

Kingsley Parish Council
Contribution to King's World
May 2016

Parish Council finances – The Parish Council has asked EHDC for an increase in funding of £750 this year – an increase of about 6%. This is 5p per week (£2.50 per year) for the average household in Kingsley.

For the last two years the Parish Council has spent more than its income, the difference being met by dipping into reserves. Clearly this cannot continue indefinitely and hence the request for increased funding.

The increase is needed because of increases in cost for: ground maintenance of Upper Green, Lower Green and St Nicholas cemetery; insurance; and repair and maintenance of playground equipment which is no longer covered by warranty. Also, the responsibility for clearing and sweeping footpaths along side the B3004 now falls to the Parish Council and the funding provided by HCC for this falls well short of what is needed to do a decent job.

In the past year the Parish Council sold a small parcel of land to the east of Upper Green to provide the access to the new development on the site of the old Piggeries. The Council wanted to get a fair price for this on behalf of the Parish and so the District Valuer was asked to provide a report which formed the basis for the payment sought and accepted for the sale of the land. This extra income can only be used for capital projects and not day to day expenditure.

Traffic - Amongst the Parish Council's many areas of concern is that of traffic and roads within the parish. The B3004 that runs through the heart of our village is both a bus and designated lorry route connecting Alton with Bordon and the A3. The new Bordon/Whitehill development will increase traffic through our village and as reported last month the Council has started a dialogue with Hampshire County Council concerning speed mitigation measures and safe crossing points.

To help reinforce the 30 mph speed limit through the village in the short term, the Parish Council has access to both a Speed Limit Reminder sign (SLR) and Speed Indicator Device (SID), affectionately know as Smiling SID, which we share with other local parishes.

The Parish Council pays an annual fee to deploy the fixed site SLR for a week, four times a year. The sign illuminates to show the speed limit each time a vehicle is detected exceeding 30 mph and it requires nothing more than a contractor to install it and take it down.

The Parish can use SID for four months each year. A minimum of 3 volunteers are needed to deploy the device which measures the speed of approaching vehicles and displays a "smiley face" if traffic is at or below the speed limit. If above the 30 mph limit an unhappy face is displayed. In addition, the volunteers can note the registration numbers of speeding vehicles and these are passed to our local police force. Individuals whose numbers are reported to the police will be contacted by the constabulary and reminded to drive more carefully.

The Parish Council is very grateful for the time given by Miranda Orbell to coordinate the required number of volunteers and deploy the SID (Kingsley Speedwatch). However, more volunteers are needed to make better use of the system. So if you are angered by the speed of traffic through our village or are worried about road safety, you can make a difference by volunteering to help deploy the SID for an hour or so or for longer if you have the time. To volunteer or find out more please send an email to councillor.lowe@kingsleyparishcouncil.org.

Enforcement Appeal - Riverside Paddock, Forge Road, Sleaford – An inspector will be holding a Hearing into the appeal against EHDC's Refusal of permission for change of use of land to residential caravan site. This will be held in Kingsley Centre on 4th May commencing at 10:00am for 1 day.

Fest in the Field - The Parish Council is please to support the Fest in the Field event being organised by the Friends of Binsted School on 11th June at Country Market. This will not only be a great community event which everyone in the village can attend and enjoy but it will also raise funds for a new class room in Binsted School to improve the educational experience for Kingsley children who attend the school.

Cllrs David Lowe and Chris Rigden
Kingsley Parish Council