

MAY

2006



ANNUAL REPORT

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Community: Judging in the best kept village competitions currently is as much about community spirit and enterprise as appearances so it was especially rewarding to achieve awards in both the Bledisloe and Calor competitions this year after a break of several years since our last entry. A credit to our coordinator Mark Bainbridge and to the range of local organisations and individuals who helped convince the judges that Kemble and Ewen are **good places to live**.

Our Community Fund Scheme entered its second year with increased interest. Well done the Brownies and the Playgroup on their success. Let's hope for even more entries this year. Kemble at Play continues to develop with basketball equipment and picnic tables added to the growing range of facilities. Provision of a new cycle track is now in the sights of the very active fund raising and organising committee.

Communication: Although we try hard to keep in touch with regular newsletters in the Parish Mag, reports in the Standard, the notice boards, a stand at the village fete, more recently our web site and occasional direct mail shots, feedback suggests that we are still not reaching everyone. If you feel we could do better, please let me know what you think we should add.

Consultation: A major new exercise is on the stocks in preparation for the publication of a Village Plan. This will map out the future of our villages as our residents would wish to see it. Everyone will be asked their views on a wide range of issues including housing development, local facilities, transport etc. The future of our village hall will also feature. You may know that the Council has pursued the option of a new building at the playing field and this may still be possible with strong support from residents. Having considered other options this is the only site that is financially feasible and which would support both community activities and sports events at the playing field.

Hope to see you at the parish meeting on **Friday 5th May** and to hear your views. The launch of the parish planning exercise will be in the village hall on **Monday 8th May** from 7 to 9.30pm, so please come along & find out more.

Roger Pettit
Chairman, Kemble & Ewen Parish Council

Your invitation to the Annual Parish Meeting

This is an opportunity for the local community to come together, to hear reports and discuss what is happening in the villages. Come along & give your views.

When? Friday May 5th starting at 7.15pm.

Where? Kemble Village Hall, School Road, Kemble.

The Village Hall Management Committee AGM will start the evening as usual. Please come & give your support.

Finance

The Parish Council maintained the Precept at £18,000 this year (year ending March 2006). This means that an average Band D property holder has contributed just 81p per week towards financing the Parish Council & its activities.

Funds will be carried forward into 2006 for future works on the village hall, either to improve existing facilities or for a new centre. Details of all the council's plans are contained in the Annual Business Plan, which is available on request.

Community Grants

The Parish Council's Community Fund was increased to £600 this year & the awards were given to Kemble Playgroup (£400) & Brownies (£200). Playgroup plan to use the money to replace some old equipment & for their new site in the school grounds. Brownies will use the award to set up a second pack.

The Parish Council also donated £100 to the Junior Citizenship Scheme from which Kemble School children benefit.

Parish Plan

A grant from DEFRA of over £2,000 will meet many of the costs of compiling the parish plan.

A working group has been set up & will start to look at how best to consult all households on every aspect of our community life. If you would like to be involved or wish to find out more, please contact Jenny Courts on 770148 or come along to the launch evening on Monday 8th May at 7pm in the village hall.

Highways

Speeding through the villages continued to be a major concern & the Parish Council has continued to push for a reduction to 30mph on the main road, supported by both District & County Councillors.

A speed warning sign will be installed on this road shortly, linked to the pedestrian crossing. Kemble School children took part in our poster competition, aimed at increasing awareness of speeding, & wrote to The Standard.

The County Council have agreed to use road narrowing lines to slow traffic down at Parkers Bridge.

Kemble at Play. KAP has had a very busy & successful 12 months. Funds of over £5,000 were held within the Council's accounts during the year. This money was raised by KAP through donations, fundraising, & grants. It has been spent on basketball units & picnic tables. The £15,000 Redcliffe Homes' donation

will be used to improve facilities.

Annual Report & Accounts

Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the unaudited accounts can do so at the Annual Parish Meeting. A copy of the audited accounts will be available from the Clerk in due course.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY 2005/2006

Income

Precept	£18,000
Agency services	£478
Interest	£874
Burial Ground	£240
Grants	£2,625
Other	£621
KAP	£4,508
<i>Total</i>	<i>£27,346</i>

Expenditure

Gen admin inclu salaries	£5,688
Grass cutting	£4,170
Best Kept Village	£434
Agency services	£56
Village hall	£372
Playing field	£558
Grants	£947
Misc	£542
Contingencies	£1,600
KAP	£5,085
<i>Total</i>	<i>£19,453</i>

Planning

The Council has considered nearly 30 planning applications this year & lodged objections in 6 cases. The Planning Committee has sought neighbours' views wherever possible. The Council's responses were supported by the Cotswold District Council (CDC) in 86% of cases.

There has been one Appeal lodged by an applicant against CDC's decision, which was dismissed.

Best Kept Village Competitions

Entries were co-ordinated by Mark Bainbridge in the Bledisloe, Calor & Mitsubishi village competitions. Kemble & Ewen were runners up in the Calor village of the year competition, & won Best Youth Initiative. The £500 prize money went to KAP.

We were also runners up in the IT section & in the Bledisloe Cup, made it through to the final round against strong competition. In the Mitsubishi competition, we are amongst the 5 finalists, with the results to follow shortly.

Your councillors

The Parish Councillors are:

Roger Pettit, Chairman

David Ball, Vice chairman

George Collins Sohrab Sorabjee

Glen Moreman Christian Brann

Mark Bainbridge Jenny Courts

Laura Hetherington

Edward Marriage retired from the council earlier in the year & Jenny, Laura & Christian have all joined recently.

Contact details for all councillors are displayed on the notice boards or may

be obtained from the Clerk (770900).

There have been 9 Council meetings during the year & in addition councillors arranged open meetings for residents to consider the Community Centre proposals.

District & County Councillors

John Birch, the District Councillor, has worked closely with the Council, attending the council meetings this year & raising issues on our behalf. He can be contacted on 770360.

The County Councillor, Shaun Parsons, can be contacted on 821451.