

Kewstoke Parish Council Report 2022/2023.

It has been a busy year. The Jubilee celebrations in May last year were a resounding success. A lot of hard work by the Kewstoke Community group created a fantastic celebration which was well supported by the whole community. The Scarecrow trail was another successful event.

Earlier in the year Kewstoke School planted a number of trees on the village green as part of the late Queen's Green Canopy.

Last year I heralded the coming of the 2022 Kewstoke Parish Council Survey. Its now published and the results are available to view or download from The Parish Council website: www.kewstokevillage.com/parish-survey This will help the Parish Council and other organisations and service providers to know what residents want to see happen in their community.

After purchasing the Phone box at the corner of Kewstoke Road & Crookes Lane for £1.00. It was refurbished by Parish Council Volunteers and now houses the second of our 3 parish Council Owned defibrillators. The latest one being at the Bus Terminus Car Park on Sand Road and the original at the Village Hall. The Parish Council will announce dates shortly for a free familiarisation session in their use at the Village Hall.

Throughout the year all of the above and the normal Parish Council work has quietly gone on. Parking and traffic continue to be an issue throughout the village. The Parish Council continue to press the Local Authority and Services to carry out the work that they should.

The grass & hedges around the village and on the promenade are cut & the dog bins emptied and the streetlights maintained. It was decided that after a very wet Spring when it wasn't possible to carry out the first cut of the bank on the promenade, to leave the wild flowers to continue to flower and carry out the cut in July. Not everyone will be happy with this decision, lots of people are though. This will be reviewed later in the year. The Village Green & its play equipment owned and maintained by the Parish Council continue to look immaculate as a public space. The toilets with their new mechanisms and doors are continuing to pay their way, whilst providing an important service to visitors to our beach & village. The children of the village had their annual Parish Council Christmas party. The Village Website and Facebook page are a great resource which continue to provide residents with information.

It was sad to see the passing of Queen Elizabeth II back in September.

The May Parish Council Election was uncontested. This means that there were no more applicants to join the Council than there were positions available. As Chairman I believe that this was a good thing for Kewstoke. The team of Parish Councillors that we have in place work very well together, each playing to their strengths and all have the same goal of making Kewstoke a great place for us all to live. We do have a vacancy for a position on the Parish Council. This will be advertised and candidates interviewed. It would be nice to see some youngsters coming forward to apply for the role.

A few days after the Local Elections The Kewstoke Community Group were back in business organising what was a four day festival of Live Music, a Fete & lots of different activities in the Village Hall and the huge Marquee that the Parish Council funded. This was a resounding success and a great opportunity for residents to get together and celebrate and just socialise.

There are sure to be some challenges coming over the horizon in the coming year, but as in previous years the Parish Council have always risen to the occasion.

One of these challenges is to try and get decent Broadband speeds throughout the whole Parish. It really does seem crazy that our village is declared Rural by the providers of fibre when others in the Parish have good speeds and connectivity.

I feel honoured to have served the year as Chairman and would like to thank the other Parish Councillors, the Orderlies and The Parish Clerk for their continued hard work.

Jim MacDonald