

Report on the activities of the Parish Council 2018/19 – by the Chairman Peter Foster

Welcome to the Annual Parish Assembly for 2019. Here is a summary of our activities.

A number of planning applications have been considered over the year, and the Parish Council has made comments as appropriate.

The Parish Council is responsible for the Wood End Play Space, which is currently managed on our behalf by a local resident – Eva Sominka. Eva carries out weekly checks, & arrange for necessary repairs & maintenance which is funded by the Parish Council. We are very grateful for her support in doing this.

A representative from the Parish Council attends quarterly meetings with the Community Police Team, where issues are discussed & priorities set. The priorities are currently speeding, crime prevention & visible policing.

The Parish Council continues to be represented on the Joint Burials Committee with Kempston Town Council, to jointly manage the public burial ground in Green End Rd.

The Parish Council is also represented on Kempston Charities, & this charity welcomes applications for grants from any residents who are in financial need.

The Parish Council is responsible for maintaining the closed church yard at All Saints Church, & continues to keep the area well maintained, including grass cutting, tree trimming, & maintenance of the boundaries. There is proposed work on the southern boundary, which is likely to be completed over the coming months.

We endeavour to keep residents updated with relevant news by using our 6 noticeboards & our website. A new notice-board has been installed opposite Lidl to inform the residents in the new development.

Speeding & Litter are still recurring themes. We are working with the Borough Council to try & address these challenging issues. We are still waiting to see the Borough's response to the speed limits which we requested last year..

We currently have 3 vacancies, & would welcome applications. In particular, it would be good to have representation from the new housing development. It is a concern that in the past year we had two vacancies for a long period. One was filled, but following the election on 2 May we will be losing two of the sitting councillors and I would urge residents to consider standing for the Council.

Finally, I would like to thank all the Parish Councillors & our Clerk, plus our Borough Councillor Mark Smith, for their continued work on behalf of the residents of this Parish.

Peter Foster – Chairman, Kempston Rural Parish Council