

# Keyworth Parish Council

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018/19 Plans/Priorities for 2019/20

### Council Members

- Following an election in May, Anne Jequier was elected onto the Parish council following the resignation of Richard Miller, with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

### Council Staff

- At the time of writing, the Council employs eight staff, all part-time, including Clerk to the Council, Finance Officer, Facilities Manager, Bookings Clerk, Clerical Officer, Cleaner and Handyman. It should be borne in mind, however, that the total basic hours worked by these staff equates to the hours worked by approximately three full-time staff.
- Emma Tillyard took over as Clerk to the Council/Proper Officer with effect from 21<sup>st</sup> February 2019, whilst the previous Clerk, Debbie Cooke, is now employed as the Clerical Officer.

### Council Facilities

- The Council owns, or is responsible for:
  - The Village Hall complex – including the Village Hall, Centenary Lounge and Feignies Room
  - Rectory field
  - Keyworth Activity Park
  - Rectory field Pavilion and former Changing Rooms (occupied by Keyworth Table Tennis Club and Keyvolution/Abundance respectively)
  - Memorial Gates
  - Wysall Lane Burial Ground
  - Nottingham Road Play Area (leased from Notts County Council)
  - Platt Lane Skatepark (leased from UK Research & Innovation)
  - Keyworth Meadow (managed by the Nature Reserve Management Group)
  - Keyworth Bowls Club – clubhouse and green (managed by the club)
  - Keyworth Tennis Club – clubhouse and courts (managed by the club)

The Keyworth Bowls Club, Tennis Club and Table Tennis Club now have a lease for their premises.

### Village Hall Complex

- In the Village Hall Centenary Lounge, the chairs and bench seats have been refurbished and redecorating completed.
- The Council's Finance committee agreed a small increase in hire fees for the Village Hall complex in 2019/20.
- The Village Hall is now available to hire on Sundays.
- Broadband has been upgraded in the Village Hall complex.

### Nottingham Road Play Area

- Please see under the 'Finance' section.

# Keyworth Parish Council

## Rectory Field

- The Keyworth Show will, as usual, take place on the Rectory field in July thanks to the hard work put in by the organisers. This year it is in the first weekend of July.

## Wysall Lane Burial Ground

- A new hedge has now been planted with further landscaping including the laying of a new turfed area and preparations have been made for the next phase of the burial ground to be brought into use when needed.
- Additional planting has been carried out in the memorial garden.
- Ten new trees have been planted in the burial ground extension.

## Activity Park

- The activity park continues to be maintained by Keyworth Parish Council.

## Memorial Gates

- Memorial Gates and railings along Nottingham Road were repainted.

## Support for Local Organisations

- The Council continued in 2018/19 to provide financial assistance to:
  - Platt Lane Joint Management Committee (the Council has a one-third financial interest in the facilities at Platt Lane)
  - Keyworth & District Community Concern
  - Keyworth Conservation Area Advisory Group
  - Keyworth PCC (re maintenance and repair of church clock)
- Donations were also made to:
  - RHR Cadet Corps of Drums
  - Royal British Legion (re lamppost poppies)
- The Council continued to make its premises available at concessionary rates, and in many cases free of charge, for various community events and services such as:
  - Keyworth Advice Centre – Tuesday afternoons in the Feignies Room
  - Centenary Lounge coffee mornings
  - Keyworth Show
  - Village Quiz

## Parish Council Events/Seasonal Activities

- During the past twelve months, the Council has organised &/or sponsored the following events and activities:
  - Christmas Lights: 47 trees with lights at various locations around the village; thank you to the local businesses which once again contributed towards the cost. (The Council also made a contribution towards the cost of the lights in the churchyard.)

# Keyworth Parish Council

- Hanging Baskets: some 53 in total during the summer months; again, thank you to the businesses which made a contribution.
- The Tour of Britain was given a warm welcome when it came through Keyworth, with Parish Councillors having liaised intensely with local business and organisations to decorate the village with bicycles, jerseys and banners. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who worked so hard to make the day such a great success.
- The Annual Parish Council Reception took place in March, where the Chairman thanked local people who have contributed to our community.
- Keyworth Quiz (January to March) – sponsored by the Council; congratulations to the winners, Willowbrook Primary School, and also to the organisers for once again making the quiz (in its 43rd year) such a success. Results and reports can be found on the Parish Council website: [www.keyworthparishcouncil.org/keyworth-quiz](http://www.keyworthparishcouncil.org/keyworth-quiz).

## Publicity/Information

- The Council website ([www.keyworthparishcouncil.org](http://www.keyworthparishcouncil.org)) continues to be updated on a regular basis, and is well worth a visit for anyone who wants to stay abreast of what's happening.
- We also keep residents informed through news items and the Keyworth Diary (in the Keyworth News), distribution of which, to all households in Keyworth, is financed by the Council. (The Keyworth Diary can also be found on the Council website.)
- The Online Keyworth Guide, which can be found on the Council website, is a useful source of information about local organisations, although we are reliant on the relevant organisations to provide us with updates.
- This year's Annual Parish Meeting was publicised by means of a full-page advertisement in the April edition of the Keyworth News and also on the Council website.
- Town and Parish elections were advertised on the Council's website, in the Keyworth News and on posters on the noticeboards in the village hall and village square, and on Keyworth Parish Council's Facebook page.

## Finance

- At the time of writing, the Council's accounts for 2018/19 are yet to be finalised. The figures to hand suggest that a substantial budget surplus is likely, in which case the Council has agreed that it should be earmarked provisionally to go towards the continued development of the Burial Ground and the proposed Peace Garden on the Rectory field.
- Funds already earmarked include what should be enough to cover the cost of a new surface for the Nottingham Road Play Area once the lease has been extended. There will then be no need for regular, very expensive, topping up of the existing bark surface.
- The Council reviewed its reserves policy as usual in January. On the face of it, the level of the Council's uncommitted reserves (reserves not set aside to fund specific commitments or long-term development plans) might seem high, but it should be borne in mind that the Council owns, and is responsible for maintaining, fixed assets valued at around £1.8 million, and it follows that it needs to set aside substantial funds for emergency/contingency purposes.
- As for 2019/20, the Council has set its precept at a level resulting in the Parish Council portion of the council tax increasing by only 96p per annum (1.4%) for a Band D property.

## Planning

- The Council's Planning committee has had another busy year: there were 16 Planning meetings in 2018/19, at which the committee considered 69 planning applications, some straightforward, but some not.
- It's important to bear in mind that it's the Borough Council which makes the final decisions on planning applications, but the Planning committee submits comments and recommendations, having taken on board the views of members of the public who often attend its meetings.

# Keyworth Parish Council

## Neighbourhood Plan

- The completed Neighbourhood Plan has now been adopted by Rushcliffe Borough Council and several developers have applied for full or outline planning permission for all the sites in the plan. We await Rushcliffe Borough Council's decision on their applications.

## Other Issues

- The Platt Lane Joint Management Committee continue in their work to take ownership of the Platt Lane sports facilities (see above) and continue to work towards completing this.

## Plans and Priorities for 2019/20

- A number of major projects have been completed over the last few years, meaning there are no outstanding ongoing projects to report on. However, this may change in the coming year.
- Most of the activities and many of the issues outlined above will be high on the Council's list of priorities again in **2019/20**.

In my view, the Parish Council's most important priorities in **2019/20** will be:

- Ongoing works to improve and extend the burial ground
- Hope to move forward with the establishment of a Peace Garden on the Rectory Field
- Once we have the lease confirmed with the Equals Trust, we intend resurfacing the Nottingham Road Play Area with rubber play bark which is a harder wearing and longer lasting surface than at present.

## Parish Council Elections 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019

- Local elections were due to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019. Four candidates in Keyworth North and 12 candidates in Keyworth South were validly nominated and duly elected without contest.

**Tony Grice**

**Chairman**

15.04.2019