



Calling Kempley's Community Champions

Kempley Parish Council is small with a tiny precept but continues to secure funding to benefit our village. **If you want to join us and serve your community, we have two vacancies and would love to hear from you.** It's a small commitment to make as we meet just 7 times a year.

At our January meeting we finished business within 90 minutes, key agenda items included:

- Installation of 7 new kissing gates to replace stiles on the local public rights of way including all the stiles on the Daffodil Way from Fishpool to near Queens Wood, drawing in investment from the County Council worth £2000.
- A funding application to the Build Back Better County Councillor Grant scheme for £950 to put a new notice board at the top end of the village (closest to Queens Wood) as requested by villagers. We are seeking approval from the County Highway Department to locate the new sign board on the road verge.
- Confirmation that new highway signs for entry to Kempley Village have been ordered that adopt the village community branding (within the limitations allowed by County Highways). The new signs are funded from County Council grants and will be the first of this type accepted by the Highways Department in Gloucestershire.
- Confirmation that the contract to install fibre-optic superfast broadband to Kempley Village has been issued by Fastershires to FullFibre. Work will get underway this year and represents the biggest investment in infrastructure in Kempley for many, many years, more than £600,000.
- The preparation of a new welcome pack to the village for new parishioners.
- We set the precept and budget (circa £6,300) for the year 2023-24 for the Parish Council, an increase of less than 2%, well below the inflation rate in recognition of the current financial pressure on local parishioners from escalating food and energy prices.

We were also briefed by Clare Stone (Buses4Us) about a new 7-day, 2 hourly bus service planned from Ledbury to Ross on Wye via Much Marcle, Dymock, Newent, and Gorsley. The new service crosses the Parish along the B4024 from Windcross Crossroads to Much Marcle.

We made the case unsuccessfully for the new service to route from Dymock to Much Marcle via Kempley and considering this, did not feel able to make a financial contribution to the service. We did however, raise the profile of this unmet need and opened discussions on future developments that may more directly benefit the village.

At our next meeting in March, we will discuss our support for an event on the Village Green to celebrate the King's Coronation and how we can strengthen our local resilience to support local people who may need help in the current NHS crisis due to slow ambulance response times.

Would you like to make a difference and shape the future of your community?

Do you have concerns about issues in the local area?

Do you feel your views aren't currently represented?

Then please consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

For more information on becoming a councillor go to:

[MAKE A CHANGE \(nalc.gov.uk\)](http://nalc.gov.uk)

or contact: clerk@kempleyparishcouncil.org.