



'YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS' October 2018

Some time ago Kempsey Parish Council realised that there was not enough provision in our community for young people of secondary school age. There are several areas of play equipment for younger children, but apart from organisations like Scouts and Sports Clubs there is little interest for older children. About six months ago it was proposed, in conjunction with Kempsey Church, to site a cabin on the Plovers Rise playing field where young people could meet friends and just 'chill'. It was to be run by youth leaders for five evenings a week but on a very informal basis so that the young people did not feel organised. It would have had electricity and water supply from the main Youth Centre and so would have been located close to the Youth Centre. Although on the playing field and away from houses, we were unable to carry through this project due to objections received from parishioners who thought that this facility would attract very undesirable youths and behaviour. Now, as I outlined last month in relation to the defibrillator, there are a few troubled young people in the village, but there are an awful lot more decent young people here that have been robbed of a chance to have a meeting place.

Following on from this we found that there is a need to provide an open space where older children can set up an off-road BMX or mountain bike course by digging to establish dips and mounds to test their riding skills. Many years ago when the village was less built up we used to call it 'tracking' and rode wild over any waste ground we could find, usually on fixed wheel bikes that we had built up ourselves. Once again in conjunction with Kempsey Church, we have identified a piece of ground, around an acre in size and a considerable distance away from housing, which we thought would be ideal to allow the older children to set up such a course. Nothing will be constructed at all except maybe a fence. There may be times during the year when the area will be subject to flooding and unusable, but it will soon dry out and leave the previously formed jumps and dips as they were. Nothing has been formalised yet as we are still negotiating a rent for this land, but we are optimistic of achieving our aim.

I am very sorry to say, though, that we have received objections again from people who live well away from the proposed site but think it will diminish their quality of life. We are liaising with the MHDC planners and the Environment Agency and do not envisage that they will wish to stop us. Once again, though, it will be the large number of decent young people of this village that will lose out if these objectors get their way. For this reason we would welcome support, especially from parents of young people, so that we can have the confidence to go ahead with this project. If you would like to show your support, or concerns, then please send a short email or letter to Kempsey Parish Council, details of which are in this magazine.

On other matters I would like to report that a Footpath Warden has been appointed to walk, check, and manage the multitude of public footpaths within our parish. Her name is Mrs Lesley Cox and I would like to welcome her to the role and thank her for volunteering. If you have any issues with footpaths, Lesley can be contacted via the parish office.

If you are driving through Kerswell Green you will notice that white marker gates have been installed at each end of the community, and that two sets of 30mph roundels have been painted on the road through. We hope that these measures will control the excessive and dangerous speeding through this small but important community.

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