

“Hope smiles from the threshold of the year to come, whispering ‘it will be happier.’ —Alfred Lord Tennyson

January 2021

Dear Residents,

As the New Year begins, we look forward to brighter and happier times, but for now we continue to work at distance. Kinwarton parish councillors have continued to meet monthly, via Zoom, to ensure that council business can continue to run smoothly throughout the pandemic. We take this opportunity to update you on progress and forthcoming projects.

Covid-19 and the Community Response

2020 and 2021 are proving to be some of the most challenging times in many of our lifetimes. Like our neighbouring parishes, Kinwarton has shown itself to be full of caring and thoughtful individuals who are working together to look after each other, ensuring that friends and neighbours are well looked-after. Many have volunteered for the Alcester Community Resilience group, collecting shopping, prescriptions and making friendly phone calls to our most vulnerable residents. The Council would like to thank you for your part in this, and of course, to those co-ordinating the efforts.

Hedgerows and trees

The hedges and trees in Kinwarton have been cut back to ensure pavements and roads have good visibility. Councillors have agreed that in 2021 more regular trimming is required (outside of bird nesting season) to ensure hedges do not become a nuisance. It would be greatly appreciated if residents ensure that private garden shrubbery and hedges are not permitted to grow over pavements, as these block pavements for use by wheelchair and pushchair users.

St Mary's Park

Trees in St. Mary's Park will be assessed by a tree surgeon and the programme of pollarding will resume this year. Councillors are also considering upgrading some of the playground equipment.

Parking

While parking issues in Kinwarton have been lessened this year due to the pandemic, when busy school times are in full swing, we have continued to face thoughtless parking in residential areas. Our District and County Councillors are supporting us on this issue and are liaising with police. Additionally, please ensure that any unavoidable pavement parking allows wheelchair or pushchair users to remain on the pavement, and that no parking occurs within ten metres of a junction, as this is dangerous and illegal.

Speed checks

After lockdown is lifted, volunteers will be participating in Community Speed checks, to raise awareness of the speeding in Kinwarton and Alcester.

Notice boards

We have worked hard in 2020 to replace two of Kinwarton Parish's notice boards, and refurbished the third. We hope that they will be well-used by the public and we will endeavour to keep them updated with current issues.

Waste bins

We are reviewing the provision of waste bins around the parish to reflect the current need. Both litter and dog mess on pavements continues to be an issue and we urge all residents to do their part in keeping our community clean.

Planning applications

Several planning applications have required considerable action to represent the views of residents and prevent or modify inappropriate development. Councillors will continue to work hard to try to ensure they speak up for our community, so please do not hesitate to contact the clerk with any concerns. Details of planning applications are online at <https://apps.stratford.gov.uk/eplanning/>.

Census 2021

This year the National Census takes place on Sunday 21st March 2021. This is a survey that has happened every 10 years since 1801 and provides a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It is a unique way to gather detail about us and the society in which we live.

The census helps us understand what our society needs now and what it's likely to need in the future. A total of 94% of people took part in the last census. By taking part, residents will be helping make sure that Kinwarton community get the services needed now and in future.

Census 2021 will be the first digital census. An access code and instructions will be sent near to the time. Please support those friends, relatives and neighbours who might find completing the form online more challenging.

Please contact the clerk at **kinwartonpcmgs@gmail.com** if you would like any issue to be addressed in the meetings, or view the Minutes and News on the website, kinwartonpc.org.

With very best wishes,

Kinwarton Parish Council