

I am pleased to say that at the June Parish Council Meeting, all our committees were confirmed for this year and are now working in your interests. If you are not too sure how your Parish Council works, then let me explain that the Full Council comprises of thirteen members who meet at Kempsey Community Centre on the evening of the second Monday of every month. Their main purpose being to discuss, and hopefully ratify, decisions and projects proposed by the individual committees. The committees meet as often as necessary to look after the affairs that they represent. The committees are Commons & Hams, Community Centres, Environment, Planning, Recreation, and Staff. These committees comprise of five councillors, except Planning which has seven. As well as these, we have a Finance & General Purposes committee which comprises of the chairmen of the other committees plus myself and the Vice-Chair.

This may appear to be very bureaucratic but when the size of Kempsey is considered, with five commons, two community buildings, playing field and play equipment, all the environmental issues such as hedges, pavements, litter, and the Rocky area, and every planning application, you can see that this could not all be dealt with at a single monthly Parish Council meeting. We have now also formed a new Infrastructure Committee to look after all aspects of design and development of the proposed new playing field and community building at Pixham Ferry Lane. This is additional to Plovers Rise.

I was very alarmed last month when the Council became aware of a car rally that was taking place in Kempsey and using some of our narrowest lanes. This was a classic car event that started near Stratford-upon-Avon and toured Warwickshire and Worcestershire. Apparently it was not a speed event but it was a timed affair and involved around seventy vehicles. Now I, like many others, love to see our motoring heritage maintained, but I truly believe that there is a correct time and place. This took place on the afternoon of Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May and passed through Kempsey using Broomhall Lane, Holdings Lane, Roman Road, Bestmans Lane, and Draycott Lane. Most of these lanes are extremely narrow and many have no refuge at all for walkers, cyclists, or horse riders. The situation was compounded by the 'organisers' not putting out any warning signs at all. A Saturday afternoon is a time when many people get out for some recreation, either alone or with their family, and walk, cycle, or ride along these lanes expecting them to be relatively quiet. None of these lanes had signage out warning of this event, and so local people could have been in great danger when confronted by seventy vehicles coming towards them at one minute intervals especially as some of the lanes have high hedges and no area to stand clear. The irresponsibility of the organisers went even further when it was realised that neither the Police nor WCC Highways had been informed that the event was taking place. I will be writing to the organisers advising them of their recklessness and our displeasure.

May I wish all our parishioners a very good summer, and happy holidays if you are taking them.

For detailed minutes of all meetings please refer to one of the six Parish Noticeboards or to the website [www.kempseyhub.co.uk](http://www.kempseyhub.co.uk)

Trevor Geens  
Chairman