

Chair: Nigel De Badgecoe
Clerk: Ruth Mazonas
Member: Jennie Beaumont
Member: Jenny Smith
Member: Alistair McClee
Member: Damian Hadfield
Member: Andy Alton



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Kirklevington and Castle Leavington Parish Council

Annual Report of the Chairman

May 2021 – May 2022

Looking back over the last year it is fair to say we have made and seen significant changes in the Parish and within the Parish Council.

We were very pleased and grateful to finally be approved for the resurfacing of Forest Lane – many thanks to our Local Ward Councillors who campaigned to have this work approved for us. The new road is a huge improvement on the previous worn-out surface and it is now a pleasure to drive along – we will have to monitor what impact this has on speeding vehicles and traffic numbers over time.

The consolidation of contact details for the Council and Village Hall has been a great success, the 'single point of contact' email has been very well used and adopted along with the website – as I write this now the website has seen over 11,000 visits and is updated at least weekly by myself and Ruth. It covers all news bulletins, information on Church services and events and of course the live on-line booking system for the Village hall rooms, mezzanine and now also the snooker hall. We have just recently launched a new Facebook page which is moderated by a number of different KPC Admins – all members to the page need to have their postal addresses verified to ensure they live in the village and ALL posts needs to be approved prior to being published. This may seem overkill to some but it gives us on the KPC ultimate control, we can verify that news (as far as possible) stays within the village but ultimately it means there can be no instances of trolling or anti-social posting or fake news etc. In the lead up to upcoming Jubilee celebrations it has already proven to be a great asset.

The alternative access road for Wimpey construction traffic is still under discussion, Wimpeys have visited site to assess and price up the option; they are in conversations with Storeys but unfortunately, they will not divulge readily any more (commercially sensitive) news or updates on the matter despite our frequent chasing. We will however keep on progressing this!

Theakstons application for 300x houses was ultimately approved despite much lobbying and complaints from the local residents. No real thought has been given to effect this will have on traffic flows and additional congestion

The Kirklevington to Conyers\Yarm bus Service bus is edging closer, this was due to be in place by the 60th occupied dwelling on the Storey site – currently there are 54 occupied dwellings – we have already started putting the pressure on to make sure the service is made available asap rather than being stalled for months afterwards.

*The Storys development has required a lot of ongoing dialogue as they have needed quite a bit of prompting due to half completed works, dangerous paths, litter, drainage, poor lighting and road/pathways etc – we have a regular dialogue with them and they do seem to action our requests eventually but usually after a **lot** of chasing. As I write this now, they have just completed the road markings at the junction of Squirrels Leap and their public car park – however these have been painted incorrectly so as to not allow traffic heading south down pump lane to enter the car park – they have also failed to install the required drop kerb for disabled access across the footpath there. We still have had no confirmation from SBC about their intentions to make Pump Lane 2 way in this area so as to enable traffic to flow fully both clockwise and anti-clockwise around St Martins Green – currently it is everyone's desire to leave the one-way only section in Pump Lane to prevent this happening and we have been campaigning to keep it 'as is' – although this new road paintwork seems to favour the former thought...*

There have been many changes in the playground, thanks to a generous grant from the William Hall trust, we were able to procure a few new seating areas with associated patterned concrete bases. This gives us Wheelchair friendly picnic benches, a large group seating area plus dedicated seat backed benches for the elderly. We have renewed\rebuilt and re-sited the kids climbing net to make way for (potentially) more equipment aimed at some of the older children, we have also installed a cycle rack by the main gate and entrance in an attempt to stop children dumping bikes\scooters and blocking the access & road. We have also returfed and reseeded the banked areas to make good the areas around the new seating

From May 16th for a period of 2 weeks, the public right of way around the south side of the school will be closed to the public to finally allow for the installation of drainage to fix the historic surface water run off issues and also for a new gravel footpath to be laid between St Martins Way and Pump Lane. Again, massive thanks to our ward councillors for approving this work from their ward budgets

We would like to say a huge thank-you to Pramada Deepak and Becky Grainger for their contributions to the Parish Council over the years, both have decided to step down due to other commitments; but we now welcome Alistair McLee back on to the council as a previously serving member.

Parish newsletters continue to be published and distributed every three months as planned. Currently we have stopped distributing them to outside of the village as we have seen some antisocial behaviour towards the people delivering them as they were deemed as 'junk mail' or not relevant to the new estates of Green Lane who see themselves very much as Yarm and not Kirklevington. I intend to do one final Newsletter to these estates advising them that moving forward all newsletters will be on the website and not physically posted anymore.

With the help once again of the ward councilors budget, we have seen planting on the junction of Thirsk Road and Pump Lane, we saw 24m² area of daffodils on one side and a 20m by 1m swath of crocus bulbs on the other. The daffodils looked lovely in bloom this year however the crocuses did not surface as they appeared to have been devoured by the explosion in the rabbit population in that same area.

We conducted a Parish Questionnaire inviting all residents to provide feedback in the village and its amenities – its quite a task writing, printing and distributing these but most of all the collation of the data itself. Once we had all the data we were able to publish its findings on the website – for the records, copies of both documents are embedded below;



Questionnaire.pdf



Questionnaire
Summary - Damian.x

As a high level overview, 100% of people who replied stated that Kirklevington was a pleasant place to live and that they would rate it between (6 out of 10) and (10 out of 10); 40% gave an eight star rating, 31% gave it nine for comparison. The main issues raised were Over development, associated traffic congestion concerns, dogs and fouling, road surfaces and trees/hedges. 93% of people now know how to get hold of the Parish Council and 69% having a good understanding of what we did. 64% of people had visited the website 97% of these people found it useful and informative – whereas 93% of people liked the newsletters.

There has been much talk over the year about the realignment of the ward boundaries, many getting concerned that the actual legal Parish boundaries were changing – instead it was concluded that the WARD boundaries will be changed so that an additional ward councillor can be elected to cover a newly created ‘Southern Villages’ ward which includes Kirklevington, Maltby and Hilton. This is nothing to do with the ACTUAL historical Parish boundaries – merely an admin grouping to allocate the right number of councillors per residents’ ratio. We expect to see a vacancy next year for this newly elected councillor.

I sign off as I look forward to next year, we have many activities planned for the Queens Jubilee celebrations between Thursday 2nd and Sunday 5th June 2022 – we have planned for a return of the scarecrow competitions, best decorated gardens and houses, kids competitions, strawberry cream tea, treasure hunts and a live music stage and ‘street party’ amongst other things. We are just hoping for good weather to enable everything to happen uninterrupted.

A big thank-you to all members of the Parish council for their continued involvement and to specifically to Ruth Mazonas who works tirelessly behind the scenes as clerk and responsible financial officer to the Parish council. I would further like to thank the William Hall Trust for their continued support and grants towards the play area; also I would like to acknowledge the great work of our litter pickers in the Parish, local historians and the many people who take time to trim the grass verges, water the plants, tidy up after disrespectful dog owner etc. So much goes on silently behind the scenes – it is all duly noted and appreciated by all.