

Annual Parish Meeting for the Parish of Great & Little Kimble, including the hamlets of Marsh, Kimblewick & Clanking

Wednesday 14th May 2013 at 8pm
Kimble Stewart Hall

Chairman's Report

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1. Welcome

Good Evening Everyone.

First, I would like to welcome you all to this Annual Parish Meeting and thank you for taking the time to attend. We would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that this is not a Parish Council Meeting!

The subtle but important difference is that this is the Annual Parish Meeting held by and for the Parishioners of Great & Little Kimble cum Marsh Parish, the Parish Council merely facilitate it.

We have continued to strive to help make our parish "**Greener, Cleaner and Safer**" area for us all to enjoy living in.

2. Parish Officers

I must firstly take this opportunity to thank my fellow Councillors for their support and forward leaning and pragmatic approach which makes the Council operate so well. No small thanks also to our Clerk, who has worked tirelessly in support of the council and without whom we would find our work very onerous.

3. Affordable Housing

This time last year we reported that work had started after seven years of trying. As you will all be aware is now complete, with 9 new dwellings in *Redding Court*, the families moving in before Christmas.

The final event in this project will be an Official Opening of Redding Court, Great Kimble by Lord Gardiner of Kimble on Friday 30 May 2014 at 12noon-2:00pm

4. HS2

We continue to campaign against what we see as a environmentally destructive project which has no justifiable business case. To that end we have had a Noise Survey conducted and objected at every opportunity in every available forum.

It is disheartening however that although the council has spent considerable time and effort on the behalf of the Parish that the issue does not appear to galvanize any response from the vast majority of our constituents. If the project does go ahead it is likely to blight all our lives for many years to come.

We'd urge all to get informed and get involved.

5. Planning Applications

One of the regular tasks that the council does is to review all new Planning Applications submitted to WDC. This is a time consuming work, and my thanks to three councilors that form our Planning Sub Committee who make the initial impact assessments and recommend our response back to WDC, noting that this Council has no power in this regard but can only make comment.

One such application caused a good deal of concern in the community, that of a proposed Crematorium. The council, after much deliberation and due process objected to the application which was subsequently refused by WDC.

6. Kimble Stewart Hall

Firstly on behalf of the Parish as whole I thank the KSH committee for its sterling work in managing this important Parish facility.

The Parish Council remains committed to supporting the upkeep and improvements of the hall and note the greatly improved Car Park.

7. Road Safety

Road Safety is continues to be one of the communities major concerns. Speed is the main issue, and with that in mind the Council are planning to install speed tubes at three locations within the Parish; Marsh Road, Station Road and Lower Ickniel way to better inform us and BCC of the ongoing issue.

We have also investigated the feasibility of a Pedestrian Crossing mainly to aid school children crossing the A4010 and have found that the best option that will be considered would be a Pedestrian Refuge; however more work has to be done on establishing the costs and identifying funding before this is taken forward.

8. Bus Shelters

Two more Bus shelters have been erected this year after the success of the original 3, and all the feedback is very positive.

9. Cleaner Village

As part of our campaign to make a cleaner Village we have had an Anti-Litter Poster competition and we will be putting up the posters to highlight the issue and encourage people to take their litter home.

In addition we have held a couple of Litter Picking Days where we have invited Parishioners to assemble at various locations to donate an hour or so of their time to making our village cleaner. These have only been moderately successful due to the low number of volunteers, so please consider helping next time.

10. Public Houses

The PC has registered the Bernard Arms under the Communities Right to Bid Legislation, and is considering doing likewise for the Swan and Prince of Wales. The legislation was enacted to allow communities time to consider options to keep a Public House open if a sale would result in its closure. It in effect puts a short stay on the sale of the property.

There has been no sign of any local interest in purchasing the Bernard Arms and therefore it is anticipated that the site will be sold with a prospect of residential housing being built.

11. Community Events

The PC has supported a number of local events that were thought beneficial to the community as a whole; such as Little Kimble School Fayre, Princess Risborough Community Bus, Carol Singing, Children's Christmas Party and Ramblers for the Outer Ayelsbury Ring signage.

12. Website - www.kimblecouncil.org

I commend all parishioners to visit the website regularly to see the regular updates and news plus a host of useful information including the winning entries from our **photo competition**. It is especially useful for viewing current planning applications. There is a newsfeed which has useful information from our local authorities plus information added by the Clerk for local events. If there are any events you wish to publicise in this way please contact the Clerk.

13. Democracy

I wish to take this opportunity to make a plea to all that this is your Parish, get involved, read the minutes, visit the website, give us feedback, write or e-mail or attend in person. We are your representatives but if you do not communicate we can only make our own best judgments.

My final note is to advertise that Council elections will be held in a years' time, so if anyone wishes to stand or wants to know what is involved then contact me or the Clerk.