**Kempley Parish Community Meeting 7th June 2022**

**Round Table Discussions**

**Introduction**

These round table discussions have been set up to explore what you think are the top 5 issues that the Community of Kempley should focus on for the year 2022 – 23 and beyond. We particularly want to hear what solutions you think should be put in place drawing on:

* funds available from the Parish Council precept;
* grants that we may be able to attract to allow key works to be undertaken in the Parish;
* the skills and ideas of our local people offering their time to run key projects; and
* funds that can be raised locally through crowd source funding programmes.

**Typically the Parish Council precept** is worth £ 5-6,000 and after running costs we have £2-3000 to spend locally. The real power of the Parish Council, however, is in building partnerships with key organisations that can draw in other sources of funding, with the support of volunteers from within our community.

**Parish Council Partnership Schemes**

The following are some examples of partnership working:

* **Broadband & Fastershires** – Fastershire is a joint Herefordshire / Gloucestershire programme to modernise broadband in our community., We are now embarking on a third community effort to enhance local broadband and overall investments are likely to exceed £1million by the time we achieve fibre to every premises in the Kempley Parish ;
* **Gloucestershire County Council Public Rights of Way Team** – Joint schemes to reduce the maintenance costs on private landowners due to increased use of local footpaths and to improve public rights of way in the Parish. Typically attracting £2-3,000 annually;
* **Kempley Daffodil Weekend –** A joint scheme to attract funds from public and private bodies to support the nationally renowned Daffodil Weekend Celebrations. This scheme attracted £7,800 in 2022;
* **EU Horizon 2020 Climate Change Citizen Science Project –** A €4.6 million joint programme between 4 EU Countries and the UK. The Forest of Dean District Council are running a pilot to help local people combat climate change and expand renewable energy generation. This scheme is worth circa €500,000 to the Forest of Dean. The Parish Council is one of the bodies working with the Forest of Dean to promote the success of this project.

**Top Issues for Kempley –** To assist in discussions these are some of the issues local people raised:

1. The future of our local church buildings – St Mary’s, St Edward’s and Bethel Baptist Chapel;
2. Climate change, its impact on our community & actions to mitigate & adapt to its effects;
3. Reducing public health risks in a remote rural area, through community health care initiatives such as the installation of defibrillators , self-help schemes, maximising digital schemes for isolated individuals and reducing health risks from dog fouling;
4. Protecting local services such as the community shop, regular milk, food & paper deliveries and public bus services;
5. Protecting and enhancing our local biodiversity and the rural nature of our Parish;
6. Improving local infrastruture, such as roads, sewers, water supply, & telecommunications.