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village website for news
& information

www.kelsall-pc.org.uk

Kelsall Parish Council Newsletter

Autumn 2023

Kelfest – huge success despite deluge!

Our new village event, Kelfest, was held on July 9th. It was a great success, with many artisan stalls, catering, drinks, and entertainment. The festivities started with the church service and choir in the morning, included a dance demonstration, a dog show, singing and live music. A sudden deluge in the afternoon sent people running for cover, but the band gamely played on! The weather cleared and crowds returned in time to hear Elvis and bands playing until evening.

The 2024 event will take place on July 7th. The organising committee will hold their first planning meeting on Nov 28th. For further details, or to get involved, see Kelsall-pc.org.uk/Kelfest.

Speed management

Kelsall Parish Council (KPC) are aware of residents' concerns about local speeding, and are addressing this:

Our PCSO regular speed surveys on Chester Road showed that most speeding occur between 3 - 4pm, ie. school pick up time, and 5.45 - 6.35pm when people return from work. It is concerning that the worst speeding is around the time that children are out and about. PCSO Hannath follows up his speed recordings with Penalty Notices where warranted.

A recent Community Speedwatch survey when children are on their way to school and people are leaving for work, showed a similar problem.

KPC has also allocated monies to buy our own Speed Indicator Devices, to be used at problem spots around Kelsall. We are waiting for agreement from Cheshire West.



Support for the Wellbeing Hub

The new Medical Centre was officially opened on Sept 30th by Lady Alexis Redmond. KPC was thanked for their help in bringing this project to a successful conclusion, both for securing the land through the Neighbourhood Plan, and for the financial support to the hub. Specifically – KPC paid £25K received from developers contributions back to the Hub. The KPC budget also includes monies for a youth worker, even though the Hub has not yet managed to recruit one.

New defibrillator at the Social Club

The Parish Council and the Social Club have funded a second public defibrillator for the village. This is available 24/7, and mounted outside the Social Club on the right hand side.

Playground Updates

This past year has seen quite a bit of work in the playground. We are replacing a number of the original items, including the seesaw, baby swing, tractor and trailer and small horse, with similar new items. One of the basket swings will be replaced by a new 'Snake Swing' . The costs of this batch of equipment will come to £32,000. Proper play equipment meeting all standards is expensive, and mounts even more when including delivery, installation, safety surfacing, and removal of the old kit! Work should start mid-December.



Earlier the Queen Swing was repaired, after we looked for a better item but concluded that the queen swing was hard to equal – for its price!

Youth development at the Wellbeing Hub

KPC support for youth activities goes through the Wellbeing Hub. Councillor Humphrey Claxton worked with Tarporley 6th Form students to find out how to best address the needs and wellbeing of teenagers.

This has resulted in a timeslot at the Wellbeing hub dedicated to teens. Students wanted the Hub to be a place where, first and foremost, it is good to hang out with the added advantage of addressing the things that bother them, and dedicated activities. They have proposed for early adoption physical activity on the Green using the Hub afterwards, yoga, art, growing plants, book club. There is good evidence for the positive effect of all of these on mental health and wellbeing.

You can get involved! Contact Helen at kelsallwellbeinghub@outlook.com or on 07498 482444, if you want to take part or help.

A new Green Space for Kelsall?

The Parish Council and a group of residents have been in talks with Cheshire West & Chester to use a site on the edge of Kelsall as a community green space, where we could work both for people and for wildlife. We are assessing the site, starting with an ecological survey, and discussing modalities with Cheshire West.

Our vision for the space includes activities such as communal gardening, learning outdoor skills, green gym, all while improving wildlife habitats. The eventual uses will be guided by more consultation. Click [here](#) to find out more

Could you take an active part in the community?

Parish Councillors are residents who volunteer to work on public matters in Kelsall. Many volunteers in other societies also contribute to making our village a great place to live. Can you also step up and be active in your community?

Kelfest Organising Committee

The team that successfully organised Kelfest in July 23 is looking for extra members to help deliver the 2024 event – bigger and better!

Please contact Humphrey Claxton on humphreyclaxton@kelsall-pc.org.uk



Speedwatch

We'd like to hear from residents concerned about speeding, to join our several Councillors and residents who have already been trained to carry out Community Speedwatch in Kelsall. Please get in touch if you can help!

Contact clerk@kelsall-pc.org.uk

www.kelsall.org.uk

Our new village website is available for your news and listings, in a format more durable than a Facebook post. If you run a group or business, or you're organising an event, send any information you'd like to share to webmaster@kelsall.org.uk

Friends of Kelsall Green

We are looking for some enthusiastic residents who could work with us to look after Kelsall Green and the playground. Can you contribute time and ideas, to maintain the planting, help with some light maintenance, look into or even suggest options for improving the space?

Creating a new Green Space in Kelsall

If you want to take action for wildlife, the environment, your community, and your own health, help us work towards our new green space. This will involve fundraising, some research, and working on the site with a team. The result should be a better space for people and wildlife.

Contact Clairederuty@kelsall-pc.org.uk



Remember, you can come to our monthly meetings, at 7pm on the 2nd Monday of the month at the Community Centre!



Follow us on Facebook to stay informed!

Spending priorities for next year



We need your feedback to guide our optional spending.
Our funding comes from two main sources:

- The Parish Precept (part of households' Council Tax), generally covers the recurring expenditure of the Parish Council - inc. maintenance of the Green and other areas (grass cutting, hedge trimming, litter picking, playground inspections, utility bills, salaries, insurance etc) but does not pay for the "extras."
- We also receive financial contributions as a result of planning permissions granted in the Parish. These should be spent towards "Community Infrastructure" or specific things such as the playground. Recently these monies have financed one-offs such as our contribution to the Wellbeing Hub, and the fitness equipment and lighting on the Green.

As always, we would like your feedback on options for focussing that discretionary spending. Please let us know which of these options you would prefer us to work on, numbering them in order of preference, 1 being the most worthwhile, etc.

*This survey can be filled in online [HERE](#) , or you can leave this section in the envelope where you picked up this copy. **Please complete the survey by Dec 8th.***

- Keep supporting **youth activities** at the Wellbeing Hub
- Creating some proper **drainage on the Green**, so it stays useable in winter (some money has been saved over last few years for this purpose)
- Review & update the **Neighbourhood Plan**, needed to keep it current and effective. (Information on the plan can be found [here](#))
- Improving green spaces** in Kelsall -inc better wildflower areas on Kelsall Green, creation of other community gardening spaces
- Contribute towards **events on the Green**

Can you suggest other areas where the Parish Council can contribute to improving life in Kelsall?

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THANK YOU !