

Kesgrave Town Meeting

Monday 28 April 2025 at 7.15pm

Chairman's comments

Kesgrave has been a Town now for 25 years, having achieved Town status on the 1st January 2000.

With a population now exceeding 15 thousand, it's a far cry from the Parish Council formed in 1928 serving just over 100 residents.

As we move into a period of change, with the reorganisation of local government, you can be assured that Kesgrave Town Council will maintain its core values to serve and work for the community.

There are 14 Seats on the Council, all are volunteers.

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

Meetings are held in public to discuss and manage the work of the Council

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

(Currently there are 6 vacancies, if any one here this evening is interested in finding out more about becoming a councillor, please see me at the end of this meeting.)

The Town Council works closely with:

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, parking enforcement.

Suffolk Police who look after – speeding, antisocial behaviour, graffiti, parking.

The Town Council 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 new Business Plan for 2025 to 2028– which is out for consultation and defines the overall strategic direction of the Council. More on this latter in item 6.

The third review of the 2021 to 24 plan has been published which gives a full progress report of the work undertaken over the last 4 years.

To maintain our clean and happy Town the Council employs four Estate Operatives whose duties include:

Provide caretaking services for our Millennium Jubilee Hall.

Undertake daily safety 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 stay as litter free as possible.

The Council is responsible for providing community facilities across Kesgrave:

Including the Lawn Cemetery, several streetlights, predominately in Western Kesgrave, which have now all been upgraded to energy efficient LED units. Some benches, seats, litter and dog bins. And noticeboards around the Town to advertise the work of Council and its meetings and allowing community organisations to publicise their events and facilities.

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

including Oak Meadow play area, Cedarwood Green Walk and Multi Use Games Area, Millennium Sports Field and the soon to be installed Pump Track

as well as Aerial Green and Legion Green where a green initiative has led to the installation of log piles as a habitat for stag Beetles along with planting of daffodils and tulips. Legion Green is also the location of the war memorial and the beacon.

We own and manage the MJH for community use:

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

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

- Family Fun Day (which is on the 21 June this year).
- Firework Evening.
- Christmas weekend, Tree Lights 'Switch On' and Ice Skating.
- Senior Citizen Outing.

- Tea Parties through out the year, to foster better communication between our older residents

The council also provides financial support to several 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 that serve Kesgrave residents.

It is with immense pride that I can report that Kesgrave won (for the third time) the award for Most Active Town

in the Suffolk Community Awards.

Awards bestowed upon Kesgrave are a reflection on the town as a whole,
not just Council.

The judges commented,

"You only have to visit Kesgrave to notice the hive of activity within the town. Whether its children and families using the cycle lanes, people heading to the weekly parkruns, or local people taking advantage of all the classes and activities offered from the Kesgrave Community Centre, it's no wonder they were chosen as this year's winners!"

And as Chair of the Council

It falls to me to congratulate and give thanks to all those in our great town who have contributed to our progress over the past year:

all the Town Councillors who served during this time.

our amazing officers and staff who work so tirelessly and with great dedication.

our District and County Councillors who do so much for Kesgrave.

our partner organisations and benefactors, with a special mention for

SPARK

Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre,

and above all to our residents who support to the full the many events we lay on every year.

Thank you.