7:30 - 9:30 | Available | Available |

Activities at the Youth Centre at the time of writing - April 2023

Did You Know?

Claiming lower sewerage charges from Severn Trent

A worthwhile saving can be made by householders on Severn Trent sewerage charges of approximately 30% if it can be shown that no **surface water** discharges from their property directly or indirectly into Severn Trent sewers.

Charges should not apply if the property discharges **surface water** to soakaways or to a ditch or watercourse. What is less well known is that many properties in the rural areas built before 1974 discharged surface water into highway drains by joint agreement between the former Rural District Councils and the County Council. Since in many cases these remain the responsibility of the highway authority not Severn Trent then Severn Trent should not levy any charges. It is worthwhile householders checking the sewer records held at Malvern District Council offices.

It should be noted however that if householders have **surface water** discharging into foul sewers then they would still be liable for the charges. Of course if any householder decides to disconnect **all surface water** from the sewerage system by providing a satisfactory soakaway system they would benefit from the reduction in charges plus help to alleviate possible flooding caused by surcharging of the sewerage system.

Severn Trent now level a separate charge in respect of highway drainage which appears separately on water bills. This is unfortunately still the case where Severn Trent do not deal with highway drainage and leave it to WCC Highways. However this does not preclude the reduction allowed as described above.

I note both Severn Trent and the Environment Agency now prefer the use of soakaways in more recent planning applications for development, in which case the above could well apply in respect of the more recent housing developments in Kempsey.

On application to them, Severn Trent will provide the necessary application forms. I hope this may save some residents some money.

Michael Biddle
7 Brookside, Kempsey WR5 3LB
Telephone 01905 820552

Editor's note: Mike Biddle has been a stalwart of the Kempsey community for very many years, previously serving as Chair of the Parish Council and as a District Councillor. Mike continues to support the Parish Council with his expertise as a Chartered Civil Engineer and is a font of useful information, both historic and modern.

Kempsey Parish Councillors (as of May 2023)

Susan Bott, c/o the Parish Office Tel. 01905 828408

Shalini Bristow, Stonehall Common Tel. 01905 828383

Marc Charnock, c/o the Parish Office Tel. 07909 957352

Stephen Clamp, c/o the Parish Office Tel. 07770 922992

Paul Cooke, Church Street, Kempsey Tel. 07836 740481

Rob Gardener, Main Rd, Kempsey Tel. 07729 169980

Neil Stevens, Darwin Close, Kempsey Tel. 01905 821100

Chris Waller, Stonehall Common Tel. 01905 828383 Paul

Webber, Church Street, Kempsey Tel. 07912 350902

Four vacancies

Parish Office

Council Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer: Sharon Baxter

Administrative Assistant: Bethan Emerick

Lengthsman: Simon Bott: c/o Parish Office

Assistant Lengthsman: vacancy

Parish Office contacts

Community Centre, Main Road, Kempsey, WR5 3LQ

Telephone 01905 828183 Email – kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com

The Parish Office is located to the rear of the Community Centre and is normally open to the public between 10.00am to 2.00pm Monday to Friday inclusive. Outside of these hours, messages may be left on the office answering machine and will be answered when the Clerk or Administrative Assistant are available.

For all notices of Council and Committee meetings

Parish Council Website: **www.kempseyhub.co.uk**

Notice boards: In front of the Community Centre and the Parish Hall

District Councillors:

David Harrison, 8 Brookend Lane, Kempsey WR5 3LD Tel: 01905 828107

John Michael, 18 Meadow Close, Kempsey, WR5 3NL Tel. 01905 820966

County Councillor:

Martin Allen, Hollygate, Ellsdon, Kempsey, WR5 3NT Tel. 07375 860264.

Reporting Problems in Kempsey – Your Contacts.

- If you find a problem then please report it direct, and as soon as possible.
- Always get an incident/reference number and the name of who you talk to
 - record this with the date and time

| | |
|--|--|
| General litter, fly tipping, potential hazardous waste, abandoned vehicles, dead animals on public land, planning enquiries, planning enforcement and missed bin collections | Malvern Hills District Council Hub 01684 862151 (Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm) www.malvern hills.gov.uk |
| Highway problems – Roads, Potholes, Blocked Drains, Damage to Road Signs, Damage to Pavements and Kerbs, bus timetables and cancelled / late buses. Overgrown footpaths, bridleways and byways, damaged stiles and finger posts Blocked footpaths due to obstructions. | Worcestershire County Council Hub 01905 765 765 (Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm) www.worcestershire.gov.uk |
| Environmental Health and Trading Standards. | Worcester Regulatory Services 01905 822 799 |
| Fortis Living/Platform Housing Grp | 0330 123 0700 / 0333 200 7304 |
| Water leaks, Sewage Leaks, and Blocked Sewers. | Severn Trent Water 0800 783 4444 (24 hours) |
| Gas Leaks | National Grid 0800 111 999 (24 hours) |
| Electricity (Emergency & Loss of supply) | Western Power 0800 678 3105 (24 hours) |
| Fire (Non urgent, smoke detector and Fire Prevention advice) | 0345 122 4454 |
| Environment Agency Floodline | 0345 988 1188 (24 hours) |
| Kempsey Parish Council | 01905 828183 (answer-phone if not manned) |
| Worcester Police - non urgent reports and enquiries | 0300 333 3000 or 101 |
| Crime-stoppers – (anonymous reporting) | 0800 555 111 |
| Emergency Services: Fire, Police or Ambulance | 999 or 112 |
| Revenue and Benefits Malvern Hills District. | 0300 456 0560 |

Kempsey Promotions Community Interest Company

Kempsey now has its own Community Interest Company. This is a 'Not For Profit' limited company set up by four Kempsey residents after delivering some of the community activities over the Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend in June 2022. The company is registered at Companies' House and is limited by guarantee.

Establishing a Not-For-Profit limited company enabled the CIC to open a bank account, which is vital when generating income, paying suppliers and applying for funding. The CIC's Articles of Association set out the aims of the company and confirm that anything undertaken will be for the benefit of the people of the Parish of Kempsey.

Kempsey's CIC is primarily committed to working with existing groups in the Parish and provide support however needed.

Additionally Kempsey Promotions CIC will undertake projects on its own behalf . In January this year Warm Welcome was established at the Community Centre , every Tuesday from 10.00 to 12.00. This activity is grant funded by Malvern Hills District Council , Platform Housing and the Parish Council which provides accommodation, heating and facilities free of charge.

We will be staging a celebration event to mark the Coronation of King Charles III at Coronation Square in Kempsey on Sunday 7th May 2023.

Volunteers – the CIC is always keen to hear from anyone who would like to get involved with community activities in the Parish and help make a difference. There's plenty to do!

Feel free to get in touch
Simon Bott, Director KPCIC

Email: infokempseyrevels@gmail.com
Tel: 07767 818229

FEEDBACK

If you have any comments on this new format for our Annual Report, or on the individual reports, we would appreciate your views. Please send comments to the Parish Office using

kempseyparishcouncil@gmail.com

NEW COMMUNITY BUS KEMPSEY & SEVERN STOKE

~STARTING FRIDAY 24th MARCH, RUNNING EVERY FRIDAY~



Serving Kempsey/ Severn Stoke & the rural area, going to St Peter's Garden Centre, Tesco & Aldi/BM Bargains.

First pick up 1030 at Clifton then picking up in Severn Stoke, Kinnersley, Kerswell Green, Baynall, Kempsey Area and The Huntsman.

Going to:

St Peter's Garden Centre, arriving approx. 1110,

Tesco's at approx. 1120 and Aldi/BM Bargains at 1125

~ Return trip starts at 1235 commencing at Aldi car park ~

Fares: £4 Return or £2 Return for Concessionary Bus Pass holders

All journeys must be pre-booked by phone.

Exact pick-up times will be confirmed when you phone.

This is a 'Ring and Book' service operated by 'Worcester Wheels' Community Transport scheme and supported by your local County Councillor Martin Allen.



To book or get more information, and to register to use this service, please call Worcester Wheels on:

01905 450654

Lines open 0800 - 1600 Monday – Friday (or leave message outside these hours and we'll call you back)