

Chairman's Report 2019

Welcome everyone to this last meeting of the present Council. In May we will begin another 4 year term.

At this point I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Cllr Haines for his input as Chairman of the Downs Committee and other matters relating to outside space and also keeping us informed of matters at Teignbridge which could have an effect on our village.

I would also like to thank our Planning Committee who meet once a month, usually the week before the Council meeting, to discuss and comment on planning applications and appeals received for the parish. It must be remembered that we do not make the decisions we are only consultees and at times Teignbridge do not agree with our thoughts.

My thanks must also go to the members of the Downs Committee who meet on a regular basis and also the Communications Committee who are looking into our new and improved website. Thanks, must also go to all the members for the parts they have played over this last four years in helping the Council from helping move snow to reporting vandalism and everything else too numerous to mention.

Cllr Dewhurst is always present to give us a report on the goings on at Devon County Council despite clock watching as he is always in a hurry to get to Abbotskerswell. He has over the winters of the last four years mastered our outside lighting switches and therefore he can leave in safety.

Finally, my thanks must go to a very important person, Karen our Clerk, who without her we would not be so organised. All letters and circulars that we need to be made aware of are promptly sent out and she is always there in the office during opening times for parishioners to call or to phone.

We are very fortunate to have someone like Karen.

Over the last four years there have been many changes here in Kingskerswell from the coming of the South Devon Highway and the installation of the Average Speed Cameras to the changes on the Torquay/Newton Abbot Road with speed reductions which I am afraid many motorists do not pay attention to. The toilets at the top of Water Lane no longer belong to Teignbridge, the Council felt that it was important that they remain and therefore they now belong to the Council and we are responsible for their upkeep.

Extra facilities in the form of an outside gym have been added to the playing field and the entrance from Weavers Way improved to make the area more accessible.

We have in the last financial year appointed our own Contractor to cut the grass etc as it was noticed that the village was looking neglected as Devon County Council had cut back on their maintenance schedule and were only dealing with important areas.

Many other things have been achieved over the last four years which I am sure you will all remember.

We must now look forward to the next four years and the challenges that we will face.

A new housing development is planned for beside the sloop and the Public Hall is going to be replaced with the addition of the new Library and it is hoped that the Community Hub can also be incorporated within this area. We are still waiting to hear from Devon County Council regarding the purchase of the land.

Once again Councillors thank you all for what you have done over the last four years as I know some of you will not be standing again. For those of you who are standing again lets us go forward with lots of new ideas which will make us proud to live here in Kingskerswell.