**KEMPLEY VILLAGE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**CHAIRMANS Report**

**BY MARTIN BROCKLEHURST**

**Chairman Kempley Parish Council**

**15th May 2024**

**INTRODUCTION**

Your Parish Council continues to meet bi-monthly to transact it’s routine business and to deal with issues that arise during the year. We have also held two special planning meetings to deal with high profile planning applications. We have been joined in our meetings by our County Councillor Gill Moseley who has supported many of the projects in which we are engaged. We are lucky to have such a diligent Councillor who is prepared to use her influence to secure extra funding for works in Kempley.

**Highlights**

The highlights of our work this year are undoubtedly:

* Completion of the Kempley Community Broadband Scheme;
* Improvements to our Public Rights of Way (PROW) with kissing gates replacing stiles on many of our footpaths; and
* The very first park and ride scheme for the Kempley Daffodil Weekend in partnership with Bus4Us.

**Routine Work**

I also want to highlight the routine work, often unseen that includes the :

* maintenance of the village green and the local bus shelters through a local contractor;
* upkeep of defibrillators around the village ;
* events on the village green such as the annual Christmas lights and Remembrance Sunday in partnership with local village organisations ;
* provision and maintenance of a number of the village notice boards;
* nominations to and representation on the Elizabeth Pinder Charity, the Parochial Church Council and the Village Hall Committee; and
* running of two village WhatsApp Groups – Kempley Keeping in Touch and the Kempley Emergency Plan.

**Consultations**

Your Parish Council also gives our community influence with the:

* **Gloucestershire County Council** where we work with them on the:
	+ Fastershires Project and in particular the Kempley Community Broadband Scheme;
	+ Kempley Licence to Cultivate Highway Verges – Wild Daffodil Project;
	+ Snow Warden scheme;
	+ supply and maintenance of the village entry road signage;
	+ replacement of tourist signs to St Mary’s Church;
	+ need for highway repairs and drainage;
	+ Improvements to public rights of way in the parish;
	+ efforts to improve access to recycling sites on the County boundary; and
	+ grants for projects in the parish as they become available either as one of schemes or via allocations to our County Councillor; and the
* **Forest of Dean District Council**, working with them on;
	+ setting the Parish Council precept and overall governance of the Parish Council;
	+ planning consultation for local planning applications;
	+ the development of local plans as they affect the Parish;
	+ the climate emergency and in particularly the local EU Funded AURORA project and the now established Forest Climate Group and the related Forest Climate Network of Parish and Town Councils.

**Conclusion**

I am immensely proud of the work that the Parish Council continues to undertake and I want to put on record my thanks to the current Councillors still serving you, without whom this work could not be undertaken. We operate as a team so let me name my fellow Cllrs as:

Kim Reynolds my Vice Chair

Denise Wood

David Lewis

Robert Howson; and

Ricky Goodwin

Please give them a round of applause.

Can I once again also ask you to consider putting your name forward to join or help your parish council as a volunteer. We still have 1 vacancy on the Parish Council – so please do not be shy and let’s put in place full representation on the Council

Lastly I would like to put on record my sincere thanks to our outgoing Parish Clerk Tim Dain and to our new Clerk Clare Muir.

**Martin Brocklehurst**

**Chair Kempley Parish Council**

**15th May 2024**