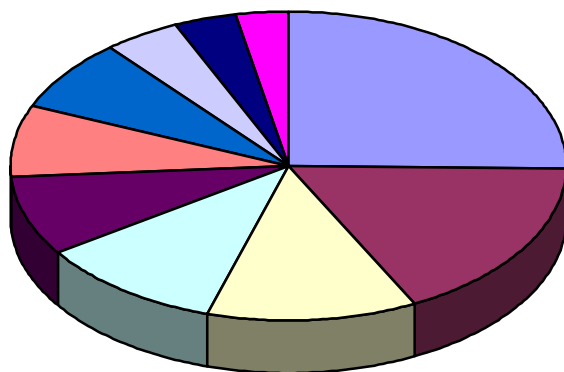


Kelsall Parish Council NEWSLETTER February 2005



The unexpectedly decisive vote against a regional assembly in the North-East has resulted in the Government abandoning plans for a similar referendum in the the North-West. Plans for internal re-organisation of the Cheshire District Councils are now in abeyance, although not ruled out. Many Cheshire councils are relieved, because of their concerns that rural areas would suffer further from the majority urban vote. It is a continuing fight to obtain an acceptable level of service and infrastructure in rural areas compared to the larger conurbations. One of the means by which our views and needs can be expressed and addressed is through the Parish Plan. This is the largest community exercise ever carried out by this Parish Council. Please support it in every way that you can; it could really make a difference. Please try to attend the public meeting on Village Design on Saturday 5th February (details below).

Problems to be addressed



- Housing/Over-development
- Village Design/ facilities
- Open Spaces
- Traffic/Parking
- Transport
- Drainage/Flooding
- Youth Issues and opportunities
- Lighting/Footpaths
- Other
- Education/ Communications

KELSALL PARISH PLAN

The Parish Plan study was launched at an open meeting held at the Community centre in October. The benefits of such a study were described by a guest speaker from Tarleton, Lancs, one of the first parishes to complete a plan. These included a new indoor sports facility, traffic management plan and a grant of £1.6 million for a new health complex.

In the brainstorming session that followed, some 200

individual comments were received about problems of living in Kelsall, broadly summarised in the chart above. These issues, as well as some relevant longer term issues will be addressed through six working groups, which will endeavour to seek the views, ideas and concerns of the whole community.

The six groups are:

1. **Village Design Statement** – to define the character of the village and to prepare guidelines for future development

2. **Economic Prosperity** – to encourage business infrastructure and networking and address relevant crime issues
3. **Transport** – to include congestion, parking and safety issues
4. **Environment and Heritage** – to include flooding
5. **Youth, Recreation and Community** – to include ideas for encouraging healthy minds and life-styles
6. **Housing and village facilities**, eg shops

These groups are being formed and will start their work soon. If you would like to be involved and you have not yet indicated interest, please get in touch with John Leather on 752100 or e-mail John.Streamline@btinternet.com.

The costs of preparing the plan will be largely covered by a grant from the Countryside Agency.

VILLAGE DESIGN STATEMENT

The working group planning this exercise has had several meetings under the expert guidance of John Gittens of the Cheshire Landscape Trust.

As many volunteers as possible are needed to carry this out. A workshop will be held in the Community Centre on **Saturday 5th February**, starting at 9.45am and finishing at about 4.15. John will give us some exercises to carry out and then we will be sent on photographic missions around the village. Children are welcome. Bring a pack lunch and your digital camera, if you have one.

We hope to make this an enjoyable event, as well as a significant step towards the Design Statement. This is a golden opportunity to make your contribution to determining the future appearance of the village and encourage appropriate and sympathetic housing development.

SPEEDING

At the request of residents, members of the Parish Council once again manned vehicle speed monitoring equipment for a week in October, at two sites in Chester Road.

Improvements in the equipment mean that these results are more comprehensive and statistically significant than the first. Nearly 750 vehicle speeds were recorded and these provide a good reference point for future studies.

In summary, a third of the speeds were at or below 30mph; about half were between 30 and 40mph, and the rest were over 40mph. Worryingly, 8 vehicles were logged at over 50mph, clearly excessive and potentially dangerous. Once again, all the Arriva buses were within the limit.

The tentative conclusion seems to be that there are three times as many drivers exceeding 40mph than in our first survey.

Subsequently, Cheshire police set up their own equipment and a number of speeding tickets were issued.

For insurance reasons, only Parish Council members are allowed to operate this equipment; nevertheless, the Council is grateful to the many residents who volunteered to assist with this activity or offered their support.

PLANNING MATTERS

The subject most likely to raise comments, and sometimes hackles, at Parish Council meetings is Planning! But those of you who regularly attend as observers at PC meetings will have noticed a change of late: the list of applications is now shorter and seems to consist mainly of house extensions, conservatories etc.

Following a decision from national government to concentrate development on the East Lancashire corridor between Liverpool and Manchester, Cheshire was instructed to adhere to the strict quota of new building identified in its structure plan. Chester City Council which had for the previous six years exceeded its' quota by sixty percent each year and were already nudging their 2016 target were therefore requested by the County Council to refuse all new applications with the exception of certain categories.

Accordingly at a Chester Council Cabinet meeting on the 29th of July last year the following Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance recommendation was approved: -

In view of the current supply of housing within Chester District all planning applications submitted from now on, which involve a net increase in units, will be refused in accordance with policy HOU 1 of the Cheshire County Structure Plan unless there are significant material

considerations which would justify otherwise. The exceptions set out in this Draft Supplementary Planning Guidance would constitute such material considerations.

There are however applications still in the system such as the Persimmon development between Chester Road and Quarry Lane. Although submitted in small parcels before the deadline in July, this comprises an apartment block and several houses - a total of about twenty-seven dwellings. This has yet to be determined by the City Council.

The exceptions to this new moratorium include affordable housing, agricultural workers' dwellings, 'granny flats' and one-for-one replacement dwellings.

So for the time being the Parish Council can look forward to less lengthy meetings, but we will still monitor and pursue those existing sensitive applications to which we so strenuously objected.

We can also concentrate on our village plan and particularly the Village Design Statement, which once adopted by Chester, will provide the framework for any future development in Kelsall.

KELSALL COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Comings and Goings

In September last year Mr Steve Williams made a welcome return to Kelsall School in his new post as Head Teacher. Acting Head Mr Steve Docking was successful in obtaining the Headship of Delamere School and took up his post there this month.

The Parish Council wish them both every success.

Kelsall School's new Deputy Head will be appointed next term.

The Council wish to thank Mr Howard Norris for his term as Chair of the Governing Body and extend a welcome to Mr Harry Ziman who has taken over from him.

Friends of Kelsall School

Fund raising is still a major item in the part played by the PTA in the life of the school who had successes with the Annual Ball a Pudding Party and the more traditional Xmas Fayre.

Charity Appeals

Not all fund raising comes *into* the school. The Harvest Festival raised a magnificent £1200 for the NSPCC while Year 6 raised £200 for the Blue Peter Appeal Well done everyone.

Library and Resource Centre

We are pleased to inform you that Kelsall Community Library is open again after a short break over the Christmas and New Year period.

Good news at last - in fact very good news indeed as a substantial grant for the running of the Library and Resource Centre has been obtained from Vale Royal District Council. The grant will make this important village facility secure for the foreseeable future.

The Library is open to *all* residents of Kelsall and district, not just to those who have links with the school.

The Library stocks a good selection of paperback fiction, large print fiction and autobiographies. Through an arrangement with Cheshire Libraries we can also offer a collection of brand new leisure and craft books for you to borrow. Don't forget that members can make use of our Broadband Internet Access in the Library and can browse through our growing Local Information collection.

We will soon be announcing the top 100 books as chosen by readers in Kelsall as part of the Kelsall "BIG READ" – and we can guarantee a few surprises – Kelsall readers are adventurous in their choices!!

The Community Library is based at Kelsall CP School on Flat Lane and is open to all residents. Opening times are:

Tuesday 3.00pm to 6.30pm
Thursday 1.45pm to 3.45pm

For more information please contact the Librarian, Linda Clarke, at the times above on 01829 751343.

AROUND KELSALL

KADRAS and the Parish Council have purchased and planted about 1,000 bulbs in some of the grassy areas around Kelsall. We all look forward to the flowering of our labours in the coming months.

If you have any ideas for further improvements to the appearance of Kelsall, please contact either organisation.

These days, travelling around the village, it is pleasing to note the absence of litter, not that litter doesn't appear from time to time, but thanks to our street cleaner, Mr. McKee, it isn't there for long.

We should all be grateful that someone with such a conscientious attitude as Mr. McKee works so hard in our village in all weathers. So, if you see him, perhaps you might give him a friendly wave or a smile.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Citizens Advice Bureau visits Tarvin Methodist Church every Monday from 10am until 1pm, and Kelsall residents are welcome to attend.

It can help with various problems including harassment or discrimination at work arising from your religion, sexuality or disability, or unfair dismissal.

COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT

If you are on a low income, you may qualify for Council Tax benefit. Claim forms and guidance are available from Chester City Council on 01244 402236/7. General information is available from the Department website at www.dwp.gov.uk

PENSION ENQUIRIES

The DWP has set up a number of information points for pension enquiries. Call 0845 60 60 265 to make an appointment at any of the following venues:

Chester City Council
Monday 9:30 – 12:30

Age Concern Chester
Tuesday 9:30 – 12:30
Thursday 9:30 – 12:30

DISABILITY ACCESS

Please contact Tony Castle if you feel that there are any locations in Kelsall which require access ramps for wheelchairs or disability vehicles.

KELSALL YOUTH SUPPORT GROUP

Open meetings for the community were held four times during 2004 to focus on the needs of our young people. The Steering Group will be reporting on progress at the first AGM to be held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 2nd March in the Community Centre. Everyone is welcome.

The activities of our network in 2005 will include developing an event for young people on Wednesday 6 April and ensuring the views of the younger generation feature in the unfolding Parish Plan. If you can help us in any way please contact Joan Fairhurst on 01829 751954

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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KELSALL PARISH COUNCIL

Natalie Read (Clerk)	751352
Noel Dutton (Chair)	751449
John Leather (Vice-Chair)	752100
Tony Castle	752315
Rev. Ian Enticott	751472
John Gray	752833
Richard Hill	752132
Mrs Ann Lacey	751237
Mrs Nancy Sutton	751611
Mrs Ro Cowell	751236

CITY COUNCILLORS

Tony Castle	752315
Dr Joan Fairhurst	751954

COUNTY COUNCILLOR

John Burke	01244 679657
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CHESTER CITY COUNCIL

General Inquiries
01244 324324

Kelsall Parish Council meetings are open to the public and press and are held in the Community Centre on the second Monday of every month, starting at 7.30pm.