

Annual Parish Meeting for Kegworth 9 April 2018

Chairman's Report

Since the beginning of September 2017 our village life has been disrupted by the construction of the East Midlands Gateway (EMG), Kegworth Bypass and the M1 Smart Motorway works. Heavy plant in the fields to the west, south and north of the village and works to the roundabout at Junction 24 plus the closure and re-opening of Ashby Road and the closure of Whatton Road has created a sense of our village being completely surrounded. The resultant traffic congestion particularly at peak times has tried the patience of many.

Work on the long awaited Kegworth Bypass, due for completion at the end of October is ahead of schedule and the road works for EMG and the M1 should all be completed by the end of 2018

Kegworth Village Centre

The village wide consultation on how to improve the village centre once the bypass is open has just begun and all residents should have received the latest newsletter that contains a design concept, a number of questions and advice on how you can respond. The newsletter is also published on the website at kegworthparishcouncil.co.uk. Nothing has been decided, nor will be decided until a clear picture emerges of what people want. I would urge everyone to complete the questionnaire to help a clear picture to emerge. This part of the consultation is due to close on 15 May 2018, so please make sure you have your say.

People

Two councillors, Carl Sutton and David Outerside, resigned for personal reasons and work commitments. Two new councillors were co-opted at the February meeting, Emma Hogan and Adam Kowalczuk.

The deputy clerk Emma Laban left us to take up a job nearer to her home. The council thanked Emma for the work she had done and wished her well for the future.

The council decided that the role of deputy clerk needed to be re-evaluated and that the role should be more customer facing. A new Job Description was produced with the title Engagement Officer/Deputy Clerk. After a number of applicants were interviewed Alicia Smithies was offered the job and started work on April 3.

Vicky Roe, Parish Clerk obtained the Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA). It is the first time that this council has had a clerk with this qualification.

Stuart Cox, village Lengthsman has completed one year and has made a big difference to the standard of tidiness in the village. He has just started a programme of refurbishing the 34 benches in the village in addition to his regular duties.

The council nominated One Kegworth for the Rural Achievement Award for Leicestershire & Rutland for their work on village events. We were delighted to find that they won the award against bigger organizations. The judges particularly noted the wide age range of members, all volunteers and inclusive of permanent residents and students from Sutton Bonington campus who reside in Kegworth.

Sideley Park

The work to turn this area into 'park for everyone' began in April and infrastructure, picnic tables/benches, dog agility area, and signage were all in place for the Family Fun Day and Food Festival on 3 June. The existing play equipment was refurbished and climbing equipment installed. The garden areas were planted in the autumn with the help of volunteers under the direction of our garden designer, Jan Barrowcliff. We all owe a debt of gratitude to this enthusiastic group of people who have now commenced a monthly tidying and weeding routine; more volunteers are always welcome - details from the parish office. The developer contribution from Citrus Grove housing has been used to pay for most of this work. Now we need some good weather to be able to enjoy this area of the village.

HS2

Your Parish Council is working with the District Council and consultants employed by them to mitigate the impact on the village. There is nothing further to report at this stage.

- A coffee morning in aid of the Macmillan charity was held in the Parish Council Office. The event attracted about 60 people and raised £300 for the charity
- The wooden planters and planting display in the Market Place owned by the council are now a permanent year round feature, replacing the seasonal planters that were supplied and maintained by a contractor. The display has attracted many positive comments and produces an annual cost saving compared with the previous arrangement.
- Christmas in the Market Place in conjunction with the One Team and the businesses attracted about 500 people with many of them staying for the lights switch on. Stallholders and visitors reported a successful event.
- As in previous years your parish council made grants to voluntary bodies. These grants help to sustain such bodies whose existence adds much to the character of and activities in the village.

I would like to thank all councillors for their contribution to the work of the council. Individual councillors take on different responsibilities and special projects to augment the work of the council staff. Many have full time jobs and most come to the council with existing responsibilities within voluntary organisations in our village and so are all busy people.

I feel that we can all look forward with optimism at the prospects for Kegworth post bypass despite the frustration caused by the various construction works currently inconveniencing everyone. It now requires us all to make the most of the opportunities presented to us.

Thank you

David Hignett
Chairman
Kegworth Parish Council