

The Kempsey Parish Plan

One year On: Moving Forward

Last year we sent you the Kempsey Parish Plan which was based on an in-depth survey of your opinions on a wide range of issues.

This report tells you what has been achieved in the main areas addressed by the report, and what still needs to be done.

Your main Concerns

Page 3 of the Plan

Proposals for development outside the **Settlement Boundary** have been successfully opposed.

The **gap** between Kempsey and Worcester has been written into the Local Plan.

Arrangements have recently been made for **litter picking** to be undertaken by the Parish Council.

The Parish Plan has been presented to all relevant official bodies.

Improvements have been made in local **policing**, but serious difficulties remain.

Housing

Page 5

The first **affordable housing** scheme is nearing completion.

The Settlement Boundary and the Strategic **Gap** have been preserved.

There has been a rising number of **planning applications** for extensions and improvements to existing properties.

The **local doctors' surgery** is being maintained.

The quality and performance of local **sewers** continues to be a concern to many residents.

Countryside and Environment

Page 6

A continuous campaign is waged to keep the **commons and hams** in good order. Recent new legislation will assist in this activity.

Attempts are being made to secure funding for more fencing and protection of **play and amenity areas**.

Establishment of a **Wild Life Corridor** is still actively being pursued.

We have been informed that the next scheduled resurfacing of the **M5** where it passes through the parish is in 2008, when a quieter running surface may be applied.

There has been no progress on issues concerning **flooding**.

Skills and Business

Page 7

A **Directory** of businesses operating in Kempsey is part of our plans for a Parish Web site.

Businesses in the parish are flourishing. We continue to oppose **heavy vehicle** usage on our narrow lanes.

Leisure

Page 8

A Directory of **clubs and associations** should form part of our plans for a village website, subject to the willingness of these organisations to provide regular, up to date information.

Continuous attention has been given to **preserving the commons** and hams, but there are still too many cases of misuse, especially by motor vehicles.

Some **funding** for play areas has been received, but more is required to meet the aims stated in the Plan.

Youth and Education, Quality of Life and Policing

Pages 9 & 10

Anti-Social behaviour by a very small minority of young people has caused distress to many, and damage to property in the past year. The problem has been concentrated in small areas of the Parish.

There has been much increased visibility of policing and a **Community Support Officer** has been appointed, but the problems have by no means been resolved in the face of difficulties in obtaining sufficient evidence to secure convictions.

A **basketball post**, hard standing and bench have been provided

at the sports field .A football **goal** has been installed at Kings Hill and another has been purchased to be installed at a place to be decided.

Discussions with the Police and youth service officials are ongoing about further **youth facilities** which might be forthcoming if behaviour improves and funds are available to pay for them.

There are the first signs that more **volunteers** to help with youth activities may be forthcoming and imaginative ideas about new facilities for youth are beginning to take shape.

There are also indications that a more formal **partnership** between the community, the Police and the Council represents a positive way of dealing with the problems that have caused so much distress.

Crime generally is at a low rate (anti-social behaviour excepted), and is reported on regularly to the Parish Council by the Beat Officer.

There has been little progress on dealing with **speeding**, but a new campaign both in the centre of the village and in the more rural areas is expected soon.

Despite the expressed wish to see an extension of the **Neighbourhood Watch** scheme, progress on extending it has been slow through lack of volunteers.

Disability, dependency and healthcare

Page 11

Plans approved for developing the Original Stores include greatly **improved access** for those with disabilities.

Some **kerbs** have been lowered and some improvements have been made to footpaths.

Agreement has been reached on extending the **footpath** at the junction of Old Road South and Squires Walk (work commences in March).

The Parish Council has written to the Minister supporting the need for rural **post offices**, and ours in particular.

The Village **Lengthsman** has made a valuable contribution to dealing with overgrown hedges and overhung pathways, but too many frontagers are ignoring their responsibilities.

Parish Council

Page 12

Enhanced **litter picking** arrangements have been agreed with MHDC and further projects of a shared nature with the District Council are envisaged.

A new **Community Centre** is a long term objective. In the short run the priority has been to convert the existing centre to a revenue-earning, self-sustaining enterprise, and this is well on

course, with the Centre sustaining two businesses of great value to the community.

Councillors with special interest in Youth have been appointed; for Health and Disability an appointment is to be made shortly.

Keeping you Informed

Page 13

The Parish Council has upgraded its **computer systems** and is now able to plan for a Village Web Site.

The Parish Plan Working Party is actively planning the implementation and funding of the **Web Site** and expects to make its plans public within the near future.

The Future

A Regional Spatial Strategy which involves major increases in the number of houses to be built in and around Worcester, with potential knock-on effects on surrounding areas like Kempsey is being discussed. This matter will require close attention, as will the proposals for a Waste Recycling Centre at Norton.

There are many calls on the funds available to the Parish Council, not least in the short run, to repair the damage caused by vandals, and to provide more facilities for our young people. The Working Party is playing its full part in helping to obtain additional funding through grants and has so far raised some £14,000 in grants.

Further Information

If you have not seen the Parish Plan and would like a copy of it, or the audio CD version, please contact the Parish Plan Working Party, c/o The Parish Council, Community Centre, Main Road, Kempsey WR5 3LQ.

email: kempseyparishcouncil@btinternet.com or
download from the internet: www.kempseyhub.co.uk

Acknowledgements

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