

# ANNUAL REPORT

*Kemble & Ewen Parish Council*



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## Welcome

Welcome to the 2021-22 copy of the Annual Report. This report will give you an insight into the activities and work undertaken by the Parish Council on behalf of the electorate of Kemble, Kemble Wick and Ewen.

Residents are welcome to contact councillors about local issues (details of how to reach us are on the final page) or to come along to council meeting to share ideas get involved in community initiatives.

# Chairman's Report

Well, at last we seem to be slowly resuming a degree of post pandemic normality. This year, for the first time since 2019 we had a real Annual Public meeting at the village hall, an event much valued by the Council where we can listen to our residents' views and aspirations, explain what's going on and receive reports from our District and County Councillors.

Reflecting on events over the last year, inevitably, the first item to mention is the proposed parking scheme. Having been grappling with the County Council for what feels like a lifetime, we seem to be moving toward a conclusion but keep fingers crossed as arrangements are yet to be finalized! Open sessions have been held at the village hall to allow residents to review and comment on the proposals with a GCC representative. These has been followed by a formal consultation. Still on the subject of Highways we continue to pursue road maintenance issues, residents' concerns about speeding, particularly on the A429 and through Ewen, and achieving adherence to the HGV Weight limit.

Another ongoing project is replacement of the footbridge at Parker's bridge. The good news in this case is that by the time you read this, the new bridge should shortly be in place and constructed to a design which should safely serve its purpose for very many years. Our thanks (in anticipation!) to the Bathurst Estate for financially supporting this project. Following several successful years of litter picking by Tom Barrow's award winning team, a new scheme has now been established with monthly picking and based at the Tavern. Our grateful thanks to our volunteers for their support, and to Dan and the team at the Tavern for enthusiastically supporting the project and providing welcome hospitality at each "pick". Other elements of our village appearance project continue to progress, including tree planting and maintenance, also bulb planting at selected locations which again this Spring added a pleasing dash of colour to the grass verges. Looking forward, celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee is fast approaching and a weekend of events is planned for the enjoyment of our residents. Thanks again to Dan and the team at the Tavern, the Church, the school and other members of our community for taking an active interest in this. A leaflet giving full details of the planned events will be widely circulated.

It is a concern that activity levels on the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme have declined over recent times. Regenerating this valued scheme is very much part of our ongoing action plan and something you will hear more about as events progress. Good to report that the airport users are continuing to adhere to the noise abatement requirements and that complaints from residents about flying activities have been minimal. Our thanks to the airport management for working with us and keeping this under control. Ensuring easy access to the countryside for our residents is also a key objective. Under recent legislation it will not be possible after January 2026 to use historical evidence to add historical Rights of Way to the definitive map. We are keen to save the historic but presently discontinued paths which are most beneficial for countryside access. Working with the Ramblers Association two formal applications for the recording of disused paths have already been made. A further six applications are believed to be justifiable and under consideration.

The Light Railway project continues to receive enthusiastic support from various groups. We have reserved our position on this until there is at least a properly objective authoritative survey of user demand. There are also other local concerns including the problem of the line crossing Windmill Road, impact of a bridge across the A419 and consideration of other alternative schemes which might also meet objectives but with less local impact.

Hot off the press and evidence, if any were needed, of the kindness and generosity of our community lies in the fact that several families have offered accommodation to refugees from Ukraine. The first families are already here with more to follow. We anticipate that they will be warmly welcomed and made to feel as much at home as possible.

As ever, thanks to fellow Councillors and all those public spirited residents who contribute to the on-going success of our community and make it a great place to live.. Details of many of these are acknowledged within the main body of this report.

Roger Pettit  
Chairman

## **Village Environment - Highways & Footpaths**

The Parish Council have been working with the Bathurst Estate regarding the reinstatement of the footbridge at Parkers Bridge. This bridge is essential for connecting residents of Kemble & Ewen particularly given the narrow nature of the road bridge over the Thames. The construction of the new bridge is underway and should be completed shortly. The Parish Council are thankful to

It is hoped that further progress will be made on the Residents Parking Scheme. Following a change in personnel at GCC there is now a new TRO team in place who are looking at the scheme with a view to drawing it to a conclusion. GCC are holding a public meeting on May 11 from 2pm & 7pm in the village hall.

# Community Activities

## Playing Field & Playground

The playground and playing field are a key facility for the younger members of the community and the Parish Council works hard to ensure the facility remains in good working order. Each year funds are dedicated to the ongoing maintenance and care of the play facilities which, due to their age, often require regularly maintenance. The playground is inspected weekly by our qualified playground inspector. Residents are reminded that dogs are not permitted anywhere on the playing field - this is to ensure that health and safety of people using it.

## Neighbourhood Watch

The Parish Council are keen to reinvigorate the neighbourhood watch scheme for the villages - this is a vital community initiative to help reduce crime in the local area. If you are willing and able to get involved please contact Cllr David Russell.

## Litter Pick

The Parish Council are grateful to The Tavern Inn for co-ordinating the regular litter picks and to all the residents who help to keep the villages looking clean and tidy. Please get in touch if you would like to get involved.

## Thank you to...

The Parish Council would like to thank the many residents who volunteer to give their time free of charge to run and support community activities. In particular to: the Parish News volunteer editors; Pat Ayres and Austin Hind for their co-ordination of remembrance events; Brian Ayres for maintaining the war graves; Steve Marsh who runs the village website [www.kemble.co.uk](http://www.kemble.co.uk); the Village Hall committee; the Kemble Community Garden committee; Kam & Nutan who run the Post Office and last, but by no means least, our parish councillors themselves.



THANK  
YOU

# Community Activity

## Kemble Community Garden Report 2021-22

Over the last year Kemble Community Gardens has continued to be frequented by residents who are looking for somewhere to walk, whether accompanied by a four-legged friend, somewhere to relax, be it with a book or their favourite beverage, somewhere to be closer to nature or somewhere to tend their allotment.

There is an abundance of wildlife to be found living in the gardens ranging from insects, birds, slow worms (who are an endangered species and protected by law) and deer, who visit occasionally and help themselves to some of the veg on the allotments. A substantial part of the site is managed to provide wild areas as habitats for as many species as possible.

The eighteen allotments and additional vegetable boxes are, for the most part, lovingly tended by those who rent them and there is a wide range of veg grown, including some unusual varieties of potato, squash, and gourds as well as an abundance of the more usual allotment fare such as beans, carrots, beetroot and rhubarb. Flowers also feature prominently giving colour to the area and providing food for pollinators.

The gardens are well maintained, thanks in large measure to the dedicated work of Bob Whitehead, who mows the grass as well as ensuring the site is kept tidy and in good order. To commemorate the platinum jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II It is planned to site an arch over one of the benches towards the rear of the site which will have roses planted to ramble over it.

Jill Steeden, May 2022





# Meet the Parish Council

Meetings are generally held on the second Friday evenings of each month (avoiding bank holidays).

Meeting dates are shown on the village website where agenda and minutes can also be found.

Residents are welcome to attend and there is time allocated at the start of each meeting where you can raise issues, ask for advice, or ask questions. The Parish Council asks that residents refer to the public participation procedure which can be found [here](#).



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