

KEGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

Issue 1 – October 2021

Hello

We want to communicate better with Kegworth's residents, so we're starting this quarterly newsletter about what your Parish Council does. We'd very much welcome your feedback on this first edition.

Your Council

Kegworth Parish Council - part of England's democratic structure under the Local Government Acts - is a group of locally-elected people representing the interests of those living and working in Kegworth. We also:

- own and maintain some of the village's public open spaces.
- submit our comments, designed to reflect the overall local interest, to the District Council's planners on every local planning application.
- liaise with County Highways about traffic and parking – about which residents can at times have opposing views, so it can be hard to please everyone (the final decision always rests with the County).
- do quite a lot of other things too!

We try hard to be approachable, so please contact us about matters that concern you or any ideas you may have. And residents are always welcome at our meetings, to observe or make a comment - our agendas are at <https://www.kegworthparishcouncil.gov.uk/agendas-and-minutes.html>

Parish Councillors

Parish Council elections are normally held every 4 years – the next are in May 2023. Our 9 current Councillors are listed on the back of this newsletter. There's also a 10th seat, currently vacant, needing to be filled,

so expressions of interest from any resident willing to be co-opted are very welcome – please get in touch!

Parish precept

Your Parish Council is funded by a levy (known as the 'precept') decided annually, and paid by us all as part of our Council Tax. For financial year 2021/22, our precept totals £116,180. This creates an average charge per household of around £90.

Parish Council accounts, 2020/21

Our 2020/21 accounts were audited in August, and show income of £143,663 and expenditure of £117,676, giving a surplus in the year of £25,987.



Rebuilding the churchyard wall

It's good to see the churchyard wall works are now progressing well – though it's inevitably a long job as it's a retaining wall, so needs to be constructed with high structural integrity. We are very conscious of the need to be rid of the temporary traffic lights as soon as possible, and are working on that as hard as we can.

The expense of this wall project (well over £300,000) takes us way beyond the Parish Council's normal annual spend. Some of the

extra funds will be taken from our reserves, but we have also taken out a £130,000 loan, which will be gradually paid off from our precept income over the coming years.

Kegworth's 'Public Realm' project

This project is aiming to deliver four items by the spring of 2022:

- New 'gateway' signs on some of the road approaches to Kegworth
- A new cycle-way on part of London Road
- A new southbound bus-shelter at the Market Place
- A redesign, to make better use than the current layout (created in 2019) does, of the Market Place's tarmac area between the main road and the shops.

The first 3 of these are fairly uncontentious, but the 4th item has been the subject of intense debate between the District Council (who are leading the project) and the Parish Council as to what the design should be – we are very keen that it should both reopen the south-end vehicle entrance and maximise the number of parking spaces. Also, the County Council will need to approve whatever design is chosen, to ensure it fits with highway safety rules. We very much hope a finalised design can be reached within the next few weeks – as we know residents want us to “get on with it” rather than endlessly talk.

As an aside, the legal ownership of the Market Place, which has long been unclear, may, as a result of legal research associated with this project, soon become more certain.

Newsletter mailing list

With over 1,000 homes in the Parish, it would help save shoe-leather and time, and be environmentally-friendly, if we can develop an email mailing list for this newsletter, so that the number of paper copies to be delivered door-to-door is minimised. Accordingly, we'd be grateful if as many readers as possible would send to clerk@kegworthparishcouncil.gov.uk a short message to us giving your consent for



your e-address to be added to the newsletter mailing list. You are of course not obliged to do this, but we hope you'll understand why it would greatly help us. The Parish Council, like all Local Government bodies, is legally bound by strict data-protection rules which forbid us to use your data for other than the purpose we have stated, and we certainly won't. Many thanks for your help!

Overhanging hedges & trees

Please may we remind residents that it's their responsibility to cut back hedges and trees on their property which overgrow roads, pavements and footpaths - we receive complaints every year about people not doing this! Vegetation can hinder visibility for traffic, and also makes life difficult for pedestrians. Thank you for your help.

Communal land at Pritchard Drive

Persimmon Homes has approached the Council to enquire whether we might be willing to take ownership of the pieces of communal land (including the playground) around Pritchard Drive. We are currently assessing the pros and cons of this

East Midlands Airport

The airport's Community Engagement Manager has given the Council this update:

The very major drop in passenger numbers due to Covid-19 restrictions has been partially offset by increased freight movements. Two freight airlines are still using above-averagely noisy aircraft at night, despite being encouraged to move to

quieter ones. However, these airlines are financially penalised for the extra noise, resulting in significant boosts to the Community Fund, which is therefore now in a healthy state.

Grants to local bodies

We aim to use grant funding to assist the strengthening of the Kegworth community by helping to improve the range of services and activities so valuably provided by voluntary groups. Applications for grant assistance are considered annually at the Council's December meeting (so you need to apply by 30 November). You'll need to be a properly-constituted organisation, with evidence of good financial control. Grants are not awarded to individuals nor to commercial organisations.

Application forms are available by emailing clerk@kegworthparishcouncil.gov.uk (tel. 01509 670204).

A new Parish Clerk

The Parish Clerk (not a clerk in the modern meaning of the word!) is the person who carries out the policies decided by the Parish Councillors. Vicky Roe, known to many of you, left us in the spring after several years in the role. As this newsletter goes to press, the Council is in the final stages of selecting Vicky's successor, who we hope to introduce to you soon.

Allotments

Since Vicky's departure, managing our allotments waiting-list has had to be put 'on hold', so our apologies if you've been left waiting. If you're interested in having a Council allotment, please get in touch, as we hope to be back up-and-running with this very soon.

More about trees.....

The Council is a strong supporter of the Kegworth Plan Group's recent proposals for its Treescapes project, aiming to plant sufficient new trees to equal the number of Kegworth residents.

Meanwhile, we're delighted that Parish Councillor Stephen Kent has been formally appointed by the County Council as Kegworth's Tree Warden. (A Tree Warden is the local tree champion who encourages planting and caring for trees in their patch.)

Whatton Rd cemetery

The cemetery is owned and managed by the Parish Council. But, understandably, the recently bereaved are sometimes unsure how it works. Although you are not obliged to, it usually works best if you contact a local funeral director, who will then do everything on your behalf, including contacting us about the cemetery arrangements. (If you want to have a burial without using a funeral director, we can allocate you a plot if you contact us but the rest of the arrangements will then be for you to organise yourself.)

Our Play areas

With the relaxation of Covid-19 restrictions, our Play Areas at Munnmoore Close, Side Ley Park, Whatton Road and Whiteholmes Grove are now fully open.

Community Library

The library has new opening times – every Tuesday and Friday 2-4pm, and Saturday 10am-12pm. (Kegworth Plan Group's 2022 calendar, with great local pictures, is now available from the library, £5 each.)

Footpaths (jitties!)

Our various village jitties are, in most cases, public rights of way - the responsibility of the County Council's Rights of Way team. Any problems can be reported to them (except overgrowing vegetation – see opposite page!) via <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk>

Planning applications

Planning applications are decided by the District Council. They first consult the Parish Council for our opinion, but any resident can also submit their view. You can see all current applications, and make comment, at https://www.nwleics.gov.uk/pages/view_planning_applications

Christmas Market and Lights Turn-On

One Kegworth is hosting this annual event in the Market Place on Sunday 5 December, with festive stalls and music. Live reindeer will be there from 2pm, with Father Christmas arriving around 3pm and Lights Turn-on around 4.45pm. See you there!

USEFUL INFORMATION

MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

Andrew Bridgen 020 7219 7238
andrew.bridgen.mp@parliament.uk

LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk> 0116 232 3232. Your county councillor: Trevor Pendleton trevor.pendleton@leics.gov.uk
01509 569746

NORTH WEST LEICESTERSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

<https://www.nwleics.gov.uk> 01530 454545. Your district councillors: Bertie Harrison-Rushton 07506 075727 bertie.harrison-rushton@nwleicestershire.gov.uk (*Kegworth ward*), and Carol Sewell carol.sewell@nwleicestershire.gov.uk 07905 608470 (*Daleacre Hill ward*)

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

0300 330 2111
<http://www.citizensadviceleicestershire.org>

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE

tel. 101 <https://www.leics.police.uk>

TRAIN & BUS TIMES

traveline.info

KEGWORTH PARISH COUNCIL
www.kegworthparishcouncil.gov.uk



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Chair: Cllr Ray Sutton
Vice-chair: Cllr Andrew Priestley
Cllr Martin Hawksworth
Cllr Stephen Kent
Cllr Susie Priestley
Cllr Rod Pritchard
Cllr Carol Sewell
Cllr Sarah Singh
Cllr Hilary Williams
plus 1 vacancy

Clerk: (*locum*) Peter Leppard, Parish Council office, 1, London Rd, Kegworth, DE74 2EU. 01509 670204
clerk@kegworthparishcouncil.gov.uk
Office hours are variable until our new Clerk joins us.

Parish Council meeting dates

Usually monthly on Mondays at 7.30pm at the Parish Council office. (18 October and 22 November are expected to be the next meetings.)

Feedback on any item in this newsletter is very welcome; we look forward to receiving it! - to clerk@kegworthparishcouncil.gov.uk

