

**Chairman's
Report
2020/21**

Cllr India Jayatillake





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Introduction

There has been a great deal of change to the way that the Parish Council has been working since the first lockdown began in March 2020. The regulations that we must abide by were altered by the government, so that we were able to hold council meetings via Zoom and discuss issues via email, rather than face to face.

We are currently awaiting an update regarding whether we'll be able to continue in this manner for some time in the future, as it still extremely difficult for us to be able to meet in person and allow members of the public to be present. Please note that our website is www.kelvedon.org or you can email info@kelvedon.org.uk, if you should wish to get in contact with us whilst the Parish Offices are closed and staff are working at home.



Neighbourhood Plan

Following on from the Neighbourhood Plan consultation in 2018, the draft Neighbourhood Plan for Kelvedon passed through the stage known as Regulation 14. We have now finalised our Plan and have submitted it to Braintree District Council. It will then pass to the stage known as Regulation 16, which is its final public consultation before going to Independent Examination. Once this has been completed, the Plan will be put out to a village referendum for the residents of Kelvedon to decide whether or not the Plan should be adopted.

We have been updating and responding to recent changes in national planning regulations. We have also been responding to our parish neighbour's plans, which result in minor amendments to Neighbourhood Plan policies to support cross boundary initiatives. The Plan will come out to public consultation again in the not too distant future and we will publicise this as soon as we know the dates. However, this will be delayed by some time, as no public consultation can take place in the 6 weeks prior to the elections in May.

It has taken a huge amount of effort on the part of a relatively small number of volunteers to produce the Neighbourhood Plan and I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks for all of their hard work so far.



A12/A120 Upgrades

Meetings regarding the alignment of the A12 between junctions 19-25 are still ongoing to take feedback from various stakeholders (including affected Parish Councils) before the final route for junctions 24 and 25 is announced. We hope that this announcement will be made in the near future.

Although the preferred route for the new stretch of the A120 was announced in summer 2018, funding hasn't yet been announced.

There is also an issue with both the A12 and A120 realignments needing to be dove-tailed, in order that they can join together in a sensible manner.



Planning and Development

The Parish Council is continuing to respond to planning applications as we normally would and we are holding developers to account as much as we can, to ensure that where development is being granted, it is of the highest standard possible and it has the least detrimental impact on existing residents.



ECC Highways Devolution Pilot

Kelvedon Parish Council is one of a small number of councils across Essex that have been chosen to take part in a pilot scheme aiming to 'devolve' some of Essex's current responsibilities regarding footpath maintenance etc.

We're hoping that this will mean that the Parish Council are much better able to deal with queries and complaints from residents regarding maintenance of public footpaths and rights of way around the village, rather than having the frustration of having to refer all of these issues to the County Council to handle.

We'll be given a small sum for undertaking this work, but the main reason for taking part in the pilot is to, hopefully, provide a much better service for our local residents. So far, we feel it's been a positive step for our community.



Integrated Waste Management Facility (IWMMF)

The Environment Agency have granted a permit for the incinerator to be built with a 35m stack – this would mean the largest incinerator in the country would be built with the shortest stack in the country. This follows a great deal of campaigning by PAIN (Parishes Against the Incinerator), the local parish councils and District Councillors over many concerns regarding pollution and especially the particles containing heavy metals being released so close to ground level.

The Parish Council submitted an objection to the permit being granted, and we were hopeful that, with the support of our MP, the permit might be refused. We are saddened to announce that a preliminary hearing has decided that PAIN's appeal cannot progress to Stage 2 of Judicial Review. The PAIN team are now reviewing the decision papers and will update further in due course.

The Parish Councils nearby, as well as the relevant District and County Councillors have been liaising with Indaver, the company developing the IWMMF, to ensure that local concerns are heeded and that the development remains in line with what has been agreed by Essex County Council and the Environment Agency.



Future Projects

The Parish Council have some exciting projects in mind for the longer term, including an upgrade of the Rec and possibly the Village Green and amenity space at Kingfisher Way, if there's enough support for it.

We're very keen that our beautiful village is made even more attractive, for the benefit of those who live here. We have produced some initial concept drawings, contained within the Annual Report article and available to view via the Parish website. Once we have had a chance to gauge public opinion and take any suggestions on board, we'll be in a position to undertake the work as soon as the funding becomes available.

Please let us know your views on these ideas.



Vacancies

Parish Councillor

Community
Special
Constables

As you will see from some of the other articles in this issue of Kelvedon News, we are currently looking to recruit two new Special Constables for the village, as well as filling our vacancy for a twelfth Parish Councillor. Please do get in touch if you're interested in either of these roles.



Conclusion

Kelvedon Parish Council is currently extremely busy in maintaining the village as usual, as well as ensuring that we are as accessible and relevant to our community as possible.

We are juggling many tasks, with the expert assistance of our Clerk, Pippa and assistant Sue, who provide invaluable support for the councillors.

With so much going on locally and so many pressing concerns for our residents, it has been another challenging and very busy year.

However, it has also been a great privilege for me and for all of the other councillors to serve you and to ensure that Kelvedon is the best village that it can be.



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