

## **KWMCC Report for Annual Town Meeting 2021**

We would like to thank the Town Clerk and all the Team at Kesgrave Town Council for their offer to input into this year's Annual Report. As the Community Centre in Kesgrave and as a Charity we are proud of our partnership with KTC and are a strong alliance to work together to serve the whole community for the best of all residents. In what has been a momentous year sometimes for all the wrong reasons, the joy of partnership working together and community spirit has never been stronger. We look forward to 2021/2022 full of better news, happier days, the return of meetings, groups and team events and the pleasure of working on joint projects that will benefit all the residents in Kesgrave and the surrounding areas.

### **Lockdown at KWMCC - Projects Work and Ups and Downs**

For most of the reporting year we were in one form of lockdown or under government restrictions. We did however keep open the Nursey for key worker children, as well as vulnerable adult sessions and exempted training such as NHS/Ambulance Service and we were pleased to do so.

The majority of our Staff were furloughed or part-time furloughed over this period, but we kept the Centre operating. During this time we put together a Maintenance and Wish List plan to make the most of the quieter time. I am pleased to say we have had a comprehensive re-decoration of the site. When you enter you will see new technology, bright blue fire doors, painted rooms, a new foyer and all toilets freshly painted. Along with a refurbished Deben Room, re-decorated Orwell area and new signage all around and our KWMCC Values Boards we look a very different place.

New Technology with awards from the Community Partnership is wonderful to see and large screens with a 'What's On' is now in Reception and the Main Foyer. This gives residents, hirers and visitors the ability to see where events are taking place 'real time' both indoors and on the sports fields as well. This also gives us the opportunity to promote upcoming events for everyone to enjoy.

We now have a giant portable screen that can be used on site for Meetings and have already held our first Virtual Chinwag event. We hope of course to have Chinwags that are face-to face but this technology can be used direct so when back to normal guests can dial in if they aren't quite as confident in meeting face-to-face or for those that cannot get out for whatever reason but would still like to participate. So really good news. We will work with the Clerk at KTC to identify those who need help with logging on, getting to our venue or updates on times and dates.

We have appointed a new Chinwags Coordinator thanks to the Community Partnership and if government guidelines allow we are already planning for a Summer and Christmas Event for all.

Unfortunately, after spending over 5.5k in funding to mend the iconic Clocktower at KWMCC we did have some bad news. During lockdown some vandals climbed onto the roof and bent all the hands backwards, broke the mechanism inside and it is no longer working. The cost to repair is now close to £6,000 and unfortunately, we cannot afford to repair – even if we did, we couldn't be sure it wouldn't happen again. It was a sad day for all of us and just seemed to be a bit senseless.

## **Projects at KWMCC**

- The completion of new Tennis Courts was a great success on site. This was completed during lockdown and with funding from various partnerships including SPARK, Sport England and local Councilors Enabling Community Budgets (ECB). During the year two young female coaches were given LTA accreditation meaning we now have three qualified coaches at the Tennis Club.
- We continued the year with a Full-Time Groundsman (not furloughed) who worked on keeping the pitches in good order as well as a degree of security - unfortunately the damage to the Clocktower was done when not on-site.
- Just after lockdown started last year we installed New Automatic Doors to the Main Entrance of the Community Centre which when we return fully will make a huge difference for all visitors and those with pushchairs, young children, the elderly and wheelchair users alike.
- A new Petanque Piste (Boules) was prepared and finished during lockdown which can be freely used by all through our Booking Secretary and including our local Kesgrave Rollers Petanque Team
- Our new online Booking System has been updated so that availability and bookings can now be viewed online via the KWMCC website for each of our function rooms, as well as the indoor and outdoor sports facilities allowing our users to self-serve.
- During lockdown we have worked very hard to get our processes and procedures up-to-date and of course all certification that was required with nearly a year off.

## **Events**

KWMCC have been working hard to establish some Annual events and continue to develop these with feedback from the community and our work with Town Council. Our aim is to be inclusive and provide something for every demographic within the local and wider community of Kesgrave.

We have been pleased to be able to support the Kesgrave Fun day and will, fingers crossed, hope that in 2021 we will do so again and will help provide free activities for visitors to the event..

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## **Sports**

We are fortunate to offer such high standard facilities to the community with access to Tennis, Lawn Bowls, Cricket, Football, 5 a side, Indoor Sport Hall and cycle speedway. We have continued to host regular sporting clubs for children in the school holidays under COVID and Government guidelines.

We are very excited about the future for KWMCC as we continue to work and develop partnerships and relationships in the community with Town Council, local Councilors, Businesses, Schools, Charities and Residents.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back very soon with some regular coffee morning catchups to discuss future projects that we can work on together and look out for updates on [www.kwmcc.co.uk](http://www.kwmcc.co.uk)

Thanks to all at Kesgrave Town Council, the Residents that continue to keep the faith, the Staff and Management at KWMCC and let's hope we do have happier days ahead.