

KEMPSEY PARISH PLAN WORKING PARTY

Minutes of a meeting held on June 17th at the Community Centre, Kempsey

1. Present: S.Anderson, M. Baker, M Biddle, K.Biddle, C .Campbell, J.Clee, P.Gerrard, D.Harrison, A.Hart, J.Jones. L.Stephens, M.Walters, H.Wilcox, T.Ward (chair)

2. Apologies for absence: A .Patrick, M. Holloway M. Legge, C. Long, J. Campbell

3. Playbuilder Grant Update.

It was explained that the grant of £55,000 was made for the purposes of establishing a play trail and for placing suitable equipment and facilities at certain sites. A separate grant application was made for the Kingshill area, but this was not forthcoming, but a grant from the LEADER fund had been obtained for upgrading the facilities at Plovers Rise. The purpose of the whole project is to provide a child friendly environment for the young people of the Parish and to enhance the meagre facilities that already exist. (Note: There are more than 600 young people in the Parish and 1300 households) This has the full support of the District Council and the County Council, fitting closely with their strategies for youth, a point reiterated by the District Councillors present and on behalf of the Leader of the Council.

A first design treatment for the area at the Limes was produced by Bellinger and this design had been shown at several gatherings, including at the School, and most recently at a public presentation at the Community Centre.

3.1. Letters and comments received

Many comments on, and objections to, the outline design have been received. A common theme is that the design included too much equipment, and the height of some features was too great. There were fears about youths gathering and anti-social behaviour, the lack of space for football, traffic issues, parking, hours of use, lighting, general noise, access for people who walk dogs, why not put a play area somewhere else instead of the Limes? (Kingshill, St Mary's Close, The Rocky, Plovers Rise).

a.How these issues are being dealt with

The Working Party, in reviewing the costs of the design concluded that the cost of professional design and project management was likely to be excessive (as much as 40% of the grant) and that several aspects of the initial design would therefore need to be modified, both to reduce cost and to include facilities for **football**, considered by many to be essential.

It was considered that better use of the space could be made and advantage taken of the gradient of the site so that some raised area could be provided but not of such a height as previously, as well as an amphitheatre area, and activity sited as far as possible away from nearby housing.

The Parish Council has an on-going activity with the County Council to procure a controlled crossing on the A38 and is also addressing the issue of improved visibility at the junction of the A38 and Brookend Lane. Innovative schemes for marking crossings for children used in other towns and cities are also being investigated.

With regard to anti-social behaviour, regular reports from the Police indicate that this is at a low level in Kempsey so far as youths are concerned. (Adult 'Anti-social' activity in the form of fly tipping and dog fouling is however prevalent). No scheme wherever located can be

guaranteed to be free of anti-social behaviour ,vandalism and graffiti. Residents might consider a Neighbourhood Watch scheme as a helpful preventative measure.

It is not the intention to limit pedestrian access to the play area, or to ban dogs, or to light the area at night, or lock it. Notices saying what is permitted, and what is not will be part of the scheme.

In summary, it was felt that revisions to the design to reduce its cost and impact in areas of concern will alleviate concerns. A revised design will be prepared. One member suggested that some aspects of the design, such as planting, might be undertaken by residents.

b.Use of other areas

We have not given up on other areas. A grant has been obtained for Plover Rise; further steps are to be taken at Kingshill in conjunction with Festival Housing; The Rocky

3.2 Land. Steps are in hand to determine the precise ownership of the site (at present under a deed of dedication in the name of Malvern Hills District Council); the mechanism for transferring responsibility for the land to the Parish Council is the subject of discussion with the legal department.

3.3 Planning. The need for planning consent, and in what form will depend on the outcome of the discussions about ownership of the land.

3.4 Maintenance This would become the responsibility of the Parish Council, the cost to borne from the precept.

4. LEADER Grant Update. The grant and match-funding from the Parish Council are intended to upgrade the existing play area at Plovers Rise and to install play equipment for older children including a zip wire and a carousel swing. The site is heavily used and several options for locating the equipment have been proposed and discussed with the Sports Association, whose comments are still awaited. Nearby residents are keen to see a solution that places these new play facilities as a far as possible away from nearby houses. The meeting discussed a possible solution to this requirement the objective being to seek a consensus acceptable to the needs of young people, to residents and to the many users of the playing field.

5. Other Business.

A meeting is to be sought with Festival Housing to see if some of the money available from Playbuilder can be used to provide play items for the Kings Hill area. It is also possible that some minor items might be positioned in other green space areas.

The Kempsey Parish Plan Working Party is happy to extend an invitation to new members: applicants should apply to the Working party c/o the Parish Office, Community Centre, Main Road, Kempsey.

Members emphasised that the scope of the KPPWP extends over the facilities and amenities available to the 1300 households (3100 residents) of the parish.