



Parish Room
Kimpton Memorial Hall
Hall Lane
Kimpton
Herts SG4 8RD
T: 01438 832573
M: 07891 452832
E: clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk

www.kimptonpc.org.uk

Annual Report 2019/20



Kimpton Parish Council Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Council and the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2020

**Published
April 2020**

Kimpton Parish Council Annual Statement

Kimpton Housing Needs Survey Results

This year the Parish undertook its first housing needs survey in over 10 years. A very large thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the survey. The size of the response was very impressive with over 270 households responding. This return of 30% is very high for surveys of this nature.

A summary is as follows:

86.5% of respondents supported building some form of new affordable homes.

39.5% of respondents supported building as many new affordable homes as required to meet the local need.

13.5% of respondents preferred to see no new homes built.

The report identifies a need for 24 additional affordable homes for the Parish, mainly of 1 and 2 bedrooms in size.

The order of preference for affordable housing was:

- 1) to be rented
- 2) for sale
- 3) shared ownership.

The housing type with the greatest need was for families with children.

The need for housing for the elderly and sheltered housing for the elderly was higher than the last time a survey was undertaken. A specific case was made for Parishioners to be able to move into appropriate housing within the Parish in their elder years.

The location most frequently suggested for new housing was at the 'Ron Hyde Gap', the area to the north of the High Street at the west end of the village.

The largest area of concern was the capacity of the existing infrastructure (including schools, the doctor's practice, traffic congestion and parking).

There were clear views that any housing must be financially affordable and for local people.

The nature of any housing was stated that it should retain the style of the Parish and be energy efficient and environmentally friendly.

A number of local landowners have very kindly offered sites for consideration. NHDC have reviewed these and established a preferred location adjacent to the "Ron Hyde Gap".

We have held discussions with a local housing association and have made initial approaches to the landowner. There is still a very long way to go and we will hopefully be able to update the community during the coming year. The full report is available from the Parish Clerk.

Recreation Areas

As part of general maintenance and village improvements, repairs to the Recreation Ground have been undertaken. Rubbish bins have been replaced, playground equipment has been repaired, the safety barrier has been repainted, the safety barrier has been extended and the pavilion has been repaired. Many thanks to Bob Finch and the Bench Working Party for undertaking the work.

At Parkfield Sports Ground we have purchased three additional picnic tables which have been located adjacent to the tennis courts in time for the summer.



Pictured (left to right) below is Roy Davies, who kindly made the tables, with Jon Marsh, Mick Saunders and Pete Desborough of the BWP.

Wider afield we have added a number of dog waste bins.

Crime

A meeting was held in Kimpton Memorial Hall on 17th September to discuss rural crime. The meeting was led by David Lloyd, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire and Bim Afolami, our local MP.

The overall level of crime in our community remains very low; however, this is of little comfort to those who have personally experienced it.

The most numerous crimes in rural areas remain thefts from outbuildings, sheds and farm buildings, fly tipping, antisocial behaviour, domestic abuse, house theft, and car theft. Cyber-crime including telephone banking scams is a rapidly increasing area of risk to rural communities.

Policing is a more complex matter now compared to 50 years ago. The days of a full-time local police constable living and working within the village have gone. Specialist units deal with differing types of crime and the sharing of information between neighbouring police forces is more frequently undertaken.

The Police continue to reassure us that all possible enquiries are being carried out in an attempt to identify those responsible. This includes review of obtained CCTV footage to ID the offenders. The Parish Council is working with the Police and the Neighbourhood Watch group in regard to these incidents.

The reporting of all crimes by the public is extremely important. Political decisions are driven by statistics so please always report incidents, whether it is a theft or noticing that fly tipping has occurred on a country road.

<https://www.herts.police.uk/Report/Report-Shared/Report-a-crime>

Gary Pugsley, our Safer Neighbourhood Officer, can be contacted on Gary.PUGSLEY@Herts.pnn.police.uk

With the recent Government announcements for an increase in police officers, we understand 300 new officers are being recruited for Hertfordshire. We all look forward to improvements in local policing and an even safer community.

Autumn Show

This year's Autumn Show was extended to include a 'Beer and Cider Festival' run by Kimpton Pre-School to raise funds. The event, held in the Memorial Hall and its garden, was very well attended. The number of this year's entries was well above last year. Many of the vegetable and fruit entries come from the enthusiastic allotment holders within the village. The Council is delighted to support the event and to make available allotment spaces.

So impressed was Councillor Richard Thake of Hertfordshire County Council that he has offered £500 funding for when the next Autumn show will be held.

A large thank you to Sandra Berti and the Committee for organising the Autumn Show and to Andy Lawrence, Jon Sweet and Jane Hunt and the Pre-School for manning the beer festival event and the immense amount of time and effort that they provided.

Luton Airport

Luton Airport (LLAL) has this year submitted a planning application to relax noise levels and many of you will have responded with your views on the matter to Luton Borough Council Planning Department. KPC has recorded objections to the noise level being allowed to increase.

In addition, LLAL have been holding consultation sessions in regard to a planned airport expansion and I am sure that many of you have had the opportunity to attend. The events were very professionally run and much information was available. However, Kimpton Parish Council representatives have been surprised that LLAL have to date been unable to fully address the following 3 questions.

After the airport has reached a capacity of 32million:

1. Will the noise levels be greater or less than the currently permitted noise levels, and by how much?

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2. Will the pollution levels be greater or less than current pollution levels, and by how much?
3. Will the traffic congestion on neighbouring roads be greater than the current level, and by how much?

We would hope that a reputable organisation operating in a world with increasing focus upon global warming and sustainability will strive to significantly improve these factors. We are currently awaiting LLAL to confirm modifications to their initial proposals.

Flooding



Issues of flooding at a number of locations in the village have caused problems for pedestrians during the severe wet weather during early spring. Locations at Claggy Road and the bottom of Church Lane have both been badly affected.

The main cause for this is blocked road gullies and blocked drains. Road gullies on land owned by the Parish were cleaned out during February. Gullies on public roads are maintained by Hertfordshire County Council and these appear to be the main problem. Some members of the Bench Working Party have investigated and removed significant amounts of silt from gully sumps; however, the drain connections to the main sewer appear blocked and require specialist equipment. HCC continue to be notified and will be reminded until the work is undertaken.



Christmas Market



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This year's Christmas market proved to be the best to date. The weather was cold but dry and the village turned out in force to enjoy a wide range of festive entertainment. Many stayed for the whole afternoon enjoying the music, children's activities, market stalls, and the chance to catch up with people. Santa was in great demand and it is true to say he looked a different man by the end of the day. Our local MP, Bim Afolami, made time to join the event and walked away with a large cake from Mary Hyde's cake stall.

As well as funds raised directly by Kimpton School and the Pre-School a further £1,300 was generated from the market stalls and bar, which has been divided equally between the two schools.

A special thank you to David Reavell for leading the event, Helen McPhun for organising the music, Sue Davis for working magic with Santa's grotto and winter wonderland, Carina Helmn for organising the craft market, Kate Buckenham for decorating the marquees, Helena Kirk and Georgina Shaughnessy for organising the children's events, Ian Corbett for running the BBQ and all those from the village who gave their time to help organise such a special event.



Kimpton Bottom

An opportunity has arisen for the purchase of 10 acres of freehold land at Wardill Field, Kimpton Bottom. This land is bounded by Coopers Hill and Kimpton Bottom B652. The present landowners wish to sell to the local community to maintain its rural use. Kimpton Parish Council is interested to acquire this asset for the benefit and use of the community and has therefore made an expression of interest. We are currently awaiting the details of the sales particulars before deciding if it is appropriate to proceed. This would require a capital investment of approximately £100,000 but our finances are in a healthy position and with a partial loan, a purchase would be possible without an increase in the annual council tax precept for the purpose of such a loan repayment. Decisions will be made in the coming financial year.

Claggy Road Parking

We are very aware that over a number of years there have been issues for local residents regarding visitors to local businesses parking in the area of the Claggy Road Industrial Estate.

This has again recently come to a head with some regular inconsiderate parking across dropped kerbs. We understand so called T-bar markings across some of the dropped curbs on the west side of Claggy Road are being considered by Hertfordshire County Council.

In addition, we have been working with Highways to see if there is anything we can do to alleviate the parking issues. There is the possibility of creating a number of

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parking spaces on the grass verges of Claggy Road, which is Highways land. The parking scheme would likely be of the 'grass crete' variety so as not be too obtrusive. If there is sufficient support in principle from local residents and businesses, we will explore further with Highways including the size of the potential scheme.

Coronavirus – Kimpton Cares

The impact of the Coronavirus has been felt by all within our community. Government



advice is updated on a daily basis and I am sure it will continue to be developed as we move past the peak of reported occurrences. What will remain constant is the need for each of us, individually and collectively, to exercise best common sense; both to avoid unreasonable risk to our own health and especially to those most susceptible to serious ill health.

With the Government directive to those at greatest risk to isolate, we as a community, will need to continue to exercise the Kimpton spirit of supporting those who may need assistance during this time.

Kimpton Cares has been set up by Kimpton Parish Council and Kimpton Church for anyone wanting assistance such as shopping, dropping off and picking

up prescriptions, essential gardening, access to a foodbank and or needing a listening ear. All information will be held in total confidence. This is the community coming together to offer support to each other in times of crisis.

Cllr Neil Burns

Chairman

Financial Report

Kimpton Parish Council had a steady year with receipts remaining the same at just over £98,000 of which £74,000 was from the precept demanded. The parish council supplements our council tax receipts with income from successful grant applications, sport rentals, allotment fees and surplus from the Christmas Market.

The council has been able to reduce annual expenditure this year as some large projects were carried out and completed in the previous year. We have been successful in creating savings within the budget often using volunteers instead of contractors where possible for works on maintaining our open spaces and council property. Also, the surplus generated by the Christmas Market enabled our grants to Kimpton School and Kimpton Pre-School to be made without reliance on the precept. Expenditure planned in the budget for highways projects will be taken forward to this financial year. This reduction in council overall expenditure has created a surplus of £23,593 thereby increasing our carry forward reserves on 31st March to £84,612.

Parish Council finances are subject to accounts and audit compliance stipulated within 'The Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015'. The Annual Governance and Annual Return (AGAR) will be presented at Kimpton Parish Council meeting in May. Our internal auditor will conduct his review in May and his report will be available afterwards. The AGAR will be published on www.kimptonpc.org.uk and sent to our external auditors, PCK Littlejohn in May.

Carina Helmn

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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Kimpton Parish Council Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2020

		Bank totals	
Balance at 1st April 2019			
	Unity Current Account	12,949.38	
	Barclays Account	3,070.27	
	CCLA	45,000.00	61,019.65
RECEIPTS			
72,000.00	Precept	74,000.00	
1,180.00	Sports Rental	1,205.00	
16,434.01	Grants and other income	12,747.15	
1,701.20	Allotment Rental	1,714.40	
284.34	Interest received	331.42	
6,635.41	VAT repaid	8,324.07	
98,234.96	TOTAL	98,322.04	
PAYMENTS			
31,578.85	Operational costs & staff	31,553.38	
23,138.89	Property and Premises	18,384.43	
28,119.58	Community support	12,307.73	
7,484.36	Loan repayments	7,484.36	
8,180.50	VAT input	4,998.94	
98,502.18	TOTAL	74,728.84	
Balance at 31 March 2020			
	Barclays Current Account	421.70	
	Unity Account	39,191.15	
	CCLA	45,000.00	84,612.85
	Surplus for the Year		23,593.20

Cllr N Burns
Chairman
Date: 22 April 2020

Mrs C Helmn
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 22 April 2020

Committees, Working Parties and Representatives

- 1. Staffing Committee**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr S O'Brien and Cllr D Reavell (*Chairman*)
- 2. Internal Financial Control Working Party**
Cllr N Burns (*Lead*), Cllr A Firth and Cllr D Reavell
- 3. Christmas Market Working Party**
Cllr D Reavell (*Lead*), Cllr N Burns, Cllr I Corbett, Cllr C Procter, Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr J Marsh, Mr B Finch, Helena Kirk, Georgina Shaugnessy, Mr I Pegrum, Mrs T ,Corbett, Mrs H McPhun
- 4. Kimpton Bench Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr J Marsh, Mr B Finch (*Lead*), Mr D Stevens, Mr L Weeks, Mr B Malcolm, Mr J Murphy, Mr K Haynes, Mr J Pollington, Mr P Butcher, Mr P Desborough, Mrs C Beaumont, Mr D Pitcher, Mr A West, Mr T Newton, Mr H Eck, Mr M Saunders, Mr S Thompson, Mr A Davidson, Mr B Emms, Mr J Wade, Mr A Morton, Mr G Glen, Mr J Edwards, Mr J Cardy
- 5. Kimpton Rights of Way Working Party**
Cllr L Hawke, Cllr C Procter, Mrs C Finch, Mr B Malcolm (*Lead*), Mr P Hale, Mr A Manning, Mr E Cornall, HCC Rights of Way Officer, when appointed
- 6. Sports Clubs Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett (*Lead*), Cllr C Procter, Cllr S O'Brien, Mr S Thompson, Mr W Phillips, Mr T Randall, Mr D Robbins
- 7. Public Spaces and Playgrounds Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr C Procter (*Lead*), Cllr J Marsh
- 8. Allotment Working Party**
Cllr L Hawke (*Lead*), Mr B Finch, Mr A Morton, Mr P Desborough
- 9. Highways and Parking Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr A Firth (*Lead*), Cllr L Hawke, Mr T Frith, Mrs J Worboys
- 10. Environmental Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett (*Lead*), Cllr N Burns, Cllr L Hawke, Mrs D Malcolm
- 11. Planning Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr C Procter, Cllr A Firth
- 12. Representatives to Kimpton Memorial Hall Administrative Committee**
Cllr J Marsh and Cllr A Firth
- 13. Representative to Peter's Green Village Hall Management Committee**
Cllr A Firth
- 14. Representative to Kimpton Primary School Governing Board**
Cllr D Reavell

Contact Details

Chairman	Cllr Neil Burns	chairman@kimptonpc.org.uk
Councillors	Ian Corbett, Alex Firth, Lewis Hawke, Carly Procter, Sue O'Brien, Jon Marsh, David Reavell	
Address	Parish Room, Kimpton Memorial Hall, Hall Lane, Kimpton, Herts SG4 8RD	
Parish Clerk	Carina Helmn	clerk@kimptonpc.org.uk
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