

## Chairman's Report April 2022

I hope that I am not speaking too soon when I say that it looks like the worst of Covid 19 and its effect on our lives has lessened its grip and that we are all now learning to live with it.

Kewstoke Parish Council has operated normally in the last 12 months and I feel that we have achieved quite a lot during this time.

The orderlies have been working hard, general maintenance around the village has been maintained. It's an ongoing job and even as I write this, I can see that some shingles have blown off the roof of the shelter on the sea front and now need replacing.

The new doors with electronic payment have been installed in the toilets at the bus terminus carpark. After some initial teething problems, they are working well and we have seen a rise in income by increasing the cost to 30p & putting in a card payment option. Since the toilets have been run by the Parish Council they have been a cost to the Parish, but it now looks like we are well on the way to making them cost neutral.

The Kewstoke website is continually updated by Marcus Tripp and is the 'go to' place for up to date information. The Parish Council use the Karen Jenkin's Kewstoke, Our Village, Our Community Facebook page to alert residents to any information that they think will be important that is already on [www.kewstokevillage.com](http://www.kewstokevillage.com)

The new noticeboard heralded in last year's Chairman's report is now in place on the bus shelter opposite the Pink shop. This was to replace the one next to the New Inn as it is more central to the village. This brings the total of noticeboards to four. They are regularly updated with information by Mike Hardwick the Parish Clerk.

Speeding traffic has been a concern of some residents but gets little traction from police and the local authority as there have been very few accidents in the Parish and they concentrate their energies where there have been accidents. A strong representation of residents from Kewstoke Road approached the Parish Council with deep concerns about the speed of traffic along Kewstoke Road. Because of the confined space and lack of place for people to get out of the way of traffic using the road, the Parish Council decided to find out exactly what speeds were being attained by road users. Three individual survey points were set up along Kewstoke Road and data cables stretched across the road. The survey was carried out over 7 days, 24 hours a day measuring the volume and individual speeds of vehicles. Some of the data may have been affected by repair work being carried out which created an obstruction of the traffic near one of the survey spots for a few of the days. However the collated data showed that on most occasions the majority of people travelling along Kewstoke Road were at speeds at or close to the speed limits. The data was forwarded to North Somerset Council's Chief traffic engineer who has confirmed that there was no evidence from the survey that suggested that traffic calming measures were warranted on Kewstoke Road for the moment.

The work carried out by the Environment Agency at the request of the Parish Council on our sea defences mentioned in last year's report has started to pay off. Many of the chestnut fences are now getting covered with sand and building up the eroded bank. Sand still blows

from the beach when the winds are strong and in a westerly direction. This gives the Parish Council and in particular Russell Adams, the task of keeping the paths clear for walkers and wheel chair users. The Parish Council are looking at a solution for the now closed Boardwalk to the south of the beach. Over the next few months it is hoped that a plan will be put in place.

The parking and traffic issues that were at their worst at the height of the pandemic have subsided, but are still a challenge to the residents affected on sunny days and holidays. The Parish Council have been in discussion with North Somerset Council officers to carry out agreed changes to parking in areas of the village affected most. It is a slow process and we have been promised that some of our requests are on work orders to be carried out this year.

The Parish Council successfully applied for a donation of some trees made available from the Treescape fund via North Somerset Council.

Kewstoke Primary School pupils helped volunteers plant the trees and a number of small whips on the Village green. It was good to involve the school children and we look forward to including the school in future activities in the Parish.

In my last Chairman's Report I mentioned producing a resident's survey similar to the one that was carried out in 2002. After a lot of work by Parish Councillors and volunteers, the survey is now available online and in paper copy for those without internet facilities. The paper copies are delivered and collected by volunteers, who then input the data. The survey covers a wide range of topics from traffic, parking, planning, tourism, village facilities, street lighting etc. The survey closes on 30<sup>th</sup> April when the data will be collated. The results of this survey will be published later in the year. This will give the Parish Council, the local authorities and other service providers valuable information as to what the residents of this parish would like to see happening in the parish going forward and also what they don't want to see.

In answer to a recently asked question as to what residents get for their Parish Council precept part of Council Tax? A band D household pays £73.38 per year which is £1.41 per week per household. The answer is all of the abovewith 11 volunteer councillors giving freely of their time, A part time parish clerk, street lighting, grass cutting throughout the Parish, dog bin collection, beach and village orderlies collecting rubbish, public toilets that are open, a children's play area with up to date equipment.

So, in closing I would like once again to thank everyone who have given freely of their time for the good of this Parish and those that live here.

Jim MacDonald

