

## **NEWS FROM KEMBLE & EWEN PARISH COUNCIL**

**FEB 06**

In amongst the gripping features in the latest Parish Newsletter, I hope to grab a few moments of your time to explain about a major new Parish Planning initiative which we are about to embark upon.



### **PLEASE READ ON...**

#### **What is Parish planning all about?**

Many Parish Councils around the UK are building plans for the future development of their parish environments. Parish Plans are based on a process of wide community consultation in which the views and aspirations of residents from all sections of the local community are gathered together to build a shared vision for village priorities. The Kemble and Ewen Parish Council has discussed the need for a Parish Plan for our village and has agreed that we should seek to prepare one during the course of the next year. If you who remember the Millennium Survey - this is the next step, an update 5 years on.

### **DON'T STOP HERE...**

#### **So what's it got to do with me?**

Undertaking these planning exercises will probably prompt a range of responses...I have rehearsed a few ranging from "why bother", "I have too many commitments", "nothing ever changes", "I wish they'd sort out the parking in Station Road" ...

The answer to all these is simple you have an opportunity to make a difference to the community in which you live. The reason for developing a Parish Plan for Kemble is to ensure that there is a clear strategy (plan) which has the endorsement of (i.e. is largely written by) the majority of local residents. It will deal with everything from whether, where and why we need a new Community Centre, to the provision of healthcare, transport, road safety and policing; to facilities for young people and care in the community.

### **OR HERE...THERE'S A FREE OFFER OF WINE IN LINE 4**

**A Personal Invitation:** So what does that all mean for all 1,008 of us in the Village?...Well, we need volunteers to represent the village on the Parish Planning working group, to help us shape the survey and take responsibility for the consultation process. To be a success the planning has to represent the views and input of 60-90% of all households - so we really do need your support. Let me know if you would like to take part or get involved, it would be great to encourage representation from across the village and its organisation's. We also hope to shortly host a Parish Planning launch event which will include a meal and a glass of wine or two in order to explain the objectives along with an opportunity to get creative and help us make a Parish Map to initiate the launch (and press gang a few more volunteers).

### **ALMOST THERE...**

In short the Parish Planning exercise starts with the formation of a small representative working group, comprised of residents who start with a blank sheet of paper and then consult widely to survey the needs of the community as a whole. A survey will be accompanied by hopefully a series of interesting workshops designed to ensure that everyone's priorities are included in the assessment exercise. The report and findings of the survey and consultation phase is then analysed and forms a report and recommendations (which we will place on the website in due course) which ultimately builds into a community development strategy. This provides in turn the guidance for Parish Council business plans and most important of all it ensures that your views are recognised at the heart of managing the interests of the Village.

They say that fame and fortune awaits the brave, as do I...so please give me a call with your pledges of commitment or suggestions. I look forward to hearing from you

**Mark Bainbridge (771212) For Kemble & Ewen Parish Council**

**WELL DONE YOU MADE IT... NOW FOR A CUP OF TEA AND WHERE'S THAT TELEPHONE.**