

KELVEDON ANNUAL PARISH ASSEMBLY 2007

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 26 APRIL 2007

Introduction

2006/7 has been a busy year with a lot of things actually happening behind the scenes, even though there may not be many tangible signs of what has been achieved.

Nevertheless, the foundations have been laid for what promises to be an exciting year ahead.

Kelvedon House

As just about everyone knows, the acquisition of the land from Kelvedon Conservative Club was duly completed and this now will allow us access to the land behind. I would like to thank all those involved in the negotiations for bringing this to a successful conclusion.

The next stage is to start work on the site. This will involve building a car park and some ancillary work. The Parish Council has considered indicative tenders for the work from a number of firms and has selected a preferred contractor to carry out the work. Detailed negotiations on the specification are imminent and I would hope that a contract can be signed with the contractor quite soon, allowing construction to proceed.

In parallel with this, the KCA are submitting bids for funding to enable a new community facility to be built and, in due course, negotiations should take place between KCA and the Parish Council over ownership of the land and the necessary development work. I look forward to a constructive and fruitful dialogue.

Anti-Social Behaviour

For at least the last two years, I have been painting a fairly depressing picture. Happily, this year, I can be more positive. It would be complacent of me to say that the problems we have suffered for so long have disappeared. They have not. However, the situation is certainly rather better now than it was.

I believe that two main factors have contributed to the improved position. Firstly, the installation of CCTV at the playing field has certainly reduced the number of incidents in that location. More generally, I am sure everyone has noticed and appreciated the response from our local police and indeed the Community Warden. All are working together and, whilst I don't think they've got it quite right yet, I am encouraged by the progress that there has been. Long may it continue.

Youth Forum

One of the issues around anti-social behaviour has been a feeling that our young people did not feel involved in the community and had nothing to do. You may be aware that over the last year, a youth forum has started up. Whilst the uptake in actual numbers has not been huge, some very positive steps have been taken and the young people who have participated have been willing and eager to get involved and have made some very positive contributions.

Directly stemming from this, the Parish Council will be looking to install some new play equipment at the playing field over the months ahead, having sought guidance from the young people as to what they actually would like to see. Also, as a direct result of their involvement, a grant has been obtained enabling the Parish Council to sign a contract for the resurfacing of the hard play area.

Thanks and Congratulations

In conclusion I'd like to thank Jill Hinds and Angela Carruthers for all their hard work over the year. Jill will be going up to Buckingham Palace next month to receive her MBE – a thoroughly well deserved award. I'm sure it will be a memorable occasion.

To those current Parish Councillors who are standing down at the beginning of May – many thanks for your valuable contributions.

Let us all look forward to what promises to be another challenging year ahead.

Craig Martin
Chairman