



'YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS' February 2018

Normally at the start of a new year we would be happily working towards all the ongoing and new projects that are scheduled. This year, though, we do so with heavy hearts as we are remembering our colleague, Councillor Ann Patrick, who passed away just before Christmas. Ann had been a member of the Parish Council for five years, much of that in her role as Chair of the Planning Committee, a role that she worked tirelessly at. It was at times a thankless task as she ploughed through hundreds of drawings and documents appertaining to the new estates that were being imposed upon Kempsey. Ann's heart was always in Kempsey, though, as she was brought up in the village during the 1950's and 60's, and so was also deeply involved in the formulation of our Neighbourhood Plan that we all went to referendum with last October. She will be greatly missed by all who worked alongside her. Thank you, Ann, for all your efforts and goodwill.

Our December meeting had to be cancelled due to the heavy snowfall that occurred early in the month and so apologies to anyone who did manage to get to the Community Centre only to find it closed. The agenda items from December were moved to the January meeting which resulted in a later finishing time than normal. At the January meeting, though, we did have a very interesting presentation by a lady from St. Richard's Hospice who told us about all the excellent work that they do both in-house and through their outreach schemes. Many people listening, both Councillors and members of the public, were surprised by the breadth of services that they provide throughout the community. Of course all this good work comes at a cost, and so she explained to us how desperately funds are needed and that money can be raised through personal giving, attending their charity events, leaving donations in wills, and even asking for donations rather than personal gifts at birthday parties. However money is raised, she assured us that it is used for the relief and comfort of people in our greater community.

Our Neighbourhood Plan was formally and legally 'made' prior to Christmas and so is working alongside the South Worcestershire Development Plan to bring order and protection to our community. Although the plan is valid until 2030, we have been advised that it must be reviewed within five years time, as the SWDP also has to be. Without this review, the documents cease to have weight in any planning applications or appeals. In the course of time, therefore, we will be setting up a working party to review the Neighbourhood Plan, so if any parishioners would like to be involved in this, please watch this space.

During Public Question Time at the start of the January meeting a number of topics were raised including the Lower Ham, parking problems in Old Road North near the doctor's surgery, an overgrown hedge where Napleton Lane meets the Main Road, difficulties using pavements that are partially grassed on new developments, and concerns regarding a recent spate of burglaries.

The council were appraised that; The Environment Committee are in discussion with WCC Highways regarding speeding through Kerswell Green; The Commons and Hams Committee accepted a quotation for gorse and scrub removal on Stonehall Common, the installation of two dog waste bins adjacent to Stonehall Common, and agreed to have an aerial survey of Ashmoor and Kempsey Commons to assist with maintenance work; and The Community Centres Committee are planning to extend the carpark at the Youth Centre.

For detailed minutes of all meetings please refer to one of the six Parish Noticeboards or to the website www.kempseyhub.co.uk

Trevor Geens
Chairman