



'YOUR PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS'

I mentioned last month that I would be attending two Town and Parish Council Conferences during October and that I would report back to you on matters arising from these. At both of these we were told that cost cutting and general economies still have to be made. At Malvern, services are all being moved into the Council House in Avenue Road, and existing buildings such as the Planning Offices will be rented out or sold to raise revenue. I asked about refuse services, which in Kempsey have had problems over recent months, and was told that refuse services for MHDC, Wychavon, and Worcester City are to be combined and privatised with the new service commencing autumn 2017. At County Hall, we heard that Worcestershire County Council has to make a further £70m saving during the 2017/18 financial year. WCC has however prepared a plan called 'Shaping Worcestershire's Future'. This is their strategy and vision for Worcestershire from 2017 – 2022. You can view this very interesting document at www.worcestershire.gov.uk/corporateplan.

Many of you will know PC Sarah Ransome-Williams who has been our Safer Neighbourhood Team police officer for a number of years. Last spring Sarah was seconded to another operation but was due to return to us later in the year. Sadly, Sarah has advised us that she will not be returning and has been appointed to a permanent role elsewhere in West Mercia. We wish her well but will miss her. She did say that a new permanent appointment should be made soon, but whilst she has been away we have not had the benefit of a regular police presence and issues have started to occur that highlights this. Kempsey is a very large and growing community, larger than several towns in fact, and it is unacceptable that we should be left without a police presence that is familiar with, and able to engage with, potential problems. For this reason I have written to the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner to make them aware of this situation and to request that we are never left in this situation again.

During this last November the Parish Council has been engaged in formulating budgets for its spending during 2017/18. All the committees have made plans for maintaining and improving your community, which we hope will meet with your approval, whilst not increasing the parish precept which goes forward to Malvern to establish the council tax for next year.

There is at present still a vacancy for a seat on the Parish Council. If you think that you would like join, then please talk to a current Councillor or contact the Parish Office for further information. Being a Parish Councillor is a voluntary position but does have obligations that are laid down by parliament and administered by our Principle Authority, which is Malvern Hills District Council. Having said all that, it is a rewarding and varied life being a Parish Councillor, especially in a parish the size of Kempsey.

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