

Kibworth Beauchamp Parish Council Reports for meeting on 13 July 2021

Leicestershire County Council

Members Fund

We are due to have an initial all member briefing on 13th July to explain what £25,000 for each member can be spent on and a named officer who will be assisting us in determining which matters are still to be dealt with as normal, and which can be funded by the new Fund. Clearly with 22 parishes, my fund will need to be carefully spread out so I'm expecting there will be some kind of application and vetting process.

Highways want to try to deliver all the agreed funded measures by March 2022, so decisions will need to be confirmed in the autumn. First time the county has tried this so I'm anticipating a few wobbles along the way. My main concern is how they can expect to complete 55 members' £25,000 lists of issues in a reasonable timescale, when they can't do it now. There is a big recruitment drive, but how long is the training etc.? I can inform the parish council at the next meeting of how it is expected to work.

New Scrutiny Committees

The previous Environment and Transport Committee has been split into two – (1) Highways & Transport and (2) Environment & Climate Change. We await details of the detailed functions of their scrutiny roles, but issues raised by parish councils should still be targeted to Customer Services.

700,000 trees to be planted across the county.

As part of the county council's commitment for the county to be carbon neutral by 2030, a total of 700,000 new trees are to be planted (one for every member of the county's population). We await details of locations and how parish councils can be involved.

County Cllr Kevin Feltham

Harborough District Council

There was no report received.

Joint Recreation Board

Open Spaces Strategy

Following the presentation from David Keary who described the plans for the open spaces in both Kibworths, several members of the KJRB had a short meeting to identify draft initial priorities for taking forward these developments.

The rationales for these priorities were-

- *Skateboard Park*

*The development of the skateboard park has always been impeded by the difficulty in finding land (away from houses). Groups within the community have campaigned for a number of years to have a skateboard park and the KJRB feel we need to move this development forward on land identified in Warwick Park.

Funding £105,000(approx.) ring fenced at HDC.

- *Tarmac pathways through Smeeton Park and Exercise Equipment*
*This will ensure a clear pathway through the park from Fleckney Rd to Smeeton Rd and be part of the elliptical shape which forms the basis of the landscaping for the park. Depending on the cost, the whole elliptical shape may be installed. It is envisaged that the exercise equipment will be added around this shape in stages. eg 4 pieces initially with an extra 4 pieces added when funding allows.
Funding S106
- *Rookery Pond*
*The pond and the immediate surrounding area are in need of improvement. The proposed plan can easily be divided into two. Completing the pond area initially and, when more funding is available developing the landscaping would seem sensible.
Improvements to the pond and surrounding area would greatly enhance this space and provide a quiet spot for the community.
Funding S106
- *Branding and Information Boards*
*The open spaces at the present time have no corporate image and many people are not aware of what is available in our parks.
With so many potential changes to the open spaces the KJRB have agreed that "branding" in the form of arches and information boards at the entrances to the parks would give each space an identity and clear information on what was in an individual park and the location of other facilities in the village.
Funding S106
- *Larkswood*
*At the moment, Larkswood is a piece of grassed land. The proposed plan gives it a purpose as a quiet reflective area to sit.
The area is not large and would be best viewed as a project to be completed as a whole.
Funding S106 and grant eg. Mick George

The KJRB would propose:

* Both Kibworth Beauchamp and Kibworth Harcourt parish councils agree the Open Spaces Strategy plans designed by David Keary

* Support the initial draft priorities and the requesting of quotes for the actual cost of these priorities.

The plans also need to go out for public consultation which we hope will be at the same time as the revised Neighbourhood plan.

Cllr. Pat Copson

Kibworth Joint Burial Board

A recent meeting on 30th June was held inside the Lychgate and members were pleased by the lack of dust and cobwebs courtesy of Deena the groundslady. They were pleased to permit Deena to construct a lockable box to keep tools and then store it under a bench. They also inspected the bier, the hand drawn cart made in 1895, and on which coffins used to be brought from one of the three churches and left with mourners sitting on the benches before interment. We are doing some research into whether the bier could be preserved, as the wheels have become a bit rusty.

KHPC will request an architectural survey of the Lychgate which will cost £225 plus VAT and nobody is aware of one being done previously.

Also members were interested in the work of the clerk who will be entering all the burial records including booking details of all graves from 1893 into the new Epitaph software.

Cllr. Kevin Feltham

Grammar School Hall

The next meeting is 4th August. Nothing new to report

Cllr Amanda Bland

Kibworth Allotments

There are 7 people on the waiting list for an allotment with 4 people who have indicated that they will be leaving their plots at the end of August 2021, which is the end of the allotment society financial year.

The allotment society are requesting reassurance via a confirmation from the Parish Council that an extension to the allotment lease would be granted by Merton College, so that plot-holders feel secure and can make appropriate investments.

The Clerk confirmed that she is meeting with Merton College to discuss the extension of the lease around September 2022 but initial advice from Merton is that a new lease should be possible, subject to approval of all parties at the time.

Cllr. Amanda Bland