

KENNETT PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR APRIL 2008 – MARCH 2009

Parish Councillors Mrs Pamela Evans, Chair.
Mr Barclay Dutson, Vice Chair.
Mr Darren Watson.

Parish Clerk Mrs Jackie Hughes.

Unfortunately at the start of this last year Robin Watson resigned as a Parish Councillor after many years of service. Darren Watson was then co-opted to replace him. We now give notice of two more vacancies as Mr Mobbs has resigned to enjoy more of his retirement and Mr Pank has also resigned due to pressure of work. We thank them for their services, especially Mr Mobbs, who has served for many years. The register of member's interests is updated at every meeting.

The Village plan was adopted this year and a copy hand delivered to every household. We then drew up an action plan which we have started to implement. A high priority was the speed and amount of traffic through the village. A meeting was held in November with the Cambridgeshire Eastern Highways engineer, Mr Kevin Hall. He stated that all local highway divisions in the Country had been requested by central government to carry out a review of speed limits and devise a plan to revise them. Cambridgeshire Highways has already started this review, first prioritising the order in which they would do the reviews. Priority was based on the number of serious or fatal incidents and traffic density. The result is that Kennett would not be reviewed until approximately 2011. We were placed 74 / 75th out of about 85 areas. We are trying to find ways for us to be reviewed earlier. We have however won a grant from the Jointly Funded Highways to have an advisory 20 MPH past the school during arrival and departure times of the pupils. The flashing signs have at long last been re-sited and put in working order but we think that some of them need recalibrating. We lost the fight for a weight limit on the railway bridge and are assured that it is maintained to 20 tons. Suffolk Highways have no plans to upgrade the Herringswell Road rail bridge at the moment. The drains and sumps on the roads have been cleaned out and we will wait to see if they are done on a regular basis. Kennett Traffic Action Group was formed and attended the meeting with Mr Kevin Hall.

Damaged street lights have been repaired and we are waiting for quotations for 2 – 3 more lights to be placed near the playing field. This was another priority from the Village action plan.

In the graveyard, the hedges and grass are being kept under control and the damaged memorial stone was repaired. The Parish Council has agreed to pay the water rates for the Parish Church and for use in the graveyard.

Two more dog bins have been sited in the Village making a total of four.

We objected to work starting on the extraction of sand and gravel on the Landfill site until the Environment Agency was happy with all aspects including dust and toxins being released as subsoil were extracted. The Environment Agency has now insisted on hollows being lined before refilling.

The Banks Cargill Grains site has several tenants which have to operate within certain planning conditions, e.g. hours of work, noise etc. We are keeping a keen watch to ensure that they adhere to them. Banks Cargill applied for permission to demolish existing buildings and replace them with more substantial structures. We

objected but they gained permission. We had a meeting with Mr Banks who stated that he really would like housing on the site but the Planners did not give him any indication that this would be allowed.

The core strategy of the East Cambs Local Development Framework has been submitted to the Government Inspector. In the core strategy, a plan was submitted by Allen Newport to change the village planning envelope and build up to 192 houses on the land. We held a public meeting and opposition was very strong. We await the outcome. The Local Development Framework does not include any development in small villages. All objections go to the Inspector.

Hastoe Housing has started building. They held an open meeting on 10 March 2009 to help applicants but we have not heard any more. The houses should be ready for occupation in July when the traffic calming on that part of Dane Hill Road should be in place.

Neighbourhood panels are held every quarter and are useful to air any problems we or our neighbouring villages have and try to find ways to solve them. Speed Watch was initiated by the panel and there are now speed checks held regularly in the villages. Derek Miles and Robin Swanson have done the training and are now regular volunteers with the Speed Watch team.

We and Kennett Traffic Action Group objected strongly to the proposal in Red Lodge for a new café / truck stop. Forest Heath has rejected the plan and we wait to see if this is the end of the matter.

We are still trying to have the East Cambs magazine delivered to the village and to persuade East Cambs to place planning proposals in the Newmarket Journal rather than the Weekly News which is not delivered Kennett.

Donations have been made to:

Fordham British Legion £20

Newmarket Day Centre £50

Kennet Parochial Church Council £100

Kennett & Kentford Village Hall and Playing Field Association £150

Newmarket Citizens Advice Bureau £50

I would like to thank my fellow councillors, our District and County Councillors for their time and the support that they have given to the Parish Council during this last year. Also thanks to Mr Derek Miles for his hard work and running the village web site

Many thanks to Jackie Hughes for all her hard work as Parish Clerk.

Pamela Evans
Chair, Kennett Parish Council