

Kesgrave Town Meeting

on Monday 29 April 2024 at 7.15pm

Chairman's comments

The Town Council's Main Areas of Activity and Responsibility:

There are 14 Seats on the Council, all are volunteers. (currently with 3 vacancies, if any one here this evening is interested in finding out more about becoming a councillor, please ask me at the end of this meeting)

Councillors Provide guidance, direction and governance of the Council, its office, and employees.

Meetings are held in public (up to four per month) to discuss and manage the work of the Council, split into committees specialising in

Finance & Governance,

Planning & Development,

Community & Recreation and Full Council.

Councillors get involved directly with the events and activities of the Council and undertake background research to support its projects.

We have developed strategies for Kesgrave moving forward:

The Neighbourhood Plan – sits alongside the District Local Plan to define how Kesgrave will develop from a planning perspective.

Our Business Plan – defines the overall strategic direction of the Council.

Kesgrave owns its own office building:

Which is open to the public Dealing with 1000's of issues and concerns from Kesgrave residents every year and liaising with other authorities as needed.

Including:

Suffolk County Council who are responsible for – roads, pavements, potholes, signs, roadside hedges.

East Suffolk Council who looks after – Bins, Public Open Spaces, Grass cutting

Police – speeding, parking, antisocial behaviour, graffiti.

We employ four part time Estate Operatives who:

Provide caretaking services for our Millennium Jubilee Hall.

Undertake daily checks of play areas and locking of Council facilities-gates, and recreational areas.

Carrying out urgent requests for repairs to damaged or dangerous items, cutting back foliage, removing graffiti, sweeping paths.

Supporting community events in setting up, running, and clearing away.

Litter pick to help keep the community as litter free as possible.

Community facilities Provided across Kesgrave:

Include the Lawn Cemetery, several streetlights, predominately in Western Kesgrave.

Benches, seats, litter, and dog bins. And four noticeboards around the Town to advertise the work of Council and its meetings and allowing community organisations to publicise their events and facilities.

The Council is in the process of installing speed indication signs around the town and is also in negotiations to update the permanent sign on the main road outside Kiln farm.

As a Council we manage a number of public open spaces and play equipment:

At Oak Meadow and recently added are Dobbs Drift and St Agness Way.

Other areas include Cedarwood Green Walk and Multi Use Games Area

As well as Legion Green where a green initiative has led to the installation of oak logs as a habitat for stag Beetles as well as a floral bee café and this is also the location of the beacon.

We own and manage this hall for community use:

With Over 30 hirers every week, Covering fitness, sport, dancing, social enterprises, private parties, and theatrical groups.

This evening, we are pleased to announce the transfer from lease to ownership of the Millennium sports ground. This covers the area from the Dobbs Wood on the eastern side to the far side of the car park to the west.

Council would like to thank the previous landowners for their co-operation and generosity in allowing this adoption to go through with only legal costs incurred. This secures an important recreational area for our town in perpetuity.

I would also like to thank Councillor Gibson for his tireless work in bring these negotiations to fruition.

Your council organises events to bring the community together and that attract significant numbers catering for all age groups these include:

- Fun Day.
- Firework Night.
- Christmas weekend, Tree Lights 'Switch On' and Ice Skating.
- Senior Citizen Outing.
- Tea Parties, to foster better communication between our older residents

The council also provides financial support to a number of community services:

The library – providing extra opening hours.

Youth support work provided by (4YP) for our young people.

A monthly 'farmers-style' Market.

Also, Small grants are available on application, for local groups and charities that serve Kesgrave residents.

And finally, to keep you UpToDate we provide regular communications to our residents through:

Our website. social media feeds. Monthly articles in the local InTouch magazine. Our notice boards, and of course, you can attend any of the public council meetings throughout the year.

All of this provided by 4 part time office staff, 4 part time estate operative, and currently 11 volunteer councillors.

I would like to personally thank all of them for the work they undertake for Kesgrave.
Thank You.

Neal Beecroft-Smith
Chairman of the Town Council