

Kemble & Ewen Parish Plan

Environmental issues were high on the agenda when residents of Kemble & Ewen took part in a community survey.

More than six out of ten households completed a questionnaire constructed to find out what they liked, disliked and wanted to improve about their villages.

The results are being used to shape the community's parish plan - an initiative from the Government's 2000 Rural White Paper which helps communities review past issues and identify future actions and projects.

The plan's steering group led by Kemble resident Jenny Courts is now using the results from the questionnaire to form an action plan for the village which will address a number of issues including enhancing the local environment, recycling, traffic and transport, and village activities.

Jenny Courts commented that "the results of the survey clearly show that residents want Kemble & Ewen to remain rural communities, with a thriving village school and shop/post office. Residents voiced concerns about the speed of traffic on the A429 through Kemble, and were largely supportive of green and environmental initiatives such as tree planting around the parish, creating a wilderness area, increasing local recycling facilities, and improving access to the surrounding countryside via foot and cycle paths. We also included a youth survey which was answered by 66 young people in the Parish, the most popular activities requested included setting up a youth club and providing trips to the local watersports facilities. In common with many rural communities, providing recreational activities and facilities for our younger residents is a big challenge for us to tackle over the next few years."

A second public meeting will be held in January to ask residents what they think about the first draft of the action plan.