**MINUTES OF THE KEMPLEY ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Held on 30 May 2019 at 7:30pm in Kempley Village Hall

Present: Chairman Martin Brocklehurst, Cllr David Spencer, Cllr John Birt, Cllr Dave Lewis

In attendance: Arin Spencer (Clerk), Bob Earll (Facilitator), GCC Cllr Will Windsor-Clive (Newent), Jill Croxall (NHW), Chris Bligh (DyFRA), Howell Rees (FoKC), Maggie Bligh (KPM) and seventeen (17) parishioners

1. **Introduction and Welcome by Chairman Martin Brocklehurst**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting, introduced himself and delivered his Chairman’s Remarks. (Attachment 1)

1. **To receive apologies for absence.**

Apologies received from Mike and Jane Evans, Tom Jackson, Dave and Chris McGregor, Simon and Suzie Hanes.

1. **To approve the minutes of the annual parish meeting held on 25 September 2018**

Minutes of the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting were approved and signed.

Proposed by Cllr John Birt, seconded by Bob Earll.

1. **To receive a report from Gloucestershire County Councillor Will Windsor-Clive**

Cllr Windsor-Clive reported that Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) had to contend with a constantly lowering budget; though it was right, he said, that government look critically at how business is run and to endeavour to spend money wisely.

Council tax had gone up by 5%, half of which went to cover the increased costs of adult care. In fact, half of the whole billion-pound budget was being spent on adult care he said. With an ageing population and less funding coming from government, GCC had to carefully consider how to allocate the limited resources at its disposal.

Into the second year of its manifesto, GCC had committed to spending £140 million on roads over the next few years. Part of the GCC policy, he said, was moving away from filling potholes to resurfacing so that highways are not forever going back to repair the same problem areas.

Javelin park, the Energy from Waste facility near Gloucester, was expected to be operational in summer 2019 and would *‘massively reduce the county’s dependence on landfilling, whilst recovering value from waste in the form of electricity, recyclable metals, and aggregate.*’ <https://www.ubbgloucestershire.co.uk/>

On the subject of climate change, Cllr Windsor-Clive said it would be science that solves the problem, but we could all do something to help and that doesn’t mean going back to the 18th century. He suggested it was rather going to be about carbon capture.

**Question & Answer Session:**

Q The way GCC prioritise roads means rural areas are always at the back of the queue. How can we prevent the road surface from deteriorating now that it is starting to fail?

A GCC has doubled the money invested in the road network, but it will take 2 – 2.5 years before we see the difference. This is across the county which is a large area.

Q What is County Council’s view on rural broadband?

A In areas where the numbers are commercial a provider is making broadband available. The Fastershire rollout covers some areas where providing broadband is not commercial. And what is left is being covered by Gigaclear. This rollout is fully subsidised by Council. It is taking longer and is more complicated than was originally thought, but it is happening.

1. **Village Hall Refurbishment: Report from Cllr David Spencer on progress to date and potential** **funding options**

Cllr Spencer presented his report. (Attachment 2)

During a question and answer session the following points were raised:

* Concern about the cost of the project (a figure of £150k had been circulated).
* Concern about committing future generations to debt by taking out a loan.
* It might be possible for the hall to cover the cost of loan repayments from its annual income, it would just need the Parish Council to guarantee the loan which could be taken for 50 years.
* Local consultation over several years had consistently returned a need for the hall, which is the only facility parishioners have to meet, to be made fit for purpose.
* A loan to cover the refurbishment taken out over 30 or 50 years would extend beyond the need for the next refurbishment.
* Without the hall the village ceases to be Kempley as locals know it.

 Dave McGreggor took the opportunity to say a big thank you to all the people who volunteer for the café, make and serve the food. And to the loyal customers who routinely come to the café.

1. **Broadband: Report from Cllr Martin Brocklehurst on progress to date**

Cllr Brocklehurst presented his broadband report (attachment 3) and then answered questions from those in attendance.

Q If you live on a restricted byway will you still get a broadband connection?

A The box will be on the highway, it will be your responsibility to connect from the highway to your house. Gigaclear won’t take the connection up a driveway to a house or down a byway. This will influence your cost to connect.

Q How many providers will offer service on the Gigaclear network?

A This is unknown at present. Depending on what speed you want it should be substantially cheaper than airband connection. 4G is £70/month. Airband is £60/month. Broadband should be £20-30/month plus a connection fee of around £200.

1. **Neighbourhood Watch: Report from Jill Croxall, Forest of Dean NHW District Chairman, on Neighbourhood Watch**

Jill, in her second year as Chair of the Forest of Dean Neighbourhood Watch, explained that the ethos of NHW is to prevent crime and make people in any neighbourhood feel safe. A way of doing that is by people talking together and being a community.

NHW works by people coming together and forming a scheme. It can be a road, housing estate, or a small village. In Kempley there is one scheme and Arin Spencer is the coordinator.

NHW communicate to members through the coordinator. There are 480 coordinators in the Forest of Dean. Police and NHW liaise with coordinators and give them information which they pass onto their members. This is primarily through emails. A newsletter is also produced twice a year for members.

Jill noted that criminals are now using drones to fly over farm buildings to see what security they have in place.

She then demonstrated some security devices available from NHW including an alarm padlock, contact alarm, and smart water.

1. **To receive reports from Parish Organisations & Community Representatives**
	1. Windcross Paths Group (Attachment 4)
	2. Dymock Forest Rural Action – Chris Bligh (Attachment 5)
	3. Friends of Kempley Churches – Howell Rees (Attachment 6)
	4. Kempley Produce Market – Maggie Bligh (Attachment 7)
	5. Pop Up Pub – Robin Bennion

Robin said the pub remains popular with an average of 20 – 30 people attending each event. He then outlined plans for the summer season including family friendly fish and chips evenings.

1. **Submissions, questions, and proposals from parishioners**

Howell Rees thanked Cllr Will Windsor-Clive for his support on the Centenary Stone. The curb stones and bollards around it came from his influence and were much appreciated.

Chris Bligh, Dave McGreggor, Geraldine Rees and Bob Earll were thanked for making cake for the event along with Maggie Bligh, Louise Earll and Geraldine Rees for serving tea/coffee.

Bob Earll and the Chairman thanked all for attending and the meeting was officially closed.

Signed (Chairman) Date

**Attachment 1**

**CHAIRMANS OPENING REMARKS**

**BY MARTIN BROCKLEHURST - Chairman Kempley Parish Council**

**30 MAY 2019**

1. **INTRODUCTION**

**Firstly** may I say what an honour it is to be asked to serve as the Chairman of your Parish Council.

**Secondly** can I thank those that have gone before and put on record my thanks to those villagers who over many years have served this Parish Council. I would particularly like to put on record thanks to some of our longest serving Parish Councillors who have now stood down including:

Liz Daykin and Neil Dransfield; and our past Chairs Simon Hanes and Glyn Bennett. I would also like to thank all our past recent Councillors for ensuring the Council could be handed over to a complete set of new Parish Councillors in such a healthy state and with such an enthusiastic Parish Clerk in Arin Spencer.

Looking forward you have a complete new set of Councillors. They include, in addition to myself:

David Lewis, Tom Jackson, John Birt, and David Spencer.

You will note we still have two vacancies. We are particularly looking for volunteers from the farming community and to balance the current councillors we would ideally like two women volunteers. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer and serve your community.

1. **Volunteering**

Although we are a small village we punch well above our weight. This is only because so many of you volunteer to make things happen in Kempley.

It is difficult to pick out individuals as so many people give their time freely. But the impact you all make is enormous and is noted by many who live outside Kempley. Tonight I want to give our warmest congratulations to the Kempley Produce Market who on its tenth anniversary are the winners of the Prince of Wales Award at the Royal Bath & Wells West Show. The Award is given to schemes where there has been a genuine attempt to move forward in a resourceful and inventive way to the benefit of a rural community. It is fitting that such energetic volunteers should receive such important recognition for their work.

1. **The Kempley Parish Council**

As the new Parish Chair I am looking forward to the year ahead. We may be very small and with a limited budget but I am determined we will do our utmost to not only deliver all our legal functions but that we will also place the Parish Council at the centre of delivering the **Kempley Community Led Plan.**

Our community led plan identified that the village has seen a 30 year decline in the services provided. This is now compounded by 8 years of severe cuts to Local Authority spending which impact every aspect of the public serves we receive. I cannot remember in over 60 years a period when Local Government and indeed all public services have been under such severe financial pressure from Government cutbacks. I hope that the KPC can be at the heart of the search for solutions to some of these issues. The first relates to the major deterioration in the condition of the road network around Kempley. Within the village we have been protected by the installation of an experimental micro–asphalt surface designed to extend the life of our roads by 10 years. That surface is now failing and it will be a major challenge to encourage the Highways Authority to ensure roads in the Parish do not deteriorate as they have done in neighbouring areas.

We also face two other major threats. We are recognising a Climate Change and Biodiversity Emergency. This is now recognised by the UK Government and by the Forest of Dean District Council. It is very easy to say we can do nothing to drive change but this is not the case.

We can move to a carbon free economy in the way we heat and cool our homes and in the way we gain mobility. It is my hope the Council can help with local schemes that will enable us all to make a contribution to a zero carbon Kempley and in the process save money and that we can maintain the beautiful countryside that is now so important to the protection of our local wildlife.

Two examples to finish with that give a hint at the way forward. Firstly solar energy which some in the village have adopted. The cost of solar panels has fallen by 90% in the last decade and within the next 2 years their efficiency at producing energy is set to double from15-19% to between 37-39%. The second is the switch to electric vehicles. We already see cost savings of 5% over a three year period for the cost of buying and running electric vehicles and an 80% fall in maintenance costs. We now have more recharging stations for electric vehicles than we have conventional garages and the distance these vehicles can travel is well over 200 miles between charges.

I hope the KPC can help and guide the villager in showcasing what the best options for our future might be with these and other new technologies.

But enough of my views let me hand over to Bob so that we can engage and understand your views and ideas and learn about the hopes and aspirations for everyone in our village.

**Attachment 2**

**KEMPLEY VILLAGE HALL REFURBISHMENT**

**REPORT ON PROGRESS TO DATE AND POTENTIAL SOURCES OF FUNDING**

**BY DAVID SPENCER**

**As Kempley Parish Council’s Representative on Kempley Village Hall Trust**

**29 MAY 2019**

1. **Planning Application**

The planning application for the refurbishment of Kempley Village Hall Trust has been approved by Forest of Dean District Council. (Planning reference 0174/19/FUL)

1. **Project Plan**

A project plan has been created defining the various aspects of the project namely

* Initial Design and Planning
* Final design, costing and Scope of Works
* Project Funding
* Preconstruction
* Construction
* Post-construction
1. **Build Plans & Specifications and Scope of Works**

A designer, John Wyatt, has been appointed (May 2019) to draft *build Plans and Specifications* for the Kempley Village Hall refurbishment. This will inform the drafting of a comprehensive Scope of Works for the project.

1. **Kitchen**

A kitchen company has been consulted in terms of providing a fit for purpose kitchen in line with Kempley Village Hall Trust requirements and meeting all regulatory requirements. This aspect will be independent of the main refurbishment work.

1. **Project Costings**

During early June 2019 a number of contractors (minimum 3) will be requested to provide accurate costings for the project including timeframes.

1. **Business Plan**

The costings will inform the creation of a business case/plan covering the:

* financial aspects of the project
* current use of the hall and financial/community return
* likely future use and financial/community return on investment
1. **Extension of Village Hall Lease**

Kempley Village Hall Trust will approach the Parochial Parish Council in order to establish the feasibility of extending the lease of the building for an extended period.

1. **Funding Sources**

Kempley Village Hall Trust has started investigating funding options for the project including but not limited to:

* A grant from the Parish Council (funded with a Public Works Loan)

*Kempley Parish Council is not opposed to a public works loan provided it is widely supported by the community. Prior to any decision being taken on this funding avenue, a public consultation will take place and Kempley Parish Council will conduct a due diligence review to ensure all aspects have been comprehensively covered.*

* Grants from other bodies
* Crowd funding
* Donations
* Fund raising
1. **Funding Applications**

Once suitable funding sources have been identified and investigated, Kempley Village Hall Trust will apply for funding. Grant options which could provide up to 20% of the total project cost have already been identified.

1. **Pre-construction**

If funding applications are successful, a commencement date will be set based on availability of contractors and current usage of the hall.

1. **Alternative Venues**

Kempley Village Hall Trust is currently investigating alternative venues for village events for the duration of the project.

**Attachment 3**

**KEMPLEY VILLAGE SUPERFAST BROADBAND**

**REPORT ON PROGRESS TO DATE**

**BY MARTIN BROCKLEHURST**

**Chairman Kempley Parish Council and coordinator of the Kempley Broadband Initiative**

**30 MAY 2019**

1. **Current Position**

**HOUSE OF COMMONS ENVIRONMENT FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS**

**Rural Broadband and digital services 7th Report 2014 -15**

**There is a risk of poor rural broadband availability causing harm to farm businesses and the rural economy. It is essential that those who are ‘hardest-to-reach’ are given priority.**

**Fibre to the Cabinet Services (FTTC)**

The majority of village internet users in Kempley are still using the “OpenReach” telecommunications company copper cables to connect to upgraded fibre optic systems at the nearest Openreach telecommunications cabinets. Depending on your position in the village cabinets are located at Dymock, Gorsley, Much Marcle and Upton Bishop. **Fastershires** delivered improvements to these cabinets as part of the Phase 1 and 2 role out of superfast broadband across these two counties. This upgrade is known as Fibre to the cabinet or FTTC. FTTC does not deliver significant benefits to areas like Kempley that are remote from these cabinets.

Copper wires have two main disadvantages for broadband delivery: the longer the copper wire between the street cabinet and the premise, the slower the speed received; and increased usage can significantly reduce the speed delivered to individual premises. Recurring problems include poor speed at peak times and broadband ‘dropping in and out’, meaning that the connection sometimes fails completely. In addition minimum broadband speeds are akin to fuel consumption in a car: “you rarely find that you can actually achieve it”. Download speeds in Kempley for users on the copper wire system are often below 1Mbps and effectively prevent effective use of Internet based services.

**Wireless Broadband Upgrade for business interests in Kempley**

In recognition of these problems of what has become know as CRAP (Copper Rust and Poor Service) Broadband in Kempley efforts were made to find a way to deliver improved internet services to the village in 2014. The Broadband team were able to take advantage of a Government Voucher Scheme for Small and Medium Sized Businesses (SMEs). The Broadband team in Kempley established the village of Kempley as a Business Cluster, and convinced the Government to extend the voucher scheme to the village in partnership with the City of Gloucester and the Forest of Dean District Council. We were one of the few areas in Gloucestershire and the Forest of Dean able to benefit from these changes. As a consequence over £50,000 worth of investment was put in place to bring wireless broadband to Kempley in January 2016 to benefit 14 businesses. Wireless receivers were installed on Chiblers Hill that provide superfast broadband to premises with a line of sight to the transmitter and a wireless receiver on each property able to take part. The new service is capable of reaching download speeds of up to 30Mbps but more typically 10-20 Mbps. The service still drops out from time to time but after an initial commissioning phase has improved in reliability. In addition to business users a few residential properties have also connected to the new service but a role out to the main residential areas has not proved possible. Airband who provide the service, also provided free internet connection to the village hall.

**Mobile Phone Internet Services – 4Gplus**

A number of villagers have been able to take advantage of improvements to internet download speeds through improvements to mobile phone down load internet speeds. Coverage in the village of Kempley for 4G services is patchy but improving. 4G plus allows internet download speeds capped out at 60Mbps, with typical download speeds of 24-30 Mbps. Exact download speeds and reliability of service will depend on where you are located in the village. Within Kempley Green about 50% of properties are shown on coverage maps of being capable of receiving the service. The cost of the service is broadly the same as the Airband Wireless dedicated service. It provides another option for villagers interested in securing superfast broadband but care is needed to confirm that the service will actual deliver.

1. **Future Improvements**

Fastershires (the joint County Council Scheme between Gloucestershire and Herefordshire to deliver superfast broadband) have put in place a new plan to deliver superfast broadband to the remaining areas of the Counties still suffering poor broadband speeds. Know as Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) it will bring fibre optic cables to the majority of properties in Kempley. The scheme being implemented by GIGACLEAR is currently being rolled out to various communities in the two counties. GIGACLEAR will bring fibre optic cables to a box in the highway outside most properties in Kempley. At that point service providers will be able to offer various service packages to individual properties that will include connecting the property to the fibre optic telecommunication systems. Fibre optic systems will deliver download speeds generally capped at 100 Mbps, over a 100 times faster than systems delivered via the Openreach copper cable systems. The new system will operate independently from the Openreach telecommunications systems and new telecommunication cabinets will be installed for Kempley. The rollout programme has now reached **Upleadon**, **including Highleadon, Malswick, Newent, Redmarley, Tibberton and Upleadon** and the next phase will include **Pool Hill, including Ketford, Poolhill, Redmarley and Ryton**

Two phases of the programme will impact the Parish as follows:

* **Greenway Cabinet** – this covers **Broomsgreen, Dinnington, Eastnor, Greewnay, Leddington, Parkway, Preston Cross and Tillers Green** - this will deliver superfast broadband to the extreme northern end of the Parish. Two properties in Kempley (Oak Cottages – now named Stonehouse Cottages) are currently planned to be connected to this cabinet. This connection is expected to be made in the next six months;
* **Kempley Cabinet** – this covers **Castle Tump, Four Oaks, Hillend, Kempley, Lyne Down, Much Marcle, Old Gore, Oxenhall, Perrystone Hill, Upton Bishop and Yatton.** This will deliver superfast broadband in Kempley to all but about 14 properties (located north of the Kempley sewage works). This connection is expected to be installed in the next 12-18 months, though we are still waiting for final confirmation on the installation date and discussion with GIGACLEAR and FASTERSHIREs on the detail of this work. Community meeting are expected to be planned fourth quarter 2019 when full details will be explained.
1. **Kempley Combined Solution (KCS)**

About 14 properties are currently excluded from the latest improvements to deliver superfast broadband to Kempley. They include properties north of the Kempley Sewage Works (but excluding Saycells and Oak Cottages (currently named Stonehouse cottages on the B4024).

In discussions with Fastershires application has been made to the **Marches & Gloucestershire Business Broadband Grant Scheme** for funding to put in place the Kempley Combined Solution, designed to connect four businesses (two in Herefordshire and two in Gloucestershire) to the superfast broadband network. If successful this will allow a maximum of up to £100,000 further investment to deliver superfast broadband to the northern area of Kempley. As a combined solution it will allow all the remaining properties in Kempley to receive a superfast broadband connection. Depending on the successful technology deployed it will then be for the respective farms and residential properties to decide if they want to make the final connection. This will complete access for all properties in Kempley to the superfast broadband network.

The first phase of this application, which straddles the County Boundary has been accepted by Fastershires and the second phase inviting estimates from suppliers has commenced. To meet the terms of the grant this work will need to be completed by November 2019.

1. **Summary**

Kempley is on course to complete the roll out of superfast broadband to the roadside boundary of all properties in the Parish by 2021. Exactly when connections are completed will depend where your property is located in Kempley and what decisions parishioners take in respect of the final service connections. It will complete one of the main recommendations outlined in the village plan and illustrates how a pro-active village can secure improvements to basic services.

**Martin Brocklehurst**

**Kempley Broadband Group**

**Attachment 4**

**WINDCROSS PATHS GROUP REPORT FOR KEMPLEY COUNCIL MAY 2019**

The Windcross Paths Group (WPG) is an organisation dating back over 30 years. In its early days it was responsible for the development of a number of circular paths in the Golden Triangle which have become increasingly well-known and walked over the years e.g. The Daffodil Way; Poets’ Path 1; Poets’ Path 2. These paths are now marked specifically on the relevant Ordnance Survey Maps of the area.

The WPG is responsible for producing a series of foldable leaflets which describe the routes of these and other walks including a detailed map and artistic drawings of some of the interesting buildings and views along their way.

2018-19 has been an important year for the group. We were very sad in November 2018 when Barbara Davis died. She had been a stalwart of the group since its inception and had contributed so much in the artwork, design and publication of the leaflets.

Despite this, we are pleased to confirm that, as things stand, the Garland Hut in Barbara’s garden at Ryton will still be in use as an information point and picnic stopping point for walkers and cyclists for the foreseeable future. The WPG will be actively updating the display in the Hut in the coming months.

The group continued with its gradual updating of the walk descriptions and the new re-publication of its leaflets (notably the new Poets’ Path 1 just in time for the spring daffodil walking surge). We also completed our new website [www.windcrosspaths.org.uk](http://www.windcrosspaths.org.uk)

Members are actively planning to develop and write up leaflets for some new walks featuring the wonderful countryside and rural history of the Golden Triangle area.

The WPG will be leading a commemorative walk for Barbara at 1130 a.m. on Saturday June 15th 2019 from Preston Church following the Poets’ Cottages Walk (2.5 miles).

Members of the group include two residents of Kempley as well as others from Dymock, Brooms Green and Longhope.

Finally, of direct concern to Kempley:

1. Members of the group were actively involved in the walks and displays at the Kempley Daffodil Weekend 2019, with the chair leading a group of 70 walkers on the Sunday morning and the treasurer presenting the exhibition in the church.
2. We were also asked to consider proposed changes to footpaths around Kempley Court and gave our views on this as requested.
3. We have supported requests for improvements to stiles on various local paths around Kempley by raising the issue with the Gloucestershire Public Rights of Way Officer.

Michael Townsend, Chair of the Windcross Paths Group, May 2019

**Attachment 5**

DYMOCK FOREST RURAL ACTION

Report to Kempley Annual Parish Meeting

Chris Bligh, Programme Director 29 May 2019

This has been a momentous year of progress for the management of the daffodil hotspots and verges of the Golden Triangle, the locus of DyFRA’s activity is centred on Kempley Village and largely the works are evident on areas of public land.

DyFRA has agreed a formal collaboration with the Forestry Commission (FC), in line with the Kempley’s Community-Led Action Plan, for the monitoring, management and development of The Centenary Glade. The Glade is in the process of being created in Queens Wood, visitor access from the Kempley FC carpark. However this is an exemplar site, and therefore a hub for the whole of the Dymock Forest and Leadon Vale landscape area.

This relationship augments our existing ‘permissions to cultivate’ agreed with FoDDC for maintaining the verges through the parish. The annual mowing of the verges is contracted by Glos.CC through Kempley Parish Council – however the subcontractor changed in March, and we will have to re-brief them to the Golden Triangle’s needs Can we ask you Will Windsor Clive to help with this.

Volunteers

* Six regular volunteers strim and mow the common land : of Folly Lane,

The Green, the churchyard, and the graveyard, along with the much appreciated commitment of St Edward’s PCC, and Kempley Walking Group members who warden specific FC paths throughout the year. Several villagers, and farms maintain the verge splays about their entrances.

* Students from Hartpury Agricultural College cut woodland path verges in winter, maintaining the dappled shade for the emerging daffodils and bluebells and their vulnerable seedlings.
* Community Volunteers from West Midlands Probation service - on 10

occasions provided support: to stack felled coppice timber, clear paths to access the proposed Glade site, reclaim plastic tree shelters and stakes, and this month began the task of weeding emergent bramble. This ambitious task is one that everyone can help with! A base-line plant survey will be undertaken in June if anyone would like to be involved.

* 70 villagers including Parish Councillors councillors, DyFRA members from the cycle groups and Newent Transition, helped school children from Ann Cam and RedMarley along with 7 FC staff planted 500 shrub/ trees on March 1st. Cafe and Market helpers provided hot Leek & Potato soup. This action attracted wide press attention, with a double page spread of photographs and editorial copy in the Forest Review.

• Ledbury Naturalists meet throughout the winter (on Thursday mornings), and welcome new members for active conservation work in the woodlands. Their commitment and natural history knowledge is fantastic, and underpins all of our work. This year they created the path from the carpark to the Glade, as well as helping on the 500 trees planting day.

**UPDATES**

* Daffodils : flowering this year was reduced by perhaps 30%,although the leaves were plentiful. Perhaps this was because of the drought summer of 2018 which will have stressed the bulbs somewhat, and reduced the necessary vigour to support flowering. It is now time to collect daffodil seeds - keep them on lower shelf of a fridge please.
* DyFRA LOGS This is hardwood coppice material sourced locally,which has been properly seasoned, and then processed into bags for delivery. It is offered for sale to provide funds for our conservation work. The last mild winters have severely reduced demand, and therefore income. We are currently looking for a new yard, with lockable gate and good vehicle access to store the 30 tonnes of cord wood we have ready.
* **DyFRA Newsletters** are mailed to a database of 350 people - residents, naturalists and conservationists, local Media, and people employed in the public and private environmental sector. It is free if you would like to receive it on email.
* **CLP Environment Action Plan** is to be discussed by the Parish Council. The existing statement reads “ Improve knowledge and develop a plan to improve the wildlife assets of Kempley through diligent observation, liaison with landowners and gardeners, positive action on habitat management and taking account of climate change impacts. “

We have already contributed a decade of awareness-raising projects along this important path. The District Council has this Spring agreed a Climate Emergency policy. We can, and must expect to see further support on the linked issues of biodiversity and carbon use.

**Attachment 6**

Friends of Kempley Churches

Registered Charity No. 1108735

**Chairman’s Annual Report**

I cannot start this report without first expressing our deep sorrow in losing our chairman, Professor Basil Jarvis who died on the 18th December.

The Constitution of the Friends defines three primary aims: to provide financial and other support for St Mary’s and St Edward’s churches; to identify and disseminate information on the social and religious history of Kempley; and to liase with English Heritage regarding the management of St Mary’s church.

**Fund‐raising Activities**

During the last year, we hosted five tours of the churches, which were conducted by Basil. A further talk was provided for a group of National Trust Staff/volunteers, all of which raised significant funds.

It is noteworthy that last year almost 1500 people signed the book in St Mary’s church, which indicates that we probably had well over 3000 visitors.

The Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir presented another superb concert in September in St Edward’s; afterwards refreshments were served in the Village Hall and spontaneous singing continued well into the late evening. The Trustees would like to thank Lynette Greenway for again sponsoring this event.

Last December, we again organised a Christmas Concert in St Edward’s church with the Ledbury Singers, which was a great success.

We also provided refreshments for the free‐to‐attend Carols in the Village Hall. This Community activity was well attended and donations raised over £100 for the County Air Ambulance.

The Friends were also involved in the annual Daffodil Weekend activities in March where the Social History Steering Group displayed the research material of ‘The Centenary Sale of Kempley’.

**The Kempley Tardis Project**

During the year the Trustees have continued to fund work on the Kempley Tardis project and have invested in the site to provide user-friendly access by smart phone.

The excellent work on the Memorials in St Mary’s Churchyard, has been completed and been bound into a book which has been lodged at Gloucestershire Archives. For the foreseeable future, the Trustees intend to continue to fund the ongoing maintenance and development of the site at a level similar to that required in the past.

**Other Activities**

The four services of Evensong held monthly at St Mary’s Church over the summer, will continue this year.

Early in the year we negotiated a 3‐year renewal of our legal agreement with English Heritage. As always, much time has been spent on negotiating with them on matters directly related to the maintenance and use of St Mary’s church.

**Future Activities**

In November we a plan to repeat the Abertillery Orpheus Male Choir concert, and in December a repeat of the Christmas Carols in the Village Hall is planned.

Howell Rees 30 May 2019

Chairman of Trustees.

**Attachment 7**

**KPM Report**

*Kempley Produce Market, Community Interest Company No. 10770868*

2018 was the year in which we achieved the most ambitious of our founding goals, when we were able to fund the installation of 32 solar PV panels. The installation took place on the shortest day of the year, so it can only get better from here. We were also able to influence the installation of more energy efficient air source heaters for the Hall.

We’ve continued to invest in improvements for the Market (& the VH) - including buying a new Gazebo and a fresh new look for the Café with new tablecloths, and aprons for Marketeers and Volunteers.

The Café continues to thrive. Thanks to Gill Clayton for her continued support with her lovely cakes, supported on occasion by Jane Evans.

We could not run the Market without the help of volunteers – we now have 35 local residents signed up to help in the Café or the Market in general, many participating for the first time this year due to Lynette’s persuasive chats.

The daffodil confetti had two outings with local Kempley weddings in 2018. Lizzie Kerr got married in St Edwards in August and Roy & Polly got showered with petals at Homme House in December.

Lendwithcare.Our December market raised £127.60 from raffle prizes of the Gingerbread House and a bag of Producers’ goodies, which, together with accrued repayments from existing loans meant we could make further loans of £586.00.

We’re planning to increase the awareness of single use plastic. Our latest campaign, organised by Jane, for collecting used biros, felt pens etc. for their plastic, got off to a flying start. Jane has other plastic recycling ventures in hand.

Our most recent achievement has been to be shortlisted for a Prince of Wales Award, associated with the Royal Bath & West Show. The prize includes a Certificate, signed by HRH Prince of Wales and a cheque for £1,000. WE WON.

Maggie Bligh, 30th May 2019