

Annual Report 2021/22



Kimpton Parish Council Annual Report gives a review of the activities of the Council and the financial report for the year ending 31st March 2022

Published
April 2022

Kimpton Parish Council Annual Statement

Introduction

This year marked the return to some semblance of normality for council matters. We started the year – my first as Chairman – continuing to hold our meetings via video conference, as we had done since March 2020. However, from July we were able to enjoy face-to-face meetings again, with the first one memorably being held in the gardens of Kimpton Memorial Hall.

Like many other organisations, we are still looking to find the best new ways of working, which recognises both the opportunities and limitations that digital technology can offer. To improve transparency and participation, the council is currently investigating options that will allow us to live broadcast council meetings, so residents can watch proceedings remotely, rather than needing to attend in person. This follows a rise in attendance figures during the different lockdowns, albeit compared to a reasonably small base.

Your council

This year saw three changes within the council. We welcomed Ben Purple as our newest parish councillor, having filled the vacancy by co-option. The council would like to thank Cllr Lewis Hawke, the outgoing councillor, for his service to the parish during his seven-year stint on the council, during which he also served as vice-chair.

In addition, I was elected chair for 2021-22, following the decision of Cllr Neil Burns to step down from the role. Neil was elected straight into the role when he joined the council three years ago, and has done a sterling job. Finally, Cllr Alex Firth was elected vice-chair for the current council year.

Kimpton Walking Christmas Market



I'm delighted to report that the Kimpton Christmas Market returned this year, being held for the first time since 2019. The market was held from 2-6pm on Saturday 4th of December.

Like many other community events, in 2020 it was a virtual market, but for 2021 it was physically back in the village, albeit with some minor alterations to manage social contact. The big twist was that this year it was a 'walking' market. So instead of the usual marquees on The Green, there were live music, food outlets and pop-up stalls dotted around the village – in gardens, driveways, and garages. A trail map was produced to assist people in finding their way

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around, whilst the Kimpton PTA organised a special trail for children, complete with a chance to wave at a not entirely unexpected 'special visitor'.

The Dacre Rooms played host to the bar throughout, including mulled wine served in a newly designed Kimpton Christmas Market mug. Also new for this year, was a very successful social evening on Friday the 3rd of May, complete with outdoor real ale bar and Christmas carols, performed by members of Kimpton's very own village choir.

Tree planting initiatives

The council funded the planting of some new trees on the village green in Peters Green, a project which also included the installation of a new circular bench around the silver birch, (see front cover photo). The bench was made possible due to fundraising donations from Peters Green Village Hall Trust and The Bright Star, so our thanks to them for supporting this initiative.

Work has also begun on renewing the hedgerow at Parkfield Sports Ground. The council secured 1,000 trees through the NHDC free trees giveaway scheme, which are being planted as a new native hedgerow. These are mixed species of hawthorn, hazel, downy birch, silver birch, field maple, whitebeam, lime, rowan, wild cherry and bird cherry.



Photos by Juliet Morton



On Friday 11 March, we held a community planting day, which saw seven crab apple trees planted as part of The Queen's Green Canopy. This is a unique tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, where people from across the United Kingdom are being invited to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

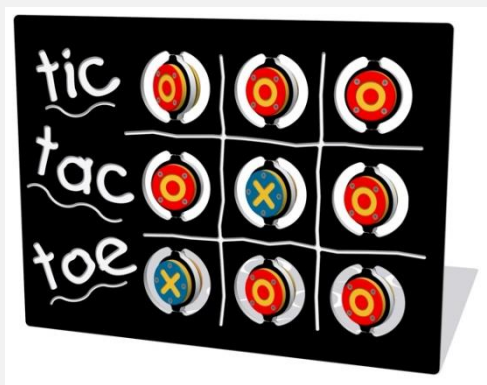
Kimpton Parish Council decided to plant seven – one to mark each decade of the Queen's service – and chose to do it on the 70th day of 2022. It was a true community project, with the Eco Team from Kimpton Primary School joining forces with the Bench Working Party and Kimpton Parish Council to plant the trees. Although it's early days, we're pleased with the size of the saplings and hope that they will establish quickly.

In many ways, these are legacy projects for the benefit of future generations. They would not have been possible without the support of the Bench Working Party, so we are especially grateful to them for their help with these tree planting initiatives. Not to mention all the other projects they take on for the benefit of the parish.

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Upgraded sports, play and recreation facilities

A new outdoor table tennis table was installed on the Parkfield Sports Ground and I'm pleased to report it has been getting good use, especially over the summer months.



Meanwhile, at the Recreation Ground, the see-saw was replaced with two new items. Firstly, a Double Perch, which is a "springer" product that encourages teamwork and group play. It's suitable for use by both younger (4yrs+) and older users. There's also a Tic Tac Toe Panel, a classic game which is still surprisingly addictive!

Following a request from some residents earlier this year, the council has also ordered some outdoor fitness equipment, which will be sited on the lower level of the Recreation Ground. It will be installed in May, to avoid disrupting any plans for the Kimpton May Festival, which makes a welcome return this year.

Finally, at the March meeting, the Council approved a motion to terminate the lease agreement between the council and Kimpton Rugby Football Club (KRFC), meaning the management of the Recreation Ground pavilion and pitch will be taken over by Kimpton Parish Council during the summer months. This motion had the support of KRFC, and reflects the fact there are now a variety of users for both the pitch and pavilion, meaning it is more appropriate that the council manage it accordingly as a community asset. Refurbishment plans are currently being drawn up for consideration by the council, in consultation with existing and potential users. The council would like to place on record its thanks to KRFC for their stewardship over recent years, and for their excellent support during the current transition phase.

Greening Kimpton



'Greening Kimpton' is a community-led initiative that aims to support local people and businesses in reducing energy consumption and waste, helping create a healthier and happier future for us all. Cllr Ben Purple has been leading this on behalf of the Council, and the campaign launched in earnest in September, with a coffee morning at the Dacre Rooms. To make

it a success, we need people of all ages, backgrounds, and different shades of "green" to support the initiative.

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Subsequently, work is ongoing to engage with local groups and organisations from across the community to establish the role they can each play. The campaign now has its own Facebook page (called Greening Kimpton, unsurprisingly enough) and email address - greeningkimpton21@gmail.com, so it has never been easier to find out more about this timely and important initiative.

Statutory Consultation on the proposed expansion of London Luton Airport



On Tuesday 8 February, Luton Rising, the owners of London Luton Airport, opened a new statutory consultation on its long-term proposals to expand the airport. The consultation ran until 4 April.

The proposal is to increase the capacity of the airport to 32 million passengers per year, by building a new terminal and making better use of the existing runway. Pre-pandemic, 18 million passengers used the

terminal each year, so the proposed increase is significant.

The council submitted its response, outlining its concerns about the proposal's growing impacts on climate change and on local quality of life. It also urged all residents to learn about the proposals and have their say as part of the consultation.

Proposed closure of Bridge Cottage Surgery

Towards the end of the year, we received the disappointing news that Bridge Cottage Surgery was proposing to close its branch surgery at Kimpton, citing concerns over health, safety and ease of access. To give residents the opportunity to find out more about the proposal, Kimpton Parish Council arranged for a public meeting to take place in April. In addition, some councillors, myself included, attended a meeting with Dr Pathmanathan, senior partner, to discuss the plans and share feedback from residents.

If the surgery does close, the proposal would mean all registered patients would instead be offered appointments at Bridge Cottage Surgery in Welwyn, whilst home visits would continue to be offered to frail and housebound patients. Meanwhile, patients who decide not to remain registered with the practice would be supported and offered advice on how to re-register at a different practice in the local area.



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Butt End Path

The council put up signs denoting 'Butt End Path', which runs from the Hitchin Road to the top of Church Lane.

By doing so, we reinstated the name of an historic footpath, as recorded on various old plans. The origin of the name remains a bit of a mystery, but one plausible explanation is that a 'butt' is the name farmers give to an awkward shaped corner of a field, which certainly fits the description of a nearby field. Thank you to Cllr Jon Marsh for arranging this on behalf of the council.



Dog waste bins

The council installed a double capacity dog waste bin in the Parkfield Sports Ground and relocated the old one to the entrance by Hitchin Road. This is to try and keep up with the increased demand, which had resulted in the old bin overflowing. In addition, the council arranged for a new bin to be located between Hall Lane and Probyn Close.

A reminder that the dog waste bins are emptied regularly, but if you find one that's full, please put your bag in any public bin that has space or take your bag home with you. Please don't leave it on the floor, as it's a particularly unacceptable and offensive type of litter.

The White Horse



Following a request from the 'Save Our White Horse' community group, the Parish Council wrote to NHDC to register our support for the issue of an urgent works or repair notice, to safeguard this asset of community value. The listed building is sadly currently in a state of some disrepair, with no visible building work taking place.

This follows an unsuccessful planning application by the current owner to convert the building to mainly residential use, with a micro pub and office attached.

Cllr Ian Corbett
Chairman

Financial Report

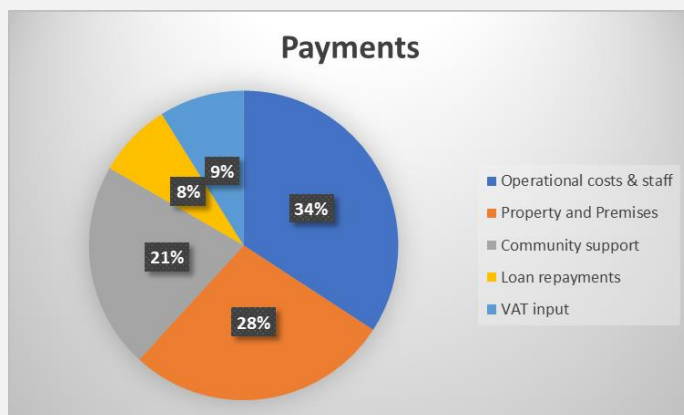
Receipts

Our allotment rentals are healthy as all plots continue to be taken, thereby increasing income and reducing expenditure required for vacant plots. New residents have seen the excellent facility we offer and put their names down on the waiting list.

In addition to the precept, we have received a Government Grant CTRS, through North Herts Council, of £1,784.69. To continue our support for the local Sports Clubs, rents were kept at the 2020/2021 level. Other income relates to s106 monies for the new playground equipment and bar sales / craft stalls at the Kimpton Christmas Market.

Payments

In September 2021 the outdoor table tennis table was installed at Parkfield Sports Ground and in February 2022 new playground equipment of a Double Perch and Tic Tac board were installed at the Recreation Ground. Other specific year costs include the replanting of the hedge at Parkfield Sports Ground and the planting of 7 crab apple trees. This project is part of The Queen's Green Canopy set up across the UK in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. People were urged to create this 'special gift' for the Queen, marking her 70 years on the throne and therefore each of the crab apple trees was planted to represent a decade on the throne. The Parish Council was pleased to be able to give financial assistance to the British Legion (Kimpton Branch) with their specialist cleaning of the War Memorial. A new Community Defibrillator was purchased for the red phone box at Peters Green, paid for with a successful grant application to Hertfordshire County Council.



Kimpton School and Kimpton Pre-School have both received financial support to assist in the delivery of extra curriculum activities for the pupils through the approval of KPC grants and a KPC fundraising event; Kimpton Christmas Market.

The loan repayments relate to the Green Room improvements at Kimpton Memorial Hall which will come to an end in September 2023.

Maintenance costs of the public spaces and playgrounds were kept within the budget plus the addition of a new dog waste bin on the public footpath near Probyn Close.

New annual costs for the website and social media support were carefully controlled and came in at 40% of the budget allocated.

Audit

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 April. Our internal auditor will continue her detailed review of our financial and management processes and procedures with the report available afterwards. The AGAR will be published on www.kimptonpc.org.uk and sent to our external auditors, PCK Littlejohn in May. Details of how electors can inspect the accounts will be published on the website and on our notice boards.

Carina Helmn

Parish Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer

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Kimpton Parish Council Annual Accounts Year Ended 31st March 2022

2020/2021			BANK TOTALS £
	Balance at 1st April 2021		
	Unity Current Account	40,861.76	
	Barclays Account	1,600.26	
	CCLA	45,000.00	87,462.01
	RECEIPTS		
75,800.00	Precept	77,000.00	
0.00	Sports Rental	0.00	
5,712.48	Grants and other income	19,210.74	
2,733.22	Allotment Rental	2,667.68	
88.96	Interest received	31.43	
4,998.94	VAT repaid	6,387.62	
89,333.60	TOTAL	105,297.47	
	PAYMENTS		
31,532.38	Operational costs & staff	32,858.00	
21,520.57	Property and Premises	28,900.42	
19,559.50	Community support	20,708.34	
7,484.36	Loan repayments	7,484.36	
6,387.62	VAT input	8,538.03	
86,484.43	TOTAL	98,489.15	
	Balance at 31 March 2022		
	Unity Current Account	50,795.07	
	Barclays Account	856.21	
	CCLA	45,000.00	94,270.33
	Surplus for the Year		6,808.32

Cllr I Corbett
Chairman
Date: 27 April 2022

Mrs C Helmn
Responsible Financial Officer
Date: 27 April 2022

Committees, Working Parties and Representatives

- 1. Staffing Committee**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr J Marsh and Cllr D Reavell (*Chairman*)
- 2. Internal Financial Control Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett (*Lead*), Cllr N Burns, Cllr A Firth and Cllr D Reavell
- 3. Christmas Market Working Party**
Cllr D Reavell (*Lead*), Cllr S O'Brien, Cllr J Marsh, Cllr B Purple, Mr B Finch, Mrs H Kirk, Mrs T Corbett, Mr B King, Mrs G Curry
- 4. Kimpton Bench Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr J Marsh, Mr B Finch (*Lead*), Mr D Stevens, 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 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, Mr G Durrant, Mr W Phillips
- 5. Kimpton Rights of Way Working Party**
Cllr C Procter, Mrs C Finch, Mrs J Worboys (*Lead*), Mr A Manning, Mrs S Wilson, Mr A Burton, HCC Rights of Way Officer
- 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, Mr C Burston
- 7. Public Spaces and Playgrounds Working Party**
Cllr C Procter (*Lead*), Cllr J Marsh, Cllr B Purple, Mr B Finch
- 8. Allotment Working Party**
Cllr B Purple (*Lead*), Mr N Page, Mrs C Page, Mr G Ewington, Mrs C Lawrence, Mrs J Worboys
- 9. Highways and Parking Working Party**
Cllr N Burns, Cllr A Firth (*Lead*), Cllr D Reavell, Mr T Frith, Mrs J Worboys, Mr M Henderson, Mr T Smith. County Cllr R Thake to attend as appropriate.
- 10. Environmental Working Party**
Cllr I Corbett, Cllr B Purple (*Lead*), Cllr J Marsh
- 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. Peter's Green Village Hall CIO**
Trustees: Cllr A Firth and Cllr N Burns
- 14. Representative to Kimpton Primary School Governing Board**
TBA

Contact Details

Chairman	Cllr Ian Corbett	chairman@kimptonpc.org.uk
Councillors	Neil Burns, Ian Corbett, Alex Firth, Ben Purple, Carly Procter, Sue O'Brien, Jon Marsh, David Reavell	
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