



www.kimptonpc.org.uk

Parish Room
Kimpton Memorial Hall
Hall Lane
Kimpton
Herts SG4 8RD
T: 01438 832573
E: clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk

Annual Report 2015/16



Kimpton Parish Council Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Council and the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2016

Published
May 2016

Chairman's Report

In the last Annual Report, I referred to the issue of flooding in the village, which had for a period seemed like a real possibility again. Happily, since that last peak, the continued monitoring of the sump and groundwater levels has not given any further cause for concern but be assured that he levels are still reviewed.

A major project over the last year has been the Kimpton Neighbourhood Plan. This is a framework that we can draft as a community under the Localism Act 2011, and it will establish general planning policies for the development and use of land in a neighbourhood. So-called 'Neighbourhood Development Orders can be drafted that will permit the sort of development we want to see – in full or outline – without the need for planning applications.

As you will appreciate, this could be an important document for the Parish, and accordingly we circulated a questionnaire to canvas residents' views, and we are grateful for the feedback that we received from those who took the time to respond.

Although there seems to be an overall acceptance that new housing is required in and around Kimpton, there is less consensus over the type of housing or the potential locations, so this highlights the importance of having a Neighbourhood Plan in place to make sure that the views of residents are taken into account during future planning and development debates.

In terms of planning, residents will be aware of the closure and subsequent fate of The White Horse. A planning application for conversion to residential use was refused, and the premises were put back on the market for sale as a public house. At the time of writing, we understand that a purchaser has been found, and an offer accepted, so we await further developments with interest.



The Parish Council has installed two defibrillators in the village – one outside the school, funded by donations from the family and friends of the late Norman Sharpe, and another in the Memorial Hall.

Annual Report 2015/16

We have also been approached on several occasions by residents proposing some form of 'multi-use games area', or MUGA, in the village. These areas are essentially fenced-in areas, approximately the size of a tennis court, which are surfaced with artificial grass or other similar surfaces, and marked out for a range of different activities – five-a-side football, tennis, basketball, volleyball and so on.

The Parish Council evaluated several proposals, and different options, but currently the conclusion is that such a project is too expensive to undertake without much wider community support, and there would probably be an impact on the precept if we had to fund such an undertaking. In view of this we have decided not to proceed any further on this project for the time being.

Residents will be aware that the Lloyd Way development is well in hand, and there are various different types of housing on the site, of course. These include shared ownership, open market houses, and those available at affordable or social rents. Apart from the open market properties, these properties are all offered first to those with a connection to Kimpton.

Further information is available on the Parish Council website at <http://kimptonpc.org.uk/housing-options-on-the-lloyd-way-development/>

We have also decided that it's time that we updated the well-used Kimpton Business Directory – this allows you to locate and utilise local businesses as much as possible, and it's amazing what a variety exist in the Parish! We will be upgrading the online version of this directory as well, and look forward to that being launched, along with an updated paper version for those who prefer it, in the coming months.

As ever, I would like to conclude this report by paying tribute to the time and effort put in by all our Parish Councillors and our invaluable Clerk, as well as many members of the community – specifically those involved in the Bench Working Party and the various working groups that the Parish Council also has running alongside it – who give up their time to support local initiatives, and to make the environment pleasant, and the community vibrant.

Thank you all for another constructive year!

Cllr David Hardstaff
Chairman

Financial Report

We have purchased three new notice boards as the old boards were becoming very tatty and unsightly. Two are positioned in the High Street; one outside the school and one by Luton Road junction with the third installed at Peters Green. We have received positive comments from residents who support our objective of providing quality street furniture for all to enjoy. Expenditure was required to carry out tree works around the parish and replace unsafe play equipment. On recommendation of the RoSPA report we removed the Playdale Activity from Wren's Close play area. The pot holes in Parkfield Access Road were repaired and a further dog bin was introduced at the sports ground.

Kimpton Parish Council was pleased to be able to provide significant grants to the Dacre Rooms, Kimpton Tennis Club and the new Kimpton Folk Festival this year. Although the grants were awarded some monies will be paid during 2016/17 which resulted in a surplus being presented for this year end. The Parkfield Sports Ground pavilion extension building works will take place in the summer and the new musical event for Kimpton of the Folk Festival in July.



Again we have received a grant of £1,000 for Parish Paths Partnership which is responsible for the condition of public rights of way in the parish. This year our focus was on the creation of a permissive path between Kimpton and Peters Green that will enable safe pedestrian walking between these two settlements of the parish. The idea came from Chris Baker when he was Chairman of the Rights of Way Working Party and so his name will be used as an acknowledgement and in appreciation for instigating this improvement to the local network. North Herts District Council reduced their environmental grant from £1,000 to £890 used to support the costs of our parish warden.

Parish Council finances are subject to accounts and audit compliance stipulated within Local Audit and Accountability 2014 and statutory instruments. The Council employs the Parish Clerk as its Responsible Financial Officer (Local Government Act 1972 s151) to carry out the day-to-day administration and to prepare the annual accounts for audit. The Council undertakes internal controls and regularly reviews these and an independent internal auditor verifies the Council's financial procedures and processes. The annual accounts were approved at Kimpton Parish Council meeting held on 27th April 2016, subject to internal auditor report.

A new internal auditor has been appointed for this financial year and made an audit visit on 3rd May 2016. The annual internal audit report was completed on the annual return and recommendations will be considered by the Parish Council. The Annual Return for year ended 31st March 2016 will be placed on notice boards and examined by the External Auditor, BDO Stoy Hayward LLP Chartered Accountants. The 30 working day period for the Exercise of Public Rights commences in 13th June 2016.

Carina Helmn
Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

Annual Report 2015/16

Kimpton Parish Council Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2016

		Bank totals	
Balance at 1st April 2015			
	Current Account	35,200.53	
	CCLA	25,000.00	60,200.53
RECEIPTS			
66,904.26	Precept	72,000.00	
985.00	Sports Rental	1,085.00	
5,693.13	Grants and other income	12,556.20	
1,460.36	Allotment Rental	1,536.37	
20.87	Interest received	137.69	
6,933.02	VAT repaid	-	
16,975.00	Loan receipt	-	
98,971.64	TOTAL	87,315.26	
PAYMENTS			
33,486.72	Operational costs & staff	35,928.05	
23,744.54	Property and Premises	21,392.47	
14,088.00	Community support	7,124.64	
7,434.96	Loan repayments	7,484.36	
6,997.44	VAT input	5,827	
85,751.66	TOTAL	77,756.52	
Balance at 31 March 2016			
	Barclays Current Account	18,790.59	
	Unity Account	25,967.94	
	CCLA	25,000.00	69,758.53
	Increase for the Year		9,558.00

Cllr D Hardstaff
Chairman
Date: 27 April 2016

Mrs C Helmn
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 27 April 2016

Annual Report 2015/16

Working Party Representatives and Representatives to Outside Bodies 2015/2016

- 1. Staffing Committee**
Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr J Palmer and Cllr D Reavell
- 2. Representatives to Kimpton Memorial Hall Management Committee**
Cllr D Hardstaff and Cllr J Marsh
- 3. Representative to Peter's Green Village Hall Management Committee**
Cllr S O'Brien
- 4. Representative to Kimpton Primary School Governing Board**
Cllr D Reavell
- 5. Kimpton Bench Working Party**
Cllr J Marsh (Mr B Finch – Leader)
- 6. Kimpton Rights of Way Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Mrs C Finch, Mr B Malcolm (Chairman)
- 7. Major Emergency Planning Working Party**
Cllr D Hardstaff and Cllr J Palmer
- 8. Youth Initiatives and Sports Council**
Cllr S O'Brien and Cllr D Reavell
- 9. Open spaces, Village Greens, Recreation Grounds and Playgrounds Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr D Hardstaff and Cllr S O'Brien
- 10. Allotment Working Party**
Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr L Hawke, Mr B Finch and Mr M Frost
- 11. Kimpton Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr S O'Brien and Cllr J Palmer
- 12. East of Luton Development Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr J Marsh and Cllr J Palmer
- 13. Kimpton Environment Working Party**
Cllr D Hardstaff, Cllr J Palmer and Cllr D Pirola

Contact Details

Cllr Ian Corbett	11 Park Lane, Kimpton, SG4 8SB
Cllr David Hardstaff (Chairman)	27 Dacre Crescent, Kimpton, SG4 8QJ
Cllr L Hawke	46 High Street, Kimpton, SG4 8RN
Cllr Jon Marsh	29 Church Lane, Kimpton, SG4 8RR
Cllr Sue O'Brien	98 High Street, Kimpton, SG4 8QW
Cllr Jon Palmer	46 Kimpton Road, Blackmore End, AL4 8LD
Cllr Donatella Pirola	1 Rose Cottages, Lawrence End Rd, Peters Green, LU2 9QD
Cllr David Reavell	Five Chimneys, 10 Church Lane, Kimpton, SG4 8SD
Carina Helmn – Parish Clerk	E: clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk
North Herts District Cllr John Bishop	E: john.bishop@north-herts.gov.uk
Herts County Cllr Richard Thake	E: richard.thake@hertfordshire.gov.uk
The Rt Hon Peter Lilley – MP	E: feedback@peterlilley.co.uk