

Annual Parish Meeting for Kegworth 11 March 2019 Chairman's Report

The long awaited Kegworth Bypass opened on 14th November 2018 and has reduced traffic through the village considerably. Many residents took the opportunity to walk the bypass and access roads on the previous Saturday morning. The work to produce a 'smart motorway' on the nearby M1 was completed by the end of December. For the first time in nearly two years Kegworth village was free of road works.

There are issues which still need resolving, for example some HGVs appear to be ignoring the 7.5 ton weight limit and there are reports of speeding on some roads within the village. Leicestershire County Council has advised that a 6 month settling down period is appropriate before any action by them can be contemplated. In the meantime, the Parish Council is in the process of setting up a Community Speedwatch Programme in response to residents' concerns.

Kegworth Village Centre

Your responses to the survey that was undertaken last spring were published in our Newsletter of August 2018, delivered to all properties in the village and still available on the website.

Since then your council has been working on schemes along with professionals, but is mindful that many residents asked that nothing should happen for 12 months after the bypass opens in order to see how the traffic settles down. 70% of respondents were against raising the precept to pay for improvements and so the council is working with the £227,000 it has available whilst also exploring some other funding options.

A clear majority of residents were in favour of introducing restricted parking on Derby Road and restricting Market Place parking. Such changes will be introduced by way of an experimental Traffic Regulation Order, the detail of which is currently being developed. Reductions in rat running and speeding also featured strongly in the consultation results and which will hopefully be addressed to some extent by the Community Speed Programme due to commence in April.

HS2

Your Parish Council has been working with the District Council and consultants employed by them to mitigate the impact on the village. We produced a 20 page response to the most recent consultation which is available on our website.

The proposed impact on our village is substantial including: -

- The loss of two proposed housing developments totaling 260 dwellings

- The loss of multiple sports pitches that were to be provided by the developers of the above.
- The building of a massive electrical transfer station near to M1 J24
- A6 running through a tunnel under the embankment carrying HS2
- The provision of three compounds employing up to 800 workers for 2 to 4 years.

30th Anniversary of Kegworth Air Disaster

Kegworth Parish Council together with East Midlands Airport and North West Leicestershire District Council organised a special Community Event to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Kegworth Air Disaster.

A Memorial Service was held at St Andrew's Church followed by the laying of wreaths at the Memorial in the Cemetery on Whatton Road. Afterwards, light refreshments were served in the Village Hall.

We were overwhelmed with the response from people who attended and welcomed over three hundred people into our community. Around forty people attending were either survivors or the family members of those who lost loved ones.

We couldn't have made the day a memorable one without the support of our volunteers and organisations who worked with us closely including Kegworth Village Hall Committee, Kegworth Plan Group, Kegworth Community Library, Kegworth Women's Institute, Soar Valley Twinning Association, the Reverend Lauretta Wilson, Julie Cooke and the many other community members, not forgetting Parish Council staff and councillors.

People

Alicia Smithies, Engagement Officer and Deputy Clerk resigned from her role and left in early February. The council thanked Alicia for all her work and wished her well for the future.

Parish Council elections will take place on 2nd May 2019 and anyone wishing to stand for election can contact the Clerk for more information. This is a very exciting time for Kegworth and as a Councillor, you could be part of the decision making to improve your community.

- Sideley Park has attracted many visitors throughout the long hot summer and especially for the Family Fun Day in June. Volunteers have helped to maintain the park gardens and a Friends Of Sideley Park constitution now exists with new members always welcome. The maintenance days are published on the Parish Council website.
- Christmas in the Market Place organised by ONE Kegworth and supported by the businesses attracted a lot of people, many of whom saw Father Christmas and the switch on of the lights. We all enjoyed the carol singing performed by the pupils of Kegworth Primary School.
- As in previous years, your Council made grants to voluntary bodies. These grants help to sustain such bodies whose existence adds much to the character of and activities within, the village.

I would like to thank all the 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 would also like to thank our Clerk, Vicky Roe, for her excellent contribution to the work of the Council, keeping us financially and legally compliant and dealing efficiently with the many and varied issues that come our way.

David Hignett
Chairman
Kegworth Parish Council.