

Kegworth Parish Council and I would like to add our personal thanks to all those who contributed, helped, gave up their time or added value to the Commemoration Event, and I thought that I would pool together some of the many comments that have been passed to us, either in person or via email, as they reflect what many have been saying.

We also received a personal letter from Chief of Police Simon Cole QPM, thanking us for the Day. He writes:

"Please can you ensure that your colleagues at the Parish Council know that the Service yesterday was one of the most moving, inspiring and emotional that I have had the privilege to attend. The catering was superb too. I know that many colleagues were deeply touched by the whole experience. Thank you all!"

Another guest writes:

"I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks for the wonderful job that you did organising everything for the Kegworth Memorial service yesterday. I am not sure how to say thank you as those words seem too little. Every detail was well thought out, well managed and a real credit to you. Everything from my first call to your office to the car park attendant, bus drivers, marshalls, village hall staff, mini bus drivers and all involved, everyone I came across was professional, helpful, caring and well organised, indeed a shining example of what humanity should look like! The service was perfect, and the chaplaincy team, they were simply marvellous, as they always are, they have hearts of gold and they are a credit to the church. The whole service was pitched just right. And everyone had time for reflection, and the opportunity to mingle with others involved after the service was hugely important. It is always a emotional day (I was involved as an Airport Police officer on the night and so on) and 30 years seems to have flown by and I am very grateful for people like you who show what a community should be about.

So once again from the bottom of my heart thank you so very very much."

And another:

"I attended the memorial service on Tuesday, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to all concerned on that day. As a first time visitor to Kegworth and from getting on the bus at EMA to getting on the bus back to the Airport I felt so well looked after the church service was lovely and so moving.

The refreshments at the Village Hall were really lovely and the ladies and gents who served them couldn't have been nicer."

And so on...

"...wanted to congratulate all involved. Planning and organisation logistically was excellent, and the hospitality shown at the reception, exceptional. The people of Kegworth made me feel welcome, and I feel honoured to be included."

“Please may I thank all the staff and volunteers at today’s Kegworth Memorial Service? It was very well organised, from the advanced information and the service, as well as the catering at the village hall afterwards.

I was one of the ambulance staff who attended on that evening, which I will never forget. Today helped to bring a little more closure to that terrible night. Thank you all so much.”

More...

“It was an exceptionally well organised day - which we felt privileged to be part of. It was also very humbling to meet some of the survivors and the families of those who were not so lucky as well as hearing about the contributions of those who helped on the day of the disaster.

We also observed the tremendous sense of community created by those who helped the day run smoothly, including the marshalls and volunteers at the village hall. It was an emotional, challenging and worthwhile visit to Kegworth - a place which will always be in our memories.”

Yet more:

“Would you please pass on our thanks to all concerned, with particular thanks to everyone who provided refreshments and local people who were so friendly and helpful. You clearly have a community in Kegworth to be proud of.”

“I wish to congratulate Kegworth Parish Council on the organization and successful outcome of the events to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the Kegworth Air Disaster.

Sincere thanks must go to the Parish Council's Clerk, Engagement Officer, Chairman, Parish Councillors, and all other helpers & volunteers.

The kindness, hospitality, & words of comfort provided by the various representatives of our community were assuredly much appreciated by those attending the events, particularly those people affected by or involved in the Disaster & its immediate aftermath. Most especially evident was the warmth shown to bereaved families & survivors, our community reaching out to people from other communities.”

“My members really enjoyed the full event and did make a point of how every time worked well from the marshalls, the buses and the food and hospitality...Once again thank you...”

“Well done Kegworth Parish Council. The co-ordination and organisation of yesterday's sad day did Kegworth proud. Thanks to all involved.”

“Both my wife & I attended this morning’s service finding it very moving so much so that I had to contact the Parish Council to thank them for organising such an wonderful & very moving service, please pass on our thanks, well done to all involved.”

“Please pass on my humble thanks to all involved, especially all the volunteers who hosted the reception and made us feel so very welcome.”

“Please can you convey my thanks to the Parish Council and anyone else involved in organising today's event. It was really special and poignant for me. I attended the scene of the crash together with other Notts Police Officers within approximately 30 minutes of the crash and remained on site until about 4.30am. The thought of what we did is often still vivid in my memory so I was pleased to be able to get some closure meeting others who had been effected.”

“I would just like to Thank the Kegworth Parish Council and the residents of Kegworth for making the memorial service such a success and amazing planning with all aspects, parking , buses, and the fabulous and generous food .i can only imagine the amount of planning and work needed also the amount of disruption to the village .On behalf of the retired A/E staff of the Queens medical centre thank you again .”

“Dear Alicia, Richard and the many, many people involved on Tuesday the 8th January 2019 in Kegworth, It is hard to believe that one week ago we were in Kegworth. Time does not diminish our gratitude and appreciation for all the work and effort given by so many to make that day such a moving and memorable one. From the initial caring response to our inquiring phone call and warm emails of information.....the kindness in a lift from the airport and being taken to a place for coffee/breakfast.....the moving and uplifting Commemoration Service.....the quiet Marshalls reassuringly guiding us along paths as we walked in a somewhat dazed state....., to the generosity of delicious sustenance provided with loving graciousness.....the day was overwhelming....and our deep gratitude is beyond words. Thank you so much.....”

“All those involved in the organisation of this event should be very proud, it has been a very fitting tribute.”

Finally, I spoke to a gentleman who attended from Northern Ireland yesterday. He said that he felt reticent in coming as it would be too emotional, having lost his son all those years ago. However, he felt that the Day gave him a sense of 'closure' and to quote: **"I now feel part of a wider community."**

I think that, that sums it up. We are a far reaching Community who threw our arms open and welcomed all those guests who attended, as though they were our own family and friends. Thank you.