

KELVEDON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2009

Report by the Chairman of Kelvedon Parish Council

Introduction

In previous reports I have commented about the amount of work that has been going on behind the scenes but pointed out that there were few tangible signs of progress.

What a difference a year makes.

Land to rear of Kelvedon House

When the Parish Council acquired this land, it soon became clear that to make use of the land, there would be 3 stages involved: acquire access to the land; build a car park so that the land can be used most effectively and, thirdly, decide how best to use the land.

The land was acquired and now we have a car park, which opens up access to the land. I hope that the car park will prove to be a valuable asset to the village. It was always the Council's intention that the car park would not be designed for use by commuters. It is primarily intended for use by the local community whilst shopping and for users of the Institute and any additional community facility that might be built on the adjoining land.

The focus is now on how best to use the land and the Parish Council is in discussions with both KCA and Kelvedon Institute as to the best way forward. The Council still intends that the land should be used for some community purpose. I look forward to the Council being able to report on further developments.

Playing Field

The installation of the new play equipment on the playing field seems to have been a hit with youngsters in the village and, hopefully, with their parents too. I hope that it will be well used in the coming months as summer approaches and the weather warms up (hopefully) as well as further into the future.

As many of you may know, Kelvedon's highly successful Youth Forum had been planning to purchase and install additional equipment in the Glebe Road area and things appeared to be moving forward in the right direction until a last minute snag rather derailed things. I guess Councillor Dixon may have more to say on this.

Crime and Disorder

Another familiar theme of recent years has been vandalism, criminal damage and general nuisance. Kelvedon will never be crime free but I hope you will have noticed two things in more recent times: a significant decline in the extent of this type of crime and the increased resources devoted to our village by Essex Police. Both are very welcome. I'd like to pay particular tribute to the work being done by P C John Hallworth and PCSO Graham Heseltine and, indeed, their colleagues.

A Year of Change

It won't have escaped your notice that Jill Hinds has well and truly retired as Clerk to the Parish Council and that Louise Fuller is well and truly in post. I hope that at least some of you have had chance to meet Louise or at least have noticed her around the village these last few months.

Change is never easy but I'm pleased to say that the transition has worked pretty well all things considered and that's a tribute to the professionalism of both Jill and Louise.

It has also been due, in no small measure, to the sterling work done by Angela Carruthers who has now decided to give up the post of Clerk's Assistant. On behalf of the Council, I'd like to publicly thank Angela for her help and hard work during her time with the Council.

Looking Ahead

Who knows what the year ahead may bring but I'm sure there will be some challenges and opportunities.

Taking forward the future of the land behind Kelvedon House is likely to be a significant priority in the coming months.

Cllr Craig Martin
April 2009