

## KENNETT PARISH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN'S RERPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2004-MARCH 2005

Parish Councillors      Mrs Pamela Evans, Chair  
                                 Mr Keith Mobbs, Vice Chair  
                                 Dr John Gumpert  
                                 Mrs Diane Wallis  
                                 Mr Robin Watson

Parish Clerk                Mrs Jackie Hughes

At the last Annual Meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2004 all councillors updated and signed the Register of Members Interests and copies were forwarded to Eleanor Hogget, solicitor for East Cambs District Council.

Our community police officer has not attended any meetings this year. We obtain monthly crime figures from the Internet.

Hereward Housing are now looking for sites to build more affordable housing. The Allen Newport land was not made available. There is a need for this type of housing in the village.

There has been no progress with the Wild Tracks planning applications. We objected strongly to their plan for retrospective planning permission for the hard surface circuit and bundings. This was in August 2004 and we have heard nothing further from E.C.D.C.

We have been having trouble getting streetlights repaired. We are now in the process of changing our maintenance contract from McAlpine to Cambs County Council. Let's hope things will improve. We installed one new light on the corner of Church Lane and Station Road. We have to bear the total cost of any new light as grants are no longer available. We will be discussing the possibility of installing another light in the next financial year. (2005-6)

A small generator has been installed on the landfill site. This converts the waste gases to electricity. Three parish councillors visited the Milton landfill site to assess the impact of such an installation and decided to approve.

We have had a lot of complaints about the increase in lorries using Station Road. The warehousing at Kennett Station (The Sidney Banks / Vogan site) did not need change of use but they have been breaking their planning permission by working extended hours. An enforcement notice has now been served on them. The Parish Council are hoping to have a lorry count soon and we have asked Kentford Parish Council to push for the weight restriction on the Herringswell Road railway bridge to be resolved as soon as possible. A 30 mph limit past the school has been refused again.

Our biggest nightmare this year has been the graveyard and cemetery. We were advised by the Health and Safety Authority that every memorial stone had to be tested in case they fell over and caused injury. We followed the procedures as we were advised, notice in the local paper, notices on the entrances, notices to the Diocesan Council and Parochial Council. An accredited company inspected and laid flat or staked the unsafe stones on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2004. I am afraid a lot of people are upset about the present state of the graveyard. We are waiting for a faculty from the Diocesan Registrar to carry out work to make the graveyard presentable again. We are also waiting for advice as to the best way to carry out this work. If the owners of the graves can be found it is their responsibility to do the repairs but the Parish Council will do their best to make it presentable again.

The Church wall also needs many repairs and we have obtained 3 quotations for the work. We are waiting for a faculty from the Diocesan Registrar so that work can start. It's a very expensive job and the work will be carried out over the next 3 – 4 years.

We were not successful in getting funding to make the Church entrance safer. We will apply to Cambs County Council again next year.

The Parish Councillors attended an open exhibition for the proposed development of the former Friskies Pet Care site. Our main objections are the expected increase in traffic. We are waiting for the formal planning application and will make our decisions then.

The Watermark Project. We attended a meeting with the developers who gave an outline of their proposals, 4500 new homes, an arena, rowing lake, schools and industrial park. We will take a measured approach once planning applications are submitted.

We have given donations to Kennett and Kentford Village Hall and McLaren Playing Field Association, Newmarket Day Centre, St Nicholas Church Kennett, East Anglia Air Ambulance and Fordham British Legion.

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our District Councillors and County Councillor for the time and support they have given to the Parish Council this past year.

Many thanks to Jackie Hughes for all her hard work as Parish Clerk.

Pamela Evans  
Chair Kennett Parish Council.