

Extracts from Parish Council Meeting

12th September 2011

The South Worcestershire Development Plan (SWDP) preferred options consultation process commences on 21st September and runs for a period of eight weeks until 18th November and will feature a number of roadshows presented by Malvern Hills District Council (MHDC) at various locations including Kempsey on 10th October at the Parish Hall. These proposals, which are essentially for the benefit of Worcester City, pose the most serious threat that our community has faced for decades and it is vitally important that we challenge this deeply flawed document that seeks to impose an expansion of the city to within 250 metres of our village and rob the parish of hundred of hectares of productive land and condemn Kempsey to becoming a mere suburb within a generation. To counter this we need your active support more than ever as we know from previous consultations that you wish Kempsey to be better not bigger and to retain our identity and not be swallowed up by an ever expanding city conurbation. To this end the Parish Council have set up a working party consisting of councillors, concerned residents groups and national campaign representatives to formulate and produce a submission that will robustly challenge the conclusions of these draft proposals. I refer in particular to SGIRA (Staying Green in Rural Areas) who have been proactive in making the community aware of the threat these proposals will have on the area and I urge residents to complete the survey they have circulated to the majority of the parish as this information will be used in developing the Parish Council's official response. The details of the survey can be found on line at www.sgira.co.uk or by contacting them at sgira@hotmail.co.uk or Tel 820174 and the more surveys completed the better our case can be presented through rational argument and weight of opinion. This should not dissuade anyone from making their own representations to MHDC through their website or by writing to them directly after attending the roadshow or viewing the plans on www.swdevelopmentplan.org and seeing for themselves the implications of these proposals. We are also consulting with the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) who have provided us with useful evidence that will support our submission and remain in close contact with them as our case develops and we will post updates on the Kempsey Parish Council website and noticeboards so that all the residents of the parish are kept informed. The months ahead will determine our future so please do all that you can in supporting those who wish to represent you in protecting our community.

Recent developments suggest that there is some hope in establishing a village post office which our previous chairman worked so hard to procure in face of many difficulties caused by the reorganisation of the Post Office. The Postal Services Act received Royal Assent in June and this provides, amongst other things, to reverse years of decline of local post offices and to properly fund the existing network and provide for the roll out of a 'Local model' which is being supported by the National Federation of Postmasters who represent those who run post offices throughout the UK. Our local MP Mrs Harriett Baldwin continues to support our aims and is acting as our intermediary with the Dept for Business Innovations and Skills who are responsible for the scheme.

The Parish Council wish to pass on their thanks to FLAG who have worked tirelessly in lobbying for and acquiring the funding for the flood alleviation scheme which all came to fruition last month with the formal turf cutting ceremony for the commencement of the construction of the bund and the associated infrastructure. If the efforts of this committed group of Kempsey residents are anything to go by then this bodes well for our battles with the SWDP planners.

Once again I have to report that the continuing problem of dog fouling has been brought to the attention of the council. The Parish Council have invested a considerable amount of your money in providing litter/dog bins throughout the village and have recently installed several at new locations. There is no excuse for this ongoing problem other than laziness and a lack of social responsibility and it would seem that the only way to deal with this problem is through rigorous enforcement and prosecutions. Incidents are being reported of dog owners clearing up after their pets and then depositing the bagged waste over hedges or by verges which is the worst possible scenario as the faeces can't decay naturally within a plastic bag and remain an offensive sight for months. Please bag your pets waste and take it home or deposit it in one of the many bins provided for your benefit and avoid prosecution.

Finally congratulations to Robin Austin who was co-opted to the council at the meeting and know that he will bring a lot of impetus to our team judging from his input on the Parish Plan Working Party.

John Michael
Chairman