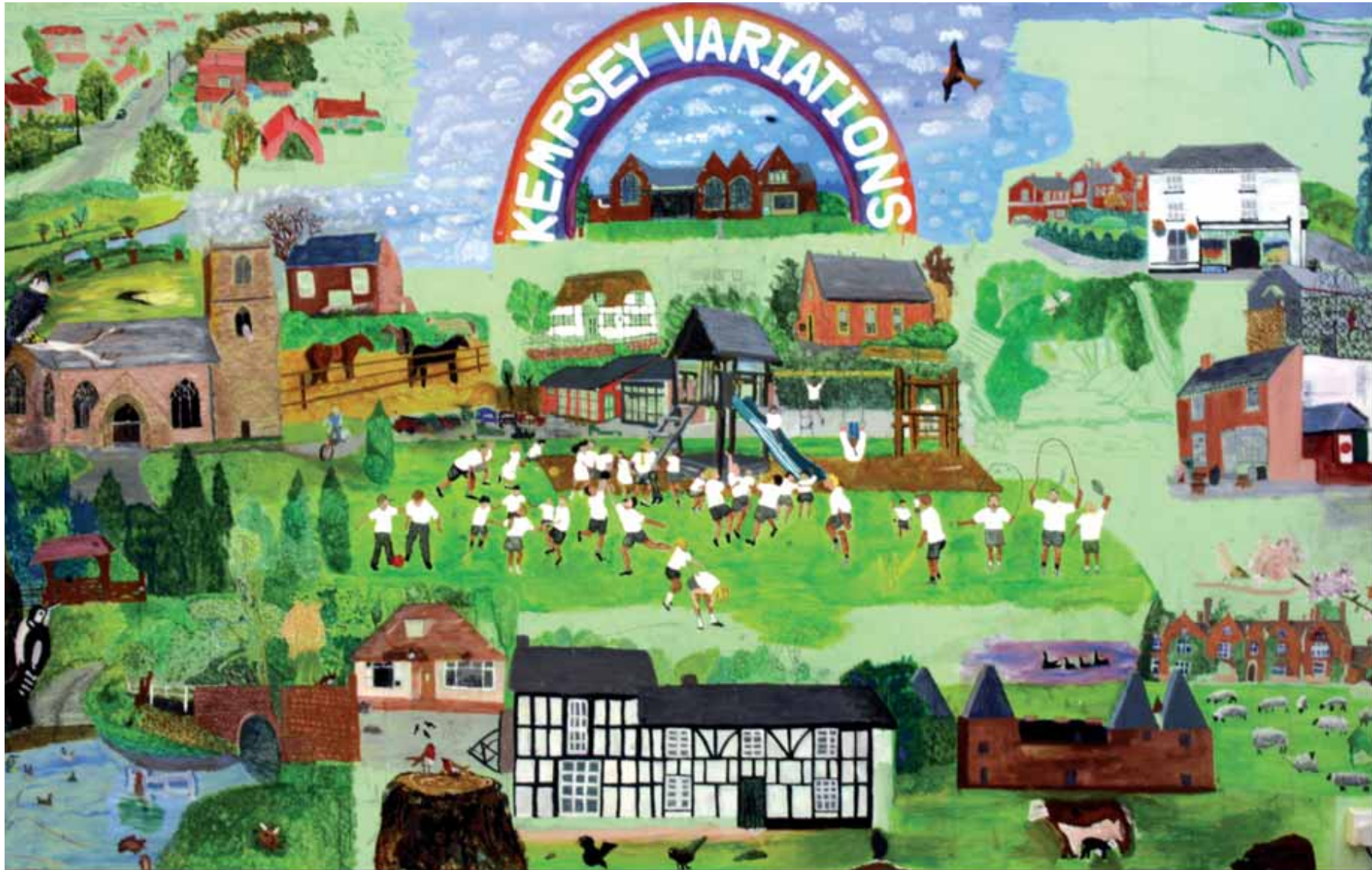


KEMPSEY PARISH PLAN



"Kempsey Variations" by the children of Kempsey Primary School and Eleanor Savage. On the wall of Kempsey Primary School hall.

A call for action by the residents of Kempsey, Worcestershire



Kempsey round and about...



- The Parish of Kempsey covers an area of 3233 acres (1307 hectares).
- There are 1325 households with 3027 people living in the Parish.
- 15% of people are under 16. 12% are aged between 16 and 30, while 17% are aged 30-44. Figures for these groups are all below the county average.
- 27% of people are 45-59, 6.7% are 60-64 and 21.5% are above 65. The Kempsey figures for these 45-65+ age groups are above the county average.



These are your concerns

- The Parish Council to oppose any development outside the existing settlement boundary.
- Maintain the "strategic gap" between Kempsey and the City of Worcester.
- Improve the visibility and effectiveness of policing in the Parish.
- Send the detailed results of the survey to all the bodies which affect the well-being of the Parish.
- Ensure that those responsible for County and Regional transport strategies are fully aware of the needs of the Parish.
- Investigate the appointment of a Litter Warden and a Community Warden to monitor the appearance of the Parish.

Parish overview

This Parish Plan is based on the most extensive and detailed survey of the wishes, needs, hopes and fears of the people who live in our Parish. The figures speak for themselves: More than 1300 people completed the detailed questionnaire; over 400 people attended the two Parish Open Days. In all you provided us with thousands of responses on every aspect of village life. The Parish Plan Working Party gratefully acknowledges the range and depth of public support from all villages, hamlets and settlements that make up the widespread community we call Kempsey.

One overwhelming conclusion emerges: Kempsey is already big enough. The green fields surrounding the village, and the Commons and Hams, are valued and vital assets which must be preserved. In the recent past the village has lost its hardware store, the butcher's shop and a garage, a trend that needs to be halted. This is not to say that nothing should change. There are needs for affordable housing, but within the existing settlement boundary. There are needs for better facilities for the elderly and disabled; for better footpaths and crossing places on busy roads; for enlarged medical facilities; for improved public sewers; for more visible policing; and for improved facilities for the young of the Parish (who responded so well to the Youth Survey).

We want the Parish to be better, not bigger.

We must, however, be aware that it will not be possible to achieve all that we would wish in the short term: improvements cost money and many of the things we would like to see will require the active concurrence and support of other authorities which are likewise constrained by funding. The Parish Council has limited legal powers, but great influence when backed by measured public opinion and factual information.

The survey was, in effect, a call to action and the most important actions are listed in this document. Over and beyond these actions we believe that the best way forward is to enlist the interest and participation of all residents in questioning and supporting, or opposing as necessary, all proposals which bear on the future of Kempsey, its open spaces, its amenities and infrastructure.

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Housing

One of the greatest concerns of Kempsey residents expressed in the survey, in public meetings and by residents' groups, is of over-development. 83 houses were built between 1996 and 2004 – 44 large and 39 small; a further 12 are in the pipeline. These figures illustrate the pressure on space.

Kempsey is a large parish valued for its strength of community feeling and the quality of rural life. The survey showed almost 90% of residents want development to occur only within the existing settlement boundary and overwhelmingly that Kempsey must be kept separate from the City of Worcester by a "strategic gap" of green fields, preserved from housing or industrial development.

It is recognised that some further development must take place, particularly the provision of low-cost housing for families and young people seeking to get on the housing ladder. Such homes should also be available for rent and the focus should be on the needs of Kempsey residents. They should be built on currently identified sites within the settlement boundary. Further large executive-type houses are considered undesirable but building for the needs of disabled people is strongly supported.

There is widespread concern about the adequacy of public services. The sewers are of mixed public and private ownership, of uncertain capacity and old. The surgery is full, the school is approaching full capacity and there is no dentist.



Actions

- Maintain the settlement boundary as in the Malvern Hills District Plan.
- Submit the detailed survey findings and all available data on housing and services to MHDC and the relevant public bodies.
- Ensure that the strategic gap is preserved by reviewing all proposals for activity within the defined area.
- Follow up the results of the earlier submission by the Parish Plan Working Party to the Local Plan Public Enquiry.



Countryside and environment

People are deeply concerned about preserving the village and rural status of Kempsey. It is seen as being under threat from speeding traffic, lack of safe crossing places on main roads, dangerous parking, serious misuse of narrow country lanes by commuter traffic and heavy goods vehicles. The quality of life is much diminished by motorway noise for a considerable number of residents, while the fear of becoming a dormitory suburb of Worcester weighs heavily with many.

There are serious concerns about the quality of footpaths (especially for disabled people), lighting in some areas, and the run-down condition of others (such as the Rocky). Litter, dog fouling, and anti-social behaviour have become significant issues for large numbers of people.

The Commons and Hams are highly valued as recreational spaces but need constant vigilance to protect their boundaries and uses.

Local transport services are not well used, but could be improved by better time-tabling and greater integration between bus operators. Accessibility to Worcester Royal Hospital by public transport is becoming an important issue for many residents.



Actions

Short term:

- Establish clear guidelines on dealing with activities that impinge on the Commons and Hams.
- Review the emerging local transport strategies with special reference to the accessibility of the Hospital.

Medium term:

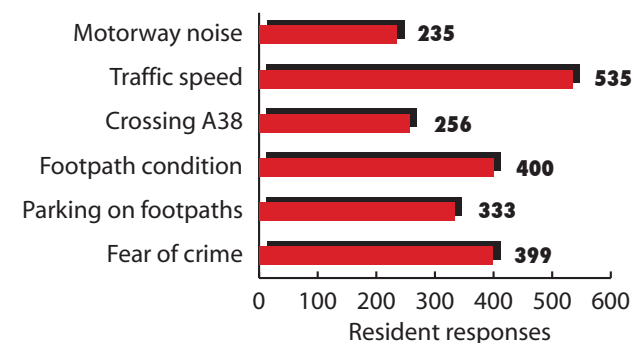
- Form a long term plan to improve lighting, fencing and general amenity of areas like the Rocky (building on the start made by the Parish Lengthsman).

Long term:

- Promote the establishment of parts of Hatfield Brook as a Wildlife Corridor, with the help of Worcestershire Wildlife Trust.

Continuing:

- With District & County authorities and the Police, see how powers can be exercised to deal with parking, speeding, litter, recycling, dog fouling and anti-social behaviour.
- Lobby the local MP on measures and a timescale to reduce the noise from the M5.
- Oppose the development of business activities that will result in HGVs regularly using narrow lanes.
- Request the Environment Agency to monitor the effects of up-stream flood protection on levees in Kempsey.



What concerns residents of Kempsey

Skills and business

There is a wide diversity of businesses in Kempsey: everything from the one-person business to large companies – more than 130 in all. They make a significant contribution to the community, both in employment terms, and in supporting village activities, notably support for Kempsey Parish News through advertising.

There is a marked daily ebb and flow of people in and out of the village. 11% of survey respondents work in Kempsey and 48% travel out of the village to work. However, a significant number travel in to work in horticulture/agriculture and for the care of the elderly. New businesses are being created (e.g a new nursery in the Community Centre) and existing businesses are being enhanced (e.g. video/dvd rental at the Original Stores) to meet village demand.

However, there are strong concerns about the loss of some businesses, notably the hardware store, the butcher's, and the garage with the fear that the change of use for these sites will be irreversible. Similar fears surround the change of agricultural land to housing use, particularly outside the existing boundary, clearly an irreversible change if allowed. Residents have also expressed growing concerns about the impact of some business activities, singling out Bestmans Lane, Napleton Lane and Brookend Lane as narrow, dangerous lanes in which HGVs are a potential hazard; the speed of some agricultural vehicles through the village is also of growing concern. It is clear that there is no shortage of skills in the village, as evidenced by the numbers of clubs and societies and the take up of the wide range of meeting places. Both with regard to businesses and clubs, societies and skills, there is a need for an easily accessible village directory.

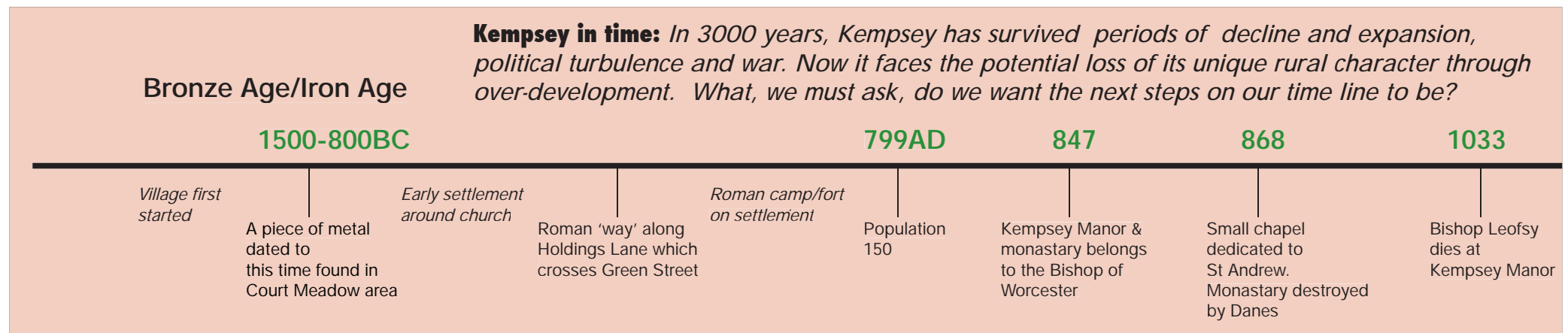
Actions

Short term:

- Establish a directory of businesses and services operating in, and for Kempsey.

At all times:

- Oppose the development of businesses involving the use of heavy vehicles in the narrow lanes of the Parish.



Leisure

Our survey showed that there is a wide variety of opportunities to participate in leisure-time activities, but equally there are many people who would like to participate but do not have adequate information about when and where clubs and societies meet.

The river banks, the river, the Hams and Commons provide ample open space for leisure and are rich in flora, fauna and birds and there is a strong feeling that these areas should be protected. For more organised leisure activities the sports and recreation ground is much valued and development of the marina, restaurant and caravan facilities by the river is bringing a welcome boost to both business and enjoyment in the Parish.

In the Youth survey the young people answered that they made good use of clubs, such as the Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Tennis, Football and Youth clubs. However, more indicated they left the village for leisure pursuits, mainly for interests not offered in the Parish. They are travelling to Worcester and Malvern and using after-school clubs. These clubs provide interests such as swimming, rugby, music, trampolining, rowing and basketball. There was a substantial request for more equipment to be installed at the playing field, particularly for the older children and teenagers, equipment for casual use – not a club situation.

An interest was shown in a local film club (but none expressed in an Internet club). The Youth Club is well used and valued by the young people.

Actions

Short term:

- Establish a directory of sport and hobby clubs, social groups and associations. Consider an "open day" to promote these activities.

Continuing:

- Maintain footpaths and bridleways. Preserve the Commons and Hams from inappropriate development and from misuse by motor vehicles.
- Encourage the planting of trees, bulbs and shrubs

Long term:

- Seek sources of funding to permit investment in improving the open spaces in the Parish – for instance clearing and reinstating ancient ponds.
- List all ancient monuments and sites and seek historical status.
- Seek funding for play equipment for wider age groups.

Middle Ages

1086

Domesday survey
Population 210

1182

Population
500

1186

Henry II
holds court
in Kempsey

1189

161 acres of
forest cleared

1250

Earliest part of
existing church built

1265

de Montfort comes
with Henry III as a
prisoner to see Bishop
Cantelupe. Mass said
in Kempsey Church

1276

Edward I
visits

1291

Kempsey has a
regular vicar
and pays taxes
to the Pope

Youth and education

Kempsey young people enjoy cycling and feel safe on village roads. According to the Survey, most do not use public transport, but that was not seen as a problem.

Play areas identified as the most popular are the Playing Fields, the Commons and the Rocky. The Commons have the disadvantage of needing a car to get there while no parking is allowed on Common land. Also, the use of the Commons' access roads by HGVs can make travelling by bicycle a little hazardous.

Groups of young people gathering in residential areas, such as the Rocky, can lead to tension between them and residents. Main needs identified by Kempsey young people are: basketball courts, play equipment for older children (eg climbing frames), football posts in play areas other than the Playing Fields, netball courts and a hard area for skating, blading and skateboarding.

More youth groups have been requested. Currently a Youth Club is run on a Thursday night, in two sessions, for children up to 16 years old. Volunteers are already scarce and it is likely to prove difficult to run more sessions. Young people identified the need for shops, particularly a fish and chip shop, and were interested in a film club. Many clubs were attended in Kempsey and outside the Parish. 40 young people were also interested in joining a group to represent their view to the Parish Council.

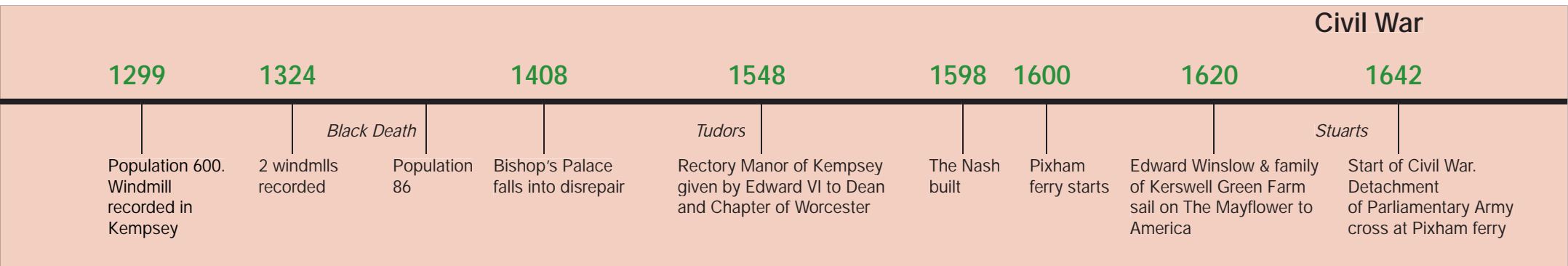
Kempsey is served by a Primary School. At age 11 children must leave the Parish for secondary education. The survey showed that approximately 33% of respondents indicated support for a new Primary School for Kempsey.

Actions

Short term:

- Funding to be sought and planning issues to be investigated by the Parish Council for new outdoor facilities for older children at the Playing Fields.
- Funding to be sought and planning issues to be investigated for facilities (at least football posts) at Kings Hill and Kerswell Green.
- A basketball post to be erected on an area of hard standing and the Parish Council to seek funding and investigate the feasibility of building a full-size court.
- A volunteer to be sought to operate a film club on a trial basis at the Youth Centre.

There was a substantial call for provision of more play areas. The ideal solution would be for an area of land to be found for youth activities, such as skateboarding, not surrounded by residential building.



Quality of life and policing

Although Kempsey is a low-crime area, there appears much concern amongst residents about the level of policing in the Parish, response times and the great difficulty communicating with our Beat Officer. Only a few residents are content with the service provided by our Community Police Officer and this will be the subject of discussion with him. Details of responses and a list of areas which cause concern are available in the statistical summary at the Parish Office. Suggested actions are provided which can be monitored by residents and the Parish Council.

The concerns of our residents are specifically listed and these fall into three main categories.

1. *Badly-lit or unlit areas of the Parish*
2. *Young people gathering in specific areas*
3. *Traffic and speed on the A38 and side roads*

Actions

- To address the first group of concerns, consult with the County Council about improving footway lighting where it is perceived to be inadequate. Enquire about additional lighting, and trim overhanging branches.
- The second group concerns youth. Work with professional officers from the County Youth Service and our Community Police Officer to reduce the perceived threat of groups of young people gathering in certain areas. There are also incidents of anti-social behaviour.
- The third group of concerns is traffic and highway problem. Continue to work with the Highways Partnership to slow traffic speeds on the A38 and minor roads with Police support, particularly Stonehall Common, Kerswell Green and Green Street.
- Crime figures for the Parish could be published regularly.
- Encourage the growth of Neighbourhood Watch with a target of one contact in each road in the Parish.

1644/45	1649	1650	1660
Church walls used as target practice - south wall bears scars of musket balls	<i>End of Civil War</i> Villagers help fortify Worcester City & provide provisions for Royalist garrison	Kempsey Manor sold by Parliamentary Commissioners to a London Stationer	<i>Restoration of Charles II</i> Kempsey Manor & lands restored to Bishop of Worcester. A school is recorded

Disability, dependency and healthcare

In 2001 (the date of the last Census) nearly 20% of Kempsey residents were reported as having limiting long-term illnesses. A separate survey in 2003 showed 6% of residents were claiming disability benefits. Kempsey also has a greater percentage of older people than is average for the rest of the county.

Within the Parish, sheltered accommodation and day-care facilities are available. Elgar Housing currently has 31 sheltered homes around Kempsey (plus 36 flats in The Firs). The Firs provides 16 day-care places on Tuesdays and a transport service, all run by volunteers.

The relatively large proportion of disabled and elderly residents obviously focuses attention on the condition of pavements and crossings. This includes aspects such as the location of dropped kerbs, and hazards on (and overhanging) paths which may be difficult to negotiate or see. But car access to walks, footpaths and viewing points is also important to people who find walking difficult.

Indoors, easy access is needed to buildings such as shops, whilst public facilities need to take account of access and the needs of people with visual or hearing disabilities.

The majority of residents attend a doctor's surgery in Kempsey and a dentist in Worcester. There is a call for the surgery to be open full-time and for other services to be available in the village.

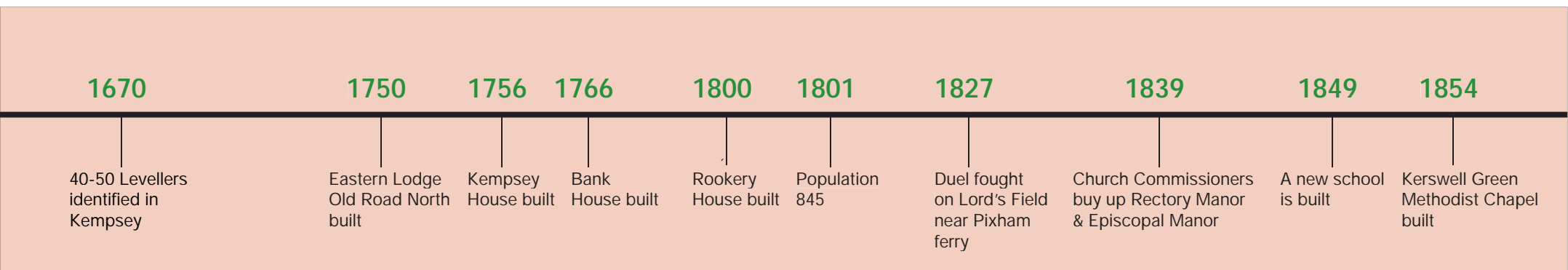
Actions

Outdoors:

- Investigate the installation of post boxes at Meadow Close/Old Road South and Old Road North.
- Survey lane and pavement surfaces as the basis for plan to improve difficult surfaces.
- Lengthen the pavement from Old Road South to Squires Walk.
- Notify owners of obstructive billboards and advertising signs that they must be removed.
- Prepare a list of overhanging hedges and trees and schedule for cutting back. Ensure that clippings are removed to reduce the risk of punctures from sharp thorns .
- Survey and schedule dropped kerbs.
- Prevent vehicles parking on pavements.
- Survey steps for the need for painted white edging, depth of tread and handrails.

Indoors:

- Survey shops and other facilities for access via ramps.
- Investigate the installation of a lift on the rear of the mobile library.
- Request menus in public houses to be available in large print and Braille.
- Review the possibility of a loop system in the Parish Hall and Community Centre.



Parish Council

The Council is elected to represent the interests of all residents. Its costs are met by an element of the Council Tax called the Parish Precept. This money is used to pay for an office and a Clerk to the Council and other employees (such as the Village Lengthsman), to maintain the Community Centre, administer the Commons and Hams, comment on planning applications, and carry out actions concerned with the well-being of the community. The Parish Council acts as the conduit for communications with all elements of local government, public utilities, the Police and partnership organisations.

The Parish Council is consulted by these bodies on important issues such as transport policy, major planning strategies and environmental issues and they are more effectively influenced if the Parish submissions are supported by documentary evidence of the wishes of the community. This was the reason for the sheer scale of the survey undertaken for the purposes of the Parish Plan. The Parish Council aims to get the Parish Plan adopted as supplementary planning guidance by the District Council.

Local planning applications are considered by the Parish Council, whose views are considered by the District Planning Committee. The Parish Council has a right to be heard at these meetings if so desired.

Residents are encouraged to make their views known on any subject that concerns them at the democratic half hour which precedes the monthly Council meeting.

Actions

- Investigate appointing a Litter Warden and a Community Warden.
- Consider the long-term feasibility of providing a new purpose-built Community Centre.
- Request the Parish Council to appoint Parish Councillors to have special responsibility for Youth, and health and disability.

How to contact the Parish Council

- The Parish Office is located at the Community Centre, Main Road.
- It is open Monday to Friday between 11.00am and 12.00 noon.
- Telephone : 01905 828183
- email : kempseyparishcouncil@btinternet.com

Alternatively you can contact any Parish Councillor – names and addresses appear on the public notice boards, in the annual Parish Report and in the Kempsey Parish News.

1866	1867	1875	1877	1888	1889	1895	1897	1903
Common land now in control of secular parish. The Limes House built	Kempsey Baptist Chapel built in Church Street	Last windmill demolished	Parish magazine published, but lasts until end of year	Many Kempsey women work at home as shirt makers. Kempsey Pig Club starts	Parish magazine starts again	First meeting of Kempsey Parish Council	Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. Village holds a picnic & sports day	Sewerage system starts

Keeping you informed

You want to know what is happening in the Parish, how it is affected by the actions of the District and County Councils and how to contact the people who can tell you what you want to know. The Kempsey Parish News, village notice boards, democratic half hours at the start of Parish Council meetings and the Annual Parish Meeting all play their part in communication.

However, technology is providing new ways of communication through the Internet and email and this is fast becoming the primary channel of communication between Parishes, Districts, Counties and central government.

Not everybody is able, or keen to use this method of communication, but the Parish Council must move with the times and develop a strategy for better all-round communication, mixing the new technology and traditional paper-based methods to deliver more timely and useful information to all households. The options include a website, possibly containing directories of businesses and services available in the Parish, and a continuing central role for the Kempsey Parish News.

Actions

Short term:

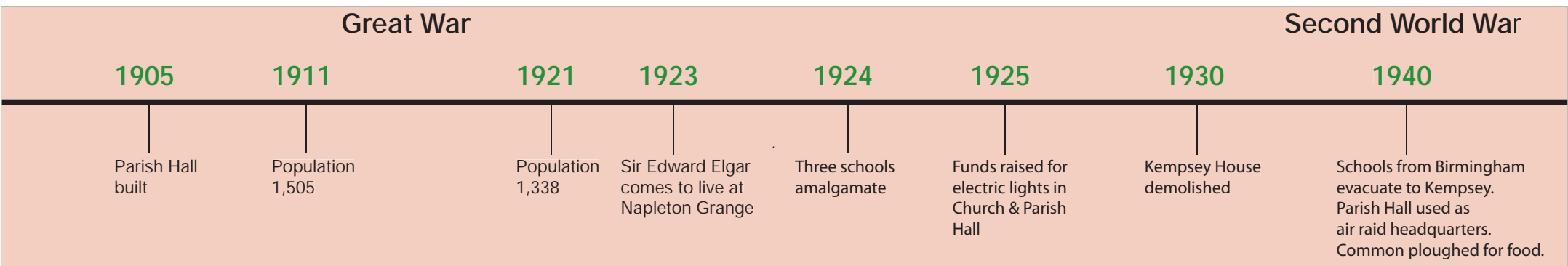
- Publish the Parish Plan and make all the material on which it is based available to all who wish to see it.
- Report fully on the outcome of the Survey to the next Annual Public Report of the Parish Council.

Medium term:

- Consider the level of investment required to upgrade Parish Council facilities for electronic mail, use of Broadband and the Internet.

Long term:

- Create a website and maintain an up-to-date information service on Parish affairs.



Where it all began

Kempsey Parish Council called a public meeting on the 6th September 2004. This meeting was open to all the community and representatives of organisations, and produced a working party of 18 parishioners. The first Open Day was held on the 12th November 2004 at the Parish Hall (3pm to 7pm) and the second Open Day was held on the 22nd January 2005 at the Community Centre (10am to 4.00pm). A total of 419 people attended on these days. Both events produced many concerns and from these a questionnaire was formed for both adults and young people, with additional help and advice from Community First. During March 2005 the questionnaire was hand-delivered to, and collected from, every household in the Parish with additional collection points in the village. The young people's questionnaire was circulated to every youth group, household and school. All known businesses were also contacted. 1371 responses were received. From all the information gathered, the Working Party has produced this Parish Plan. In 2005 Government funding through the Countryside Agency ceased, but it appeared so important to continue that individuals gave time, effort and money to ensure its completion.

Treasurer's report

After a concerted effort by all concerned, the Working Party managed to get most of the immediate finance for the publication of the Parish Plan. A special thanks to the following businesses who contributed: R Preece, Village Post Office; P Harris, The Huntsman Inn; R D Patrick, Funeral Directors; Severn Motor Yacht Club; Mrs Chambers, Seabourne Leisure; S A Prosser, The Hair Gallery; St Mary's Church, Kempsey; Walter de Cantelupe Inn; Sandwell Printers; Accentika Internet.

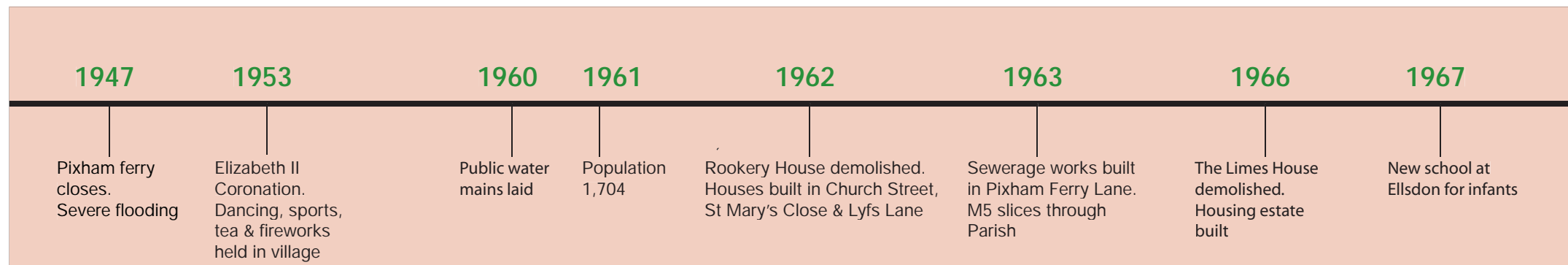


Thanks also to Parishioners who contributed at the Open Days. There are many residents of all ages who have helped with ideas and enthusiasm, particularly the dedicated team in the Working Party, the deliverers and collectors in all parts of the Parish – too many to mention individually (and only a few are pictured here!).



The publication of this Parish Plan has also been supported by Lottery funding from Awards for All.

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Published by Kempsey Parish Council
Printed by Sandwell Printers. Data analysis software by Accentika Internet.



What will happen to this Plan now?

The Parish Plan, formulated from parishioner responses, is for adoption by the Parish Council to form their policy for the next 5 to 10 years. It will be assessed by them for its information and actions, and to turn the actions into reality. The Parish Plan should be a powerful tool, providing evidence to fight unpopular proposals, influence decision making, and help unlock the funding necessary to realise actions in the Plan. The Parish Plan is the 'voice' of the people and it will be sent to all relevant bodies – Worcestershire County Council, Malvern Hills District Council, South Worcestershire Police Authority, South Worcestershire Health Authority and various utilities.

Achievements / Actions to date

The Parish Plan Working Party took the raw data collected and made submissions to the Malvern Hills Draft Local Plan in relation to issues affecting Kempsey. As a result of this work, representatives appeared at the Public Inquiry before the Inspector to speak against or offer support to the Local Plan, where appropriate. The questionnaire provided the evidence to ask for the settlement boundary to stay the same and a strategic gap to be identified between Kempsey and Worcester City. Also requested was that the Commons and Hams be given special protection in the Local Plan and that specific open spaces be identified – Kings Hill Green and St. Mary's Close Green – as these areas had been omitted by Malvern Hills District Council. It was requested that Hatfield Brook and its environs remain a Designated Wildlife Corridor through the village, and that attempts be made to gain Scheduled Ancient Monument Status for the site of the former Bishop's Palace and Roman settlement on Church Meadow.

Highlights

- **Total questionnaire forms completed = 1371. (512 men, 645 women, 86 boys and 82 girls).**
- **Two Open Days with over 400 people attending and commenting.**
- **Questionnaires hand-delivered to, and collected from, all 1325 households in the Parish.**
- **Submissions already made to Public Enquiry on Malvern Hills District Draft Local Plan.**
- **Funding obtained for Youth project.**
- **Basketball post purchased.**
- **Football goals purchased.**

The Working Party gained a grant from Community First for a Youth Project linked to the Young People's Survey. The Project involved using the Rural Youth Officer to make contact with young people in Kempsey, asking about their needs in the community along with the information gained from the survey. Both modes of inquiry pointed to the need for additional equipment for older teenagers – their top request being for a basketball post and area. The small grant has paid for the basketball post and further funding is now being sought for the hard area so that it can be installed on the playing field. Two small football goals were also purchased; one is already installed at Kings Hill, the other is yet to be sited.

