

KENNETT PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2005 – MARCH 2006

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 4th May 2005 all councillors updated and signed the Register of Members Interests and copies were forwarded to Eleanor Hoggart, solicitor for East Cambs District Council. (ECDC)

At the 2005 annual meeting the Parish Council was requested to add an additional agenda item re holding a referendum to test villager's opinion on the Watermark Development. A vote at the meeting agreed unanimously to do this. ECDC agreed to organise it and this referendum was held on 2nd June 2005. (Not a good day as it was estimated 25% of the villagers were away on holiday.) There was a 50% turnout and the results were 9 for the development, 117 against, and 1 void, giving a 108 majority. I would like to thank all the villagers who gave their time especially Robin and Josephine Swanson. This result enabled the Parish Council to fight the proposal. The outcome of this development is waiting the results of the Examination In Public, which should be available later in the summer. Kennett was complimented on having the highest membership of the 5VPT.

The memorial stones are still an ongoing concern. A meeting was held in August 2005 with the Archdeacon, several other church representatives and the Parish Council. The dioceses have given us a plan of the stones they want re-erected, laid flat or left. We have put up the required public notices to inform that this work will be started as soon as we have received a confirmatory faculty from the dioceses and the final quotations from the memorial stone companies.

The churchyard wall repairs should be started shortly, we have received an offer of a grant towards the cost but the work has to be done in this financial year or we will lose it. This will take a large proportion of the Parish budget. We are also waiting for a faculty before work can start.

Our application for Jointly Funded Minor Highways to improve the church entrance was refused again but we will re-apply in the coming year.

Hereward Housing are still hopeful to build a few more affordable houses in Kennett when they have the money to fund it.

ECDC are preparing their Local Development Framework. They are consulting all parishes and residents. I attended a meeting in Soham where it was suggested that if parishes wanted more housing they would consider it in the LDF. After discussion the Parish Council decided to seek permission for some mixed housing on land near the church entrance or on the land near the clay pigeon shooting. The owner of this site would be happy to close the shooting and have the site developed. We have put this plan to ECDC and they are holding a meeting this May, which I will be attending.

Wildtracks. Nothing has been resolved over the hard surfacing and bunds since ECDC refused their retrospective planning application. Wildtracks have now gone to appeal, which will be heard by the Secretary of State 26th – 29th September 2006. An enforcement notice was placed on Wildtracks on 31st March 2006 concerning the access to the clay pigeon shooting section. This comes into effect on 12th May 2006.

We persuaded the Cambridge Highways Department to carry out an HGV traffic count, which was done on 26th May 2005. It has been extremely difficult to get a breakdown of the numbers but there were over 500 HGV movements in 13 hours. Restrictions on HGV movements through the village would not be allowed, as it is a public highway.

The Parish Council has received another application for the landfill site to extract sand and gravel and backfill with inert waste. This would involve using a crusher to break up demolition waste and a green composting site. The site has existing permission to extract sand and gravel with the entrance on the B1086 650 metres north of the A11 junction, i.e. the road to Red Lodge. They have applied to have the entrance changed to the existing landfill site entrance on Dane Hill Road. We have objected to this change, as the other entrance would cause fewer disturbances to residents. We have also objected strongly to the application for a crusher and composting site on the grounds of excessive noise, pollution to the aquifers as no liners have been included in the application, dust and odour and disturbance of wildlife plus yet more traffic movements.

The landfill liaison group met in January 2006 to discuss the capping and contouring of the closed site and to investigate any problems. No reports of any nuisances had been received and the agencies all seemed happy with the situation. The generator is producing 3 Kw of power per hour, which is going to the national grid.

The Parish Council had two issues with RAD, 73 Station Road, which were resolved. They were refused permission to work between 6pm to 8am and not on Sundays and Bank Holidays. They were also refused permission to remove the condition, which states that only one operator can use the site.

The flashing speed signs through the village are still not working correctly despite numerous calls and emails to the highways department. We will continue to pursue this.

We have had no visits this year from the community police force since Kevin Humble attended the last annual meeting 4th May 2005. We collect the latest crime figures from the Internet every month.

Donations have been given to Kennett and Kentford Village Hall and MacLaren Playing Field Association, Newmarket Day Centre and Fordham British Legion.

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

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

Pamela Evans
Chair, Kennett Parish Council