

KENNETT PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2006 – MARCH 2007

Parish Councillors Mrs Pamela Evans, Chair.
Mr Keith Mobbs, Vice Chair.
Dr John Gumpert. Resigned August 2006
Mrs Diane Wallis.
Mr Robin Watson.
Mr Barclay Dutson. Co-opted September 2006

Parish Clerk Mrs Jackie Hughes.

At the last annual meeting on 17th May 2006 all councillors updated and signed the Register of Members Interests and copies were forwarded to Eleanor Hoggart, solicitor for East Cambs District Council. (ECDC)

We are glad to announce that during this year the memorial stones in the churchyard have been restored as requested by the Ely Diocese. The church wall has also been restored. As we received grants to cover part of the cost of both these projects, we have been able to cut our precept for the coming year.

We are still suffering with heavy traffic through the village especially HCV's. Mr Robert Roweth, Cambridgeshire County HCV route manager attended our meeting on 27th September and explained that there are no short term solutions. We are investigating whether there has ever been an engineering weight limit on the railway bridge and we have asked for a proper assessment of the bridge, so far no news.

We are now awaiting the outcome of the Public Enquiry into Wildtracks's retrospective planning application. I attended the Public Enquiry during the 9th to 17th January 2007 and spoke about the impact of noise and additional traffic on the village. The result on the government minister's judgement should be known in early June 2007.

We appear to be closer to having a few more affordable houses built in the village. Unfortunately the housing association enabler had to cancel her meeting with us on 11th April 2007 due to illness.

ECDC are planning their local development framework. I attended several meetings but it looks as though Kennett will remain as infill only. We asked them to consider a small mixed housing development so that we don't become top heavy with affordable housing. We are awaiting the final decision.

RAD warehousing has left the Bank's site which did reduce our traffic slightly but a planning application has now been received for one of the units to have change of use to manufacturing. We have objected as the site is close to residents and could be noisy. If granted, it could set a precedent for the other units.

East Cambs have set up Strategic Partnerships. Kennett belongs to the Soham area. This area panel consists of Parish, District and County councillors along with community representatives. Their role is to talk about concerns in their own villages such as policing, housing, health, children and young people and to decide which issues are most important and what need to be completed between meetings. Kennett raised the issues of HCV's and cars speeding through the village and the lack of police presence. These panels are a pilot project at the moment. Meetings are open to the public so they can raise issues and are held in various villages within the Soham area.

We collect the latest reported crime figures from the internet every month and fortunately, over the last year, we have had a very low crime rate compared to other local areas.

The Parish Council is hoping to instigate a Village Plan. This would involve a panel of residents and one or two Parish Councillors, looking at the village and deciding how they would like to see the village develop in the future. Also looking at the history and how it has evolved. Cambridgeshire ACRE are willing to give a grant and help with advice.

Many thanks to Ernie Warren for repairing the village notice boards (free of charge).

Thanks to Robin Swanson who has agreed to walk our Public footpaths and report on any problems.

The Parish Council was sad to receive the resignation of Dr John Gumpert in August 2006 when he left the area. Dr Gumpert had worked hard for the village and will be missed but we were pleased to co-opt Mr Barclay Dutson in September 2006. Mr Dutson has already got involved in a number of issues affecting our village.

We are also sad to have just received the resignation of Mrs Diane Wallis and we would like to thank her for all her hard work over the years.

Donations have been given to Kentford and Kennett 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