

The Kemble, Ewen and Kemble Wick Parish Plan

Thank you to all who attended the launch event on the 8th May. A large number of thoughtful comments and ideas were raised, which are summarised here. If you have any further ideas/comments please let us know by putting a suggestion in one of the suggestion boxes placed around the Parish (Shop, School, Church and Railway Station) before 23rd June.

Sports, recreation, clubs and societies

A number of people requested tennis courts/club, cricket nets/club, and improved football facilities (& competitions). Other ideas included a croquet pitch, athletics track/competitions, and sports clubs for both adults and children. A rural cinema in the Village Hall was strongly supported, and requests for new clubs included: History Society, Reading Group, Conservation/wildlife club, Walking Club, Cubs, and organised coach trips to London (for theatre/shows etc).

Environment, Heritage, Housing and Development

Concerns were expressed over increasing vandalism (particularly at the Play area and Station), litter, flytipping, the burning of plastic waste, and the urbanisation of the Parish. Requests were made for more trees around the Parish, allotments, a wildlife area to replace that lost at Station Road, and for the old village/conservation area to be protected/respected. Comments were made about the potential impact of the Severn/Thames canal re-opening. Views on the Airfield were both positive and negative, but a number of concerns were raised over the current volume of larger/noisy planes & jets, including the impact of this on animals and the noise levels.

Mixed views were expressed on Housing and Development. A number want no further houses built and are concerned about the impact of further development on the character of the village. On the other hand there were requests for more affordable housing, for a care home/sheltered housing for the elderly, and a considered plan of where houses should/could be built with a suitable mix of size/cost. Concern was raised that without new housing the school could be closed.

Roads, Transport, Footpaths and Cycle tracks

A significant number of people requested a footpath/pavement between Kemble and Ewen, and more footpaths, bridle paths and cycle tracks around the parish. Other ideas for footpaths included: paths to the pubs, footpath along A429 from Kemble to the river, use of the old railway tracks for walks, revival of the *beating the bounds* walk, promoting the quiet lanes initiative, and better signposting of the Thames path and way to the source of the Thames. Traffic speed throughout the Parish was a significant concern, many asked for 20mph speed limits in areas such as Windmill Road, School Road and Ewen. Consultation on speed limits and possible speed controls (such as speed humps) was requested. Other suggestions included a bridge over the A429, passing places between Smerrill and Ewen, and enforcing weight restrictions through Ewen.

Requests were made for: more buses, particularly a night bus from Cirencester to Kemble; a community bus; and a bus shelter in Windmill Road. It was noted that the new bus 55 timetable reduces the level of service.

Village Hall

Views were mixed on the need for a new Village Hall vs refurbishment of the existing hall, and on the possible location of a new Hall at Clayfurlong playing fields, with some supporting this and some against. Ideas for facilities in a new Hall included: Badminton, table tennis, youth clubs, rural cinema, cricket nets, five aside, net ball, and dance club.

Youth and teens

There was very strong demand for more recreational facilities for teenagers, including a youth club and sports clubs/facilities. Many people strongly supported the work of *Kemble at Play*, and wanted this to continue. Ideas for activities for youth and teens included: Organic Garden plot, bell-ringing, drama club, badminton, tennis, cycle track, skate ramps, summer club, and a special bus to take youth to the leisure centre or elsewhere in Cirencester. A number of concerns were raised over traffic/parking around the school and vandalism at the school.

Community Services

Many requested additional recycling facilities in the Parish, especially cardboard and plastics, but some thought that this should be in Cirencester. The Village Shop and Post Office was strongly supported and applauded, and a number requested no further shops. Ideas for additional services included fresh bread/croissants, more local & organic produce, a cafe/place for kids after school (e.g. in the Village Hall), and a voluntary rota to help the elderly. A number of people suggested that the Station should be integrated more with the Village, using the cafe and garden, and promoting it as a tourist attraction. However concern was raised about litter, poor security, and parking.

More visible policing of the Parish was strongly requested, particularly around the Station and Play Area. The Neighbourhood Watch needs rejuvenation and was supported. A Village Orderly was suggested to patrol the Parish.

If you have any questions on this, or would like to be involved in the Parish Plan in any way (eg helping to deliver or collect questionnaires) please let me or any of the Parish Plan Working Group know. Jenny Courts (Chair - 770148). Parish Plan Working Group: Mark Bainbridge, Tom Barrow, Christian Brann, Tricia Desmond, Adam Fletcher, Toby De Haan, Laura Hetherington, Nicola Walton