

Chairman's report on the activities of Kingsnorth Parish Council May 2004- April 2005 to the Annual Parish Meeting held in the Kingsnorth School on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2005 at 7.30pm.

This has been another very busy and successful year for Kingsnorth Parish Council. As reported last year, all Councillors have their special areas of responsibility. There have been no changes since last year and we all depend very much on our clerk, Jenny Mills.

The Chairman is also Chairman of the Kent Association of Parish Councils Ashford Area Committee and is a member of the Ashford Strategic Partnership. She continues to be a member of the "Town Team" and has attended several workshops concerning both the town centre and the so-called Greater Ashford development plans.

The extension to the Parish football/cricket field has been played on by the footballers since last September, but the Kingsnorth cricket team has not used the cricket pitch for nearly two years now. As yet the Parish Council has had no response to appeals for another cricket team to use it, so, reluctantly, the Parish Council is likely to take the decision to stop maintaining the cricket square as the expense cannot be justified

Geoff Blackmer continues to work as our caretaker and I am sure that all users of the Sports Pavilion find him a great help. Mr and Mrs Cleave also continue to keep the pavilion spotless, which is not always easy when several football clubs have been using it. Mr Cleave also keeps our lanes clear of rubbish.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005 we will have a Parish Community Warden. She will use the Sports Pavilion as her office. Her hours of availability and contact information will be put in the Parish Magazine, on the Parish notice boards and web site.

We have continued to support the Kingsnorth Senior Citizens' annual outing and given a grant for maintenance of the Church Yard. We have also given a grant to Kingsnorth School and small donations to several other organisations.

The Parish Council web site continues as a means of distributing news about the Parish Council and other happenings in the Parish. Our clerk keeps the website up to date and if anyone wishes to put something on the web site then Jenny is the person to contact.

The PC has won one very significant victory as after many years of campaigning Highways have just extended the 40mph speed limit along Magpie Hall Road and Tally Ho Rd. to link up with the 40 speed limit in Shadoxhurst. The "Speed Watch" scheme reported on last year had to be suspended after a short time for legal reasons. It is hoped that it will start up again very soon. The extension of the Neighbourhood Watch scheme called "Country Eye" has been up and running since last May.

The part-time Post Office in the Village Hall has been running since last November. We have been promised a post box outside the Village Hall but it hasn't arrived yet. This will greatly add to the convenience of the Post Office.

As usual, planning has been a large part of Parish Council work. We commented upon 101 planning applications in 2004 and 21 so far in 2005. The appeal by Wards Homes for extra development land on Brisley Farm was dismissed.

The “wish lists” which the Parish was asked to compile at very short notice 15 months ago have not yet been reported on by the Borough Council. We got an adequate response to our Parish-wide questionnaire and several very useful pointers as to how present residents wish to see the Parish develop were produced.

We are shortly to review the footpath and bridleway network in the village and hope that this will result in a more user-friendly network of public rights of way. The Parish Council has provided more dog bins where people walk their dogs, making our footpaths much more pleasant to use.

Problems of sewage overflow in the Recreation Centre car park and Little Acorns play area have been looked into by Southern Water and they intend to upgrade the pumps but whether this has happened yet we do not know. The utilities are not good at notifying the Parish Council when they intend to carry out work in the parish. This winter has been very dry and so no problems have yet arisen.

Hilary Moorby