

KIDLINGTON PARISH NEWSLETTER

Spring 2014

INTRODUCTION

Please take the opportunity to read this Newsletter which is delivered to every house in Kidlington. There is information in the Newsletter about projects the Parish Council is undertaking for Kidlington and plans for the future. It also sets out how we are spending your money and gives details of all your local Parish Councillors, should you wish to contact them. You can also keep yourself updated with what the Parish Council is doing by visiting the web site www.kidlington-pc.gov.uk. In addition reports are contained in the Kidlington News

Finally the Newsletter contains the agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting which will take place on 20th March. Our keynote speakers will be representatives from Chiltern Rail and Network Rail to update you on the proposals for the new station so please find time to attend.

CHILTERN RAIL PROPOSALS

Chiltern Rail proposes to open a new Station at Water Eaton in Summer of 2015. The Station will be called Oxford Parkway and will be the first to be built in Oxfordshire since 1935. Trains will run from the new Station to Marylebone London with an expected journey time of around 1 hour. Services will also be available in the other direction to Oxford. The station will be provided with over 800 spaces to be shared with the existing Park and Ride. The line between Bicester and Oxford is due to close in February 2014 and is planned to reopen in summer 2015 when the first trains will run from the station.

The Parish Council have supported these proposals but remain concerned about the junction arrangements at the station and impact on traffic currently leaving Kidlington at peak hours. We have in the past had assurances the situation will be an improvement on the current arrangements. Attend the Annual Parish meeting and you will have an opportunity to hear more and ask questions to representatives of Chiltern Rail and Network Rail.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

To be held on 20th March 2014
at 7.30pm at Exeter Hall.

All Members of the Public Welcome

AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence.**
2. **Declarations of Interest.**
3. **Railway Station** – Stephen Barker:
Chief Project Engineer Chiltern Railways and Rob Mole of Network Rail will attend to update residents on the development of the East/West rail line and the new station to be located at Water Eaton.
4. **Police:** Sgt Colin Travi will be present to update the meeting on policing in Kidlington.
5. **Minutes** - to confirm minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 14th March 2013.
6. **Matters Arising** - from Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 14th March 2013.
7. **Update on Parish Council Projects.**
8. **Update on issues from previous annual Meetings.**
9. **Accounts for year ended 31st March 2013** – to receive Statement of the Parish Council accounts.
10. **Finances for the current year** – to explain the Council's budget.
11. **Charities** – to receive the accounts for Charities for the year end 31.12.13.
12. **Resolutions / questions** to consider any resolutions or questions (of which written notice has been given).
13. **Any other specific items.**

QUESTIONS / RESOLUTIONS – The Public are invited to submit questions or resolutions in writing for consideration at the meeting – to the Clerk of the Council by 18th March 2014.



IMPROVEMENTS TO THE PIAZZA AREA

Following recommendations by the retail expert Mary Portas, the government has made funds available for enhancing the nation's high streets. Kidlington's share of this, about £20,000, will be used as the main part of a larger scheme to enhance the Piazza area to the North of the High Street, alongside Watts Way. The repaving of the Piazza some years ago has created a pleasant area that is the natural gateway to the High Street from the public car parks, but is in need of further improvement.

Our Portas funds will be used to build an attractive screen around the public toilets on the Piazza, which are currently something of an eyesore and afford little privacy. The screens will incorporate information displays about Kidlington and its retail facilities, and will be complemented by new greenery, seating, and hanging baskets along the edge of Watts Way.

KIDLINGTON IN BLOOM

Kidlington once again achieved a Silver Gilt. We consistently achieve this award and whilst we would like to get Gold, we prove that we always do well.

As well as the flowers, we are judged on horticultural achievements including natural areas, conservation, environmental responsibility and community participation.

We do not find it easy to obtain a great deal of involvement from local businesses in sponsorship. However, we do well with involvement from

community groups including St Mary's Fields and the Gardening Society.

We hope that everyone will help this year by keeping their front gardens and local areas clean and tidy.

There is a special award for neighbourhood groups who do something special in their area. If anyone is interested please ring the Council at Exeter Hall.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAVEL PIT ALLOTMENTS

We have made it clear that the Council is looking to develop the Gravel Pits Allotment site at the top of The Moors for housing.

It was originally proposed to include the Station Fields Allotments as part of this development but the Council lease these allotments and at the last minute the owner pulled out of the project. All allotment holders have been informed of the proposals and the Council would hope that the project can take place in the next 12-15 months. The purpose of the development is to generate capital income to enable the Council to make improvements in the village without borrowing the money or raising the council tax to cover the cost of projects. It also means that the Council will be able to clear any existing loans which have to be serviced from the council tax.

The development will be for up to 23 no dwellings and a proportion of these would be affordable. Just as importantly the Council have laid out land at Gosford Link Road and are making more allotments available on existing allotment sites. In this way there will be no loss of allotment land.



PARKING RESTRICTIONS OXFORD ROAD

Recently Oxfordshire County Council prepared and advertised proposals to restrict parking along the service road on the eastern side (Gosford Hill School side) of the Oxford Road. In principle the Parish Council supported the restrictions on the service road to prevent commuters using it to avoid the charges in the Water Eaton Park and Ride. The Parish Council objected to the proposals until a comprehensive scheme is developed to include both sides of the road.

This will avoid the problem simply being moved from the eastern side to the western side. There were also some concerns about restrictions close to the Gosford Hill Medical Centre for patients using the surgery. It is understood that the County Council is now preparing proposals for a comprehensive scheme. Look for the proposals when they are advertised for consultation and you will be able to make your own comments.

KIDLINGTON RECREATIONAL TRUST

Kidlington residents may not be aware that it is **Kidlington Recreational Trust** who is responsible for the management of the following Kidlington recreation areas: Park Hill (Benmead Road) ; Orchard Rec. Ground (Evans Lane) ; Ron Groves' Park (Maple Avenue) ; and the football area at Yarnton Road.

The Trust committee is made up of representatives of various named clubs, but there are also places on the committee for 5 interested local residents.

The AGM of the Kidlington Recreational Trust will be held at **7.30pm on Monday 14th April** at the former Social Club building at Yarnton Road.

All Kidlington residents are welcome
and encouraged to attend.

***STRATFIELD BRAKE
SPORTS AND RECREATION GROUND***
The Pavilion Function Room is available to
hire for conferences, parties and meetings at
competitive prices
FOR INFORMATION Tel : 01865 372143

STRATFIELD BRAKE

This sports and recreation facility is considered one of the best in Oxfordshire. It is used primarily by the Rugby, Cricket, Running and Football Clubs. However the facility is available for hire by other sports clubs and individuals by arrangements with the Parish Council.

The Parish Council is proud to be able to contribute to the provision of these sports in Kidlington. The facility is run by Kidlington and Gosford & Water Eaton Parish Councils. The Parish Council are looking to improve the management arrangements and to introduce some form of charging for the club use to relieve the pressure on the general council tax payer. This may involve employing an external company to run the facility. Currently this is a matter in discussion with the clubs. The Council expects this process to be concluded this year.

HIGH ST. PEDESTRIANISATION RISING BOLLARD

You will be aware that the High Street was pedestrianised by Cherwell District Council in April 2012.

The Parish Council felt that the scheme would not work without a physical barrier and after much discussion Cherwell District Council agreed to fund the capital cost of a rising bollard provided the Parish Council funded 50% of the running costs.

The Parish Council agreed to this in early 2013. It is with some considerable frustration and disappointment that the rising bollard is still not in place. It is not appropriate for the Parish Council to apportion blame for this delay however it is meeting with Cherwell District Council on a monthly basis to ensure the project is brought to fruition.

The operational date is now proposed for May 2014. The bollard will rise at 10 in the morning and lower at 4 in the afternoon preventing vehicles from passing through the High Street during the restricted period. Permits to give access will be available for some premises in the High Street and they will be consulted nearer the time.

LOCAL PLAN & MASTER PLAN

Cherwell District Council has concluded the Local Plan for the whole of Cherwell District which includes Kidlington as the 3rd largest conurbation in the district. The Local Plan sets out how the District will be developed over the coming years. For Kidlington it states that there will be no review of the current green belt except for the Langford Lane industrial area and the Begbroke University Science Park.

The Parish Council support the plan but is concerned about the housing provision for the increased employment at Langford Lane. The Parish Council have therefore expressed a view that there should be mixed development at Langford Lane to provide housing and industrial expansion.

The Local Plan supports the development of a Master Plan for Kidlington, and the Parish Council is anxious to see this Master Plan developed to provide a more detailed blue print of how Kidlington will be developed over the coming years. One of the key elements of the Master Plan will be the strengthening of the viability of the village centre.

There has been one stakeholder meeting with Cherwell DC consultant and we await how the Master Plan will now be taken forward. The Parish Council expects to play a key role in the development of the Master Plan.



FINANCE – HOW WE SPEND YOUR MONEY

We thought it would be helpful for you to know how we spend your money. The pie chart below shows the percentage proportion spent on activities.

The Parish Council met in January to set the budget for 2014/15. Government funding passed on by Cherwell District Council is to be reduced from 100 per cent to 86 per cent, leaving the parish Council to find the difference. The District Council do not pay this grant to the Parish Council as extra income; instead they use it to reduce Kidlington's Council Tax requirement. The effect of reducing the grant will therefore be a slight increase in Council Tax. The Parish Council has once again been advised to increase the reserves held to cover unexpected emergencies. This has resulted in a slight increase in Council Tax. The increase is £4.84 per household per annum.

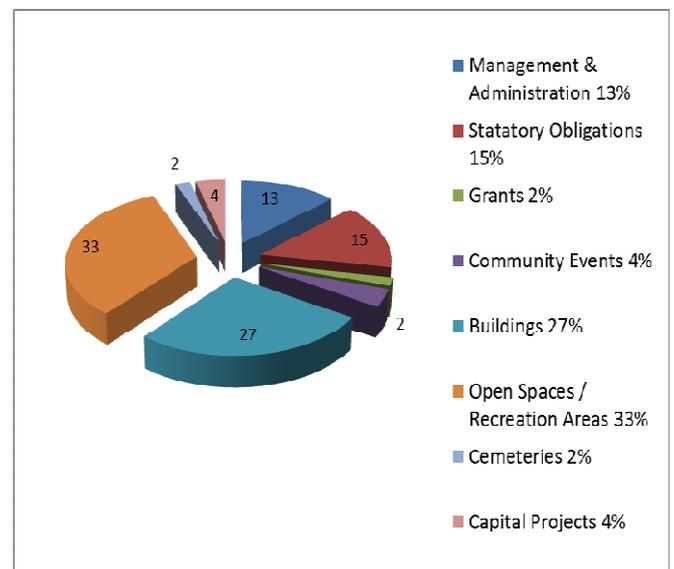


EXETER HALL

CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, EXHIBITIONS,
MEETINGS AND TRADE FAIRS ETC.

Well equipped halls able to accommodate 25, 60 and 250 people. Full licensed bar with full catering facilities. Just off Oxford ring road / 5 mins to M40, Ample car parking, with on site catering.

Tel: 01865 373691





KIDLINGTON YOUTH FORUM CENTRE

Kidlington Early Intervention Satellite is staffed and managed by Bicester Early Intervention Hub.

Early Intervention Hubs offer general clubs support and activities to children, young people and families. They offer more support when needed, for children, young people and families with complex needs. This support may be offered at the hub, by other organisations or in the community.

Hubs can offer support and activities around: parenting and early years; health and wellbeing; employment, education and training; youth justice and anti-social behaviour; assessment for support services; and community issues

(What's On at the Forum each week shown adjacent)

In Kidlington – the Forum is located adjacent to and works in close contact with the Kaleidoscope Children's Centre.

Following the County Council's recent assessment of services during its budget review, there will be no major change to the arrangements for Children's Centres and Early Intervention Hubs. However, the longer term situation is still uncertain, there will be continued County Council review over a three year period with a challenge for Kidlington to retain a local delivery base – possibly with less staffing but hopefully to provide ideally for an ever broader array of services rather than expecting families to travel to Banbury or Oxford.

KIDLINGTON INFORMATION CENTRE

The Kidlington Good Neighbour Scheme is run from the Kidlington Information Centre which is open **Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays between 10.00am – 2.00pm**. We are located next to Cherwell District Council in Exeter Hall. The scheme has been running for over 3 years now and we help anybody who is over 60 or disabled. The help is offered by our Volunteers who all have been CRB checked. We help with dog walking, shopping, gardening, basic DIY and befriending. We have had a variety of requests over the last 3 years and if we can help, we always do.

The Information Centre itself boasts a wide range of bus/train timetables, tourist information, benefit forms, theatre information and Age UK guides to take away when Exeter Hall is open. If anybody needs help or would like to Volunteer their help, please come into the office or call us on 01865 378479.

WHAT'S ON AT THE FORUM KIDLINGTON

KIDLINGTON EARLY INTERVENTION HUB 01865 328470

MONDAY :

Young Carers Group age 5-11	3.45-5.45pm
Junior Open Session age 7-11	4pm – 6pm

TUESDAY :

In Training ages 16-19	10am – 3pm
Open Session ages 11-19	7pm – 9.30pm

WEDNESDAY :

In Training ages 16-19	10am – 3pm
Employment Education & training advice (Drop in) Ages 16-18	11am – 3pm
Forum Fun Club –ages 6-12 additional support needs	4pm – 6pm.

FRIDAY : Open Youth Session

School years 7, 8, 9	7pm – 8.30pm
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Open Youth Session

School years 10, 11, 12	8.30pm – 10pm
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Kidlington Parish Council Contact Details

EXETER HALL, OXFORD ROAD, KIDLINGTON OX5 1AB 01865 372143 Clerk: Mrs Patricia Redpath clerk@kidlington-pc.gov.uk

Cllr DAVID BETTS (Chair)	62 The Moors, Kidlington OX5 2AJ	ST MARY'S	375613
Cllr MAURICE BILLINGTON	15 Evans Lane, Kidlington OX5 2HX	ORCHARD	842235
Cllr JOE CLAXTON	10 Foxdown Close, Kidlington OX5 2YE	EXETER	376309
Cllr TIM EMPTAGE	28 Yarnton Road, Kidlington OX5 1AT	DOGWOOD	377488
Cllr ALAN GRAHAM	107 High Street, Kidlington OX5 2DS	DOGWOOD	453442
Cllr LISA GRAY-WRIGHT	4 School Road, Kidlington OX5 2HB	EXETER	847078
Cllr ANDREW HORNSBY-SMITH	27 The Homestead, Kidlington OX5 1SS	EXETER	378734
Cllr CAROLE PACK	13 Mead Way, Kidlington OX5 2BU	ROUNDHAM	377539
Cllr CHRIS PACK	13 Mead Way, Kidlington OX5 2BU	ST MARY'S	377539
Cllr NEIL PRESTIDGE	26 Lock Crescent, Kidlington OX5 1HE	DOGWOOD	07766 018226
Cllr SANDRA RHODES	50 Evans Lane, Kidlington OX5 2HY	ST MARY'S	848861
Cllr DAVID ROBEY (Vice Chair)	101 High Street, Kidlington	ROUNDHAM	847140
Cllr CHRIS ROBINS	33 Foxdown Close, Kidlington	ORCHARD	371760
Cllr RUPERT TRUMAN	10 Edinburgh Drive, Kidlington OX5 2JF	ORCHARD	847482
Cllr TRACEY WYSE	147 Banbury Road, Kidlington OX5 1AL	ROUNDHAM	849586

PLANS FOR EXETER CLOSE

The Community Committee is in the process of developing a forward plan for Exeter Close, for implementation in stages, probably as funds become available. Exeter Close is a major recreational asset and we would like to improve it further to create a civic park for Kidlington. This will involve new planting and landscaping improvements to paths and lighting, better signage and above all better play, exercise and sporting facilities for people of all ages. We will consult with the public as the plan develops.

DATES OF FUTURE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

27th March 2014	Full Council
3rd April 2014	Policy & Finance Committee
10th April 2014	Planning Committee
24th April 2014	Community Committee
8th May 2014	Annual Council Meeting
15th May 2014	Planning Committee
5th June 2014	Policy & Finance Committee
12th June 2014	Planning Committee
19th June 2014	Community Committee
26th June 2014	Full Council
10th July 2014	Planning Committee
14th August 2014	Planning Committee

ST MARY'S FIELD

St Mary's Field, owned by the Parish Council, is an area behind the church and provides an important nesting habitat for birds and has a high wildlife value because of its mosaic of scrub and open grassland. Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) has monitored the fields and advised a very small group of volunteers of their essential management.

With the aid of a small grant from the Parish Council, the group of volunteers are working to keep the existing open spaces clear from encroaching scrub and to keep the grass tracks accessible. The group also puts up nesting boxes, improves wild flower areas, carry out pond clearing and other related tasks.

DEER FENCING FOR BURIAL GROUND

The numbers of deer in the fields around St Mary's are an attractive feature of the landscape, but create problems for those tending the graves in St Mary's cemetery. The Council has erected deer fencing around the cemetery, consisting of high-level but very fine green netting that is fairly unobtrusive, but effective in reducing the opportunity of deer getting in. We will also be circulating recommendations about the flowers and plants that deer are less likely to eat.