



'YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS' June 2017

At the last Parish Council Meeting in May I was honoured to be elected as Chairman for a further year. I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their confidence and support. We also appointed a new Vice-Chair in the person of Cllr Ann Smith. Cllr Smith has worked hard during recent years on the Community Centres committee and on the Environment committee which she chaired. We welcome her to this new post.

I mentioned in April's report that Welcome Packs have been circulated to all the new houses in our village. What I should also emphasise is that if you have new neighbours move into established houses within Kempsey parish, then they will be equally entitled to a Pack. If you know of someone in this situation then please ask for a pack at the Parish Office or the Vicarage.

Over the last couple of years, a lack of money has meant that St Marys churchyard has not been kept as tidy as hoped and the grass has grown long and prevented people accessing graves. Our Parish Church only has so much money to budget with and so some things have had to suffer. The Parish Council therefore decided to significantly increase its grant for churchyard maintenance as this is a matter that can affect all parishioners and not just church goers. We hope that you will see an improvement and be pleased.

There are problems at the Taylor Wimpey and Linden Homes sites in that they have not yet had approval for the Main Road alterations regarding the permanent junctions into their sites. The road is to be widened to allow a central reservation for vehicles turning right into the sites. This is fine except that we will be losing the bus stop laybys in that area. We think these laybys should be maintained, and also we have asked for some form of pedestrian crossing in that area. The official response from County Highways is that we can have neither. At the May Parish Council meeting we asked our newly elected County Councillor, Cllr Paul Middleborough, if he would look into this and try to change some minds at the County Council as losing our bus laybys and no pedestrian crossing will, we strongly believe, lead to road safety issues.

Whilst on the subject of the County Council, I would like to thank Mr Roger Sutton for all his dedicated work as County Councillor over the last four years, and for looking after Kempsey's interests at County Hall.

As I write, we have just had confirmation that planning permission for the four dwellings adjacent the Main Road, at the Lioncourt Homes site at the north of the village, has been refused on the grounds that they encroach into the Significant Gap, between us and Worcester, as outlined in the South Worcestershire Development Plan. This is very good news for Kempsey as we need to maintain this Gap as long as possible, and not allow a precedent for further development into it.

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