

KELVEDON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2010

Chairman's Report

Introduction

It has been another busy year for the Parish Council and I shall briefly mention below just a few matters that have occupied our time.

Car Park

It's encouraging to see that more people are now making use of the car park and taking cars off the High Street (which easily gets congested at the best of times). I would encourage people to make even more use of the facility – it is there for the people of Kelvedon to use as well as those coming into the village from outside.

Play Equipment

As I'm sure you will recollect, there has been an intention for some time to install play equipment at Glebe Road. After a few setbacks, I can report that we are now well on the way with this and I imagine that my colleague Councillor Dixon will have more to say on this when he presents his report on the Youth Forum.

Pedestrian Crossing

This is a subject which has come up many times before, not least at the Annual Parish Assembly. There is a clear desire in the village for an additional pedestrian crossing in the High Street. The Parish Council certainly supports the idea.

The problem has always been that the various regulations that govern where crossings can be situated have tended to thwart any idea of siting a crossing where the majority of people believe it needs to be.

That's why I'm particularly grateful to Councillor Mrs Hill for agreeing to put together a short presentation on the issues involved. I hope that this will allow us all to focus our minds on where a crossing can legally be sited and hence come to a view as to whether this will be worth pursuing.

Rivenhall

This is another subject which was raised last year. The Parish Council did very carefully consider the planning application that was made and, whilst it did not oppose the whole principle of a waste management site, it did make very clear objections to a number of facets of the plan.

Allotments

The demand for allotments up and down the country has grown significantly in the last couple of years or so and there is every likelihood of this high level of demand continuing. Hence it is very pleasing to report that the Parish Council has been able to make more allotments available during the last year. What had been a long waiting list has now been cleared and we can accept new applications.

Footpaths

We are tonight launching a new booklet detailing the various public footpaths in the area. I know that many people in the village like to walk these paths, particularly when we get a spell of fine weather so I hope this new booklet will be useful.

Emergency Planning

We hope that emergencies won't happen in Kelvedon but we only have to look back a few years to the bad flooding to realise that they could happen here.

Hence a working party has been hard at work over the last few months to put together a plan for Kelvedon to detail how we could and should respond. I'm very grateful to those on the working party for all their efforts.

Crime and Disorder

Thankfully it has been another relatively quiet year – yes, we have had criminal activities of course. We did have a problem with a number of attacks on the ATM cash machines in the High Street. These seem to have stopped but this type of crime continues to be an issue right across the country so we mustn't be complacent. Taking simple and sensible precautions may take you a few extra seconds but better than falling victim to criminals. Kelvedon is still a good place to live. May it remain so for years to come.

Conclusion

Doubtless there will be challenges ahead, but I look forward to another interesting year.

By the time of next year's Assembly we shall have had a General Election and we shall have a brand new MP in a brand new parliamentary constituency. That in itself will prove interesting.

Craig Martin
Chairman, Kelvedon Parish Council

April 2010