



YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS' September 2018

I hope that you will have all seen the new Union Flag flying atop the flag pole at the Parish Hall. The old one that was in tatters could not be lowered as both the flag and the rope that it is attached by had jammed around the pulley mechanism at the top of the pole. There had been no safe way to access the problem as the Health and Safety Executive frown on the use of ladders in such a situation or someone clambering up the pole. We were so grateful, therefore, when British Telecom offered the use of their cherry-picker hoist and went up to release the trapped flag and rope. This was a kind act of community involvement by British Telecom which has spruced up the centre of Kempsey.

This year, 2018, marks the end of the First World War, the Great War, or 'the war to end all wars' as it was known. In commemoration of this we will be marking this occasion by lighting our beacon again as we did to mark the 90th birthday of our Queen in April 2016. This will happen at 7.00pm on the evening of November 11th and will be a nationwide event with organisations all over Britain and the Commonwealth doing the same. Details of this event and its location will appear nearer the date but you may wish to keep a space in your diaries for this significant act of commemoration.

The planning application for our new sports/community field and the enabling housing development went before the Planning Committee at Malvern on 1st August last and was approved. The application was a hybrid scheme with the housing development receiving full approval and the sports/community field being granted outline permission so that we can design it with our proposals after consultation with parishioners, Sports England, and our architects. Nothing will happen for some months yet, though, as now planning has been granted Taylor Wimpey will have to go through the legal process of taking up their option of purchase on all the land. Built into the planning permission, though, is a clause which prevents TW from starting any building until ownership of the sports field is signed over to us.

May I remind everyone of their responsibility to cut back any hedges they have that are overhanging footpaths and roads. After the warm weather, and then rain, growth will be significant and may be causing inconvenience and danger to pedestrian and motorists. Thank you to everyone who has already dealt with their hedges.

Road safety issues are in our focus at present with concerns for speeding in Church Street and parking problems at Kempsey School and around Ellsdon. Worcestershire County Council are carrying out speed surveys in Church Street and considering proposals for Ellsdon at this time. Please remember it is not always how fast you can go, but how fast you can stop in an emergency. We will keep you posted on any changes.

I am very sorry to tell you that vandalism has taken place to the defibrillator equipment at the sports pavilion on Plovers Rise playing field. It is back in operation again now but should someone have needed it whilst inoperable I dread to think what the consequences could have been. I can only think that the vandals are totally unaware of how invaluable this piece of life saving equipment is. It is likely that we will never find out who was responsible, but if you do know who it was, please impress on them how important it is and that it may one day be you, or them, that need it. We are about to install a second public use defibrillator at the Community Centre at the north end of the village and hope that this one will be respected and not become a target for vandalism.

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