

# **KINGSLEY PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This report highlights the activities and business of the Council for the financial year ending **31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

### **MEMBERS**

Cllr. M. Goodridge (Chairman)	788917
Cllr. Fletcher (Vice Chairman)	788873
Cllr. G. Warburton	788329
Cllr. C. Maddock	787126
Cllr. E. Lewis	787305
Cllr D. Moores	787199
Cllr. M. Barker	787414
Cllr. S.Ireland	788096
Cllr. Gwillim	789098
Cllr. R. Wilson	787678
Cllr.B.Brooker	788516
Mrs. D. Woods (Clerk)	739400

### **Footpaths & Playing fields**

Over the past year there have been few complaints about the footpaths in the village and the Council continues to fund the cutting back of overgrowth to keep the footpaths open to all. The new Footpath leaflets have now been printed and are available for sale.

Any feedback on the footpaths is welcome.

One of our highlights of 2009 is the completion of the new play area which is being well used and cared for. We hope this will continue. By working with near residents the position and number of car parking spaces was amended and a gate installed at the entrance to the field. This will be opened and closed by the near residents once all arrangements are in place. Weekly inspection of the equipment is carried out by a member of the Council.

Thanks to the Kingsley Litter pickers, the field is kept remarkably clear of rubbish.

### **Traffic & Transport**

The headmistress at the Kingsley County Primary School has agreed to work with the Council in trying to alleviate the parking problems that still arises around the school at various times.

New signs have been installed at top of Dark Lane to alert drivers as to the unsuitability of this route into the village.

The old black and white sign located at the junction of Middle Lane and Kingsley Road which was in poor condition has been replaced.

Some issues in relation to parking at Kingsley St. John's Primary School have been raised and we are contacting the school to discuss possible options.

The County Speed Limit Review on the County's A & B Roads is currently in place. The review phase by external consultants has been completed and discussion on their proposals is now underway with each Area Office. The phase 1 roads outlined in a recent CCC Newsletter have been discussed with the CCC area offices and detailed design work for these roads have now been completed. The next step will be the consultation phase for the phase 1 proposals. Assuming no major issues arise from the consultation it is envisaged that implementation will commence in the next financial year 2009/2010 – subject to funds being available.

We are still awaiting proposals regarding the B5153/5152.

### **Cemetery**

It was sad to learn that the cemetery main gates were stolen in October 2008 and Council will strive to get them replaced.

A grit bin has been purchased to aid with entry during frosty weather.

### **KU 17 Group**

There have been many changes at KU17 during the past year but the club continues to meet its aim which is to provide a safe and secure meeting place for the young people of Kingsley.

There is still a consistently good turnout for the younger sessions and for the trips and it is hoped that with new ideas being presented the older age group will also continue to flourish.

### **Youth Issues**

It was pleasing to note that issues in relation to problems with young people have been absent during the last year. It is felt that credit to the KU 17 and Scout and Guide organisations have assisted in this reduction.

### **Web Site**

This has been an extremely successful year for the Website and it is truly becoming a key village resource. Simon Sherlock continues to do a hugely important job in maintaining the site for the benefit of the village. Simon is keen to see the site to be improved still further with local groups and societies sending in their information.

### **Kingsley News Monthly Magazine**

It is pleasing to report that the Council now has a regular page in the newsletter and tries to keep residents informed of all important issues.

### **Community Liason**

It is heartening to note that in this village there is little need to foster any spirit of community liaison since it is happening daily all around us.

Clearly the major event of which we should all be proud is the continuing success of the Community Pride Initiative which has brought the village still closer.

### **Community Pride/Carnival/Orchards**

Carnival 2008 was held on the 12<sup>th</sup> July and in total £1200 profit was distributed to St.Johns School, Kingsley Community Primary School, KU 17 and the newly re-formed Parent and Toddlers group

This event was well received with over 2000 people attending. Appreciation should be made to the organising committee for all their hard work.

In relation to the Village Pride – Kingsley came 4<sup>th</sup> but we did score very low marks at the time for the play area which unfortunately was inspected by the judges before the re-development. We are sure they will be impressed with the 2009 visit.

Kingsley were very proud to win the Community Spirit award being introduced as ‘the village that likes to party’. We were particularly praised for the outreach work by The Hurst and St.Johns Church and for the success of the Kingsley players.

Winning this award qualified Kingsley for the Calor National Community Spirit award which was judged on March 27<sup>th</sup>. To date we do not know the result.

### **CHAIRMAN’S OVERVIEW**

This year has been an extremely successful year for the parish council and the village. The efforts of the council have paid huge dividends, and my sincere thanks go to all Councillors for their effort, tenacity and commitment to improving life in the village. There are many achievements this year, but I would like to single out starting with one of the most enjoyable carnivals I have been to. Councillor Gwillim did a fantastic job in organising and running the carnival and by the looks of the faces of the participants I personally think it was worth all the hard work. We need to start planning for the 2011 carnival now and any offers of help are more than welcome. Staying with Councillor Gwillim, it is with immense pride that I recognise all the efforts that have gone into the winning of the community spirit competition, and I am looking forward to the result of the next phase. I see no reason why we should not do as well at the national level as we did at the regional level. It is great to see that the award is so well deserved given the amount of participation we were getting in the organising and running of the event. It constantly reminds me of how lucky we are to live in such a community aware village. Another event that is worth noting as extremely significant was the opening of the new play park. Councillor Fletcher is at the end of a long line of Councillors who have wrestled with this issue and his hard work has resulted in an excellent village play park.

My thanks go to him, those who preceded him and Groundworks for managing the project, as well as the National lottery for providing the majority of the funding. I have heard nothing but good reports of this since it has been built and it looks like something that will bring pleasure to all groups of the community for many years to come.

One other area that has been in discussion for many years is the provision of affordable housing within the village, the council has been proactive on this issue and commissioned a survey that concluded there was a significant need to provide this type of housing within the village. Following on from that survey villagers were asked to come forward if they were aware of any land suitable for provision of this type of housing. We are now progressing this and will look to work closely with the departments responsible to ensure that the correct benefits to the village are achieved.

Kingsley Parish Council Are pleased to be awarded Quality Council status and to be one of only 18 Councils in the Cheshire Area to achieve this status. We will continue to strive to live up to this title.

**Summary of Accounts 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008– 31<sup>st</sup> March 2009**

**INCOME**

Balance brought forward	16706.66	
Precept	21400.00	
Burials	1974.00	
Bank interest	265.05	
Carnival	2520.49	
Walks books	69.00	
Community Spirit Award	125.00	
Refund VAT	607.87	<b><u>43668.07</u></b>

**EXPENDITURE**

Salaries & Tax	5537.32	
Footpaths	1475.00	
Administration	2005.08	
Playing Fields	1816.00	
New play area	2042.60	
Insurance	1076.21	
Subscriptions/donations	681.76	
Subsidy Youth Club	1500.00	
Carnival	2670.74	
Cemetery general maintenance	4174.37	
Cemetery Entrance	1209.13	
VAT	636.24	
Loan repayment	2738.67	
Footpath maps	994.00	
Notice board	220.00	<b><u>28777.12</u></b>

**BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD 14890.95**

**April 09**