

KERSEY PARISH NEWSLETTER

February 2021



PHOTO: AIN WATSON

50p*

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

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(50p is the approximate production cost per copy. All contributions gratefully received.)

CONTACT NUMBERS

Parochial Church Council –

Chairman: Jackson Crompton-Battersby 01473 657349
Vice Chairman: Lucy Oldham. 07753 626899
Church Warden: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Bellringers – Bell Captain: Neville Whittell 01473 822616

Forgetmenots – Organiser: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188

Tuesday Club – Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Table Tennis Club – Adrian Blyth 01473 827805

Parish Council –

Chairman: John Hume 01473 810098
Clerk to the Council: Sarah Partridge 01787 210859

Footpaths – Chairman: Kevin Pratt 07854 390658

Kersey Community Playground Committee – Jonathan Marsh 01473 822927

Neighbourhood Watch – Vacant

Village Hall –

Chairman: Veronica Partridge 01473 823188
Bookings: Norah Orriss 01473 827513
or Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

VPA (Village Produce Association) –

Chairman: Peter Partridge 01473 827231
Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

The Lewis Mowles Trust Fund – Secretary: Rachel Wells 01473 822230

Grays Trust –

Chairman: John Robinson 01473 823247
Secretary: Philippa Harris 01473 827079

Nightingale Trust/Allotments – Info: Natalie Blyth 01473 827805

School – Acting Head Teacher: Jess Damant 01473 823397

Kersey Playingfield Assoc. (Glebe) – Mark Pertwee 01473 810227

Kersey Community Website www.kersey.suffolk.cloud

Hadleigh Health Practice 01473 822961

West Suffolk Hospital (Bury St Edmunds) 01284 713000

Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust 01473 712233

Police The non-emergency number to call if you want to contact the local police is 101 (when it's less urgent than 999) .

Please let us know of any changes.

Defibrillators – *There are two AEDs located within the parish at The Bell Inn, Kersey IP7 6DY and Kersey Mill IP7 6DP.*

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Church Clergy:

Rev. Jackson Crompton-Battersby.
01473 657349 rev@kind.church

Church Wardens:

Mrs Rachel Wells 01473 822230.
and vacant position.

Elder: Mrs Julie Boast 01787 249511.

Weddings: For all enquiries regarding weddings at St. Mary's Church please contact the Benefice administrator 07706 188842 weekday mornings.

FAREWELL and WELCOME

Welcome to Jonathan and Lorraine who moved to Manor Farm last year (sorry you were missed in an earlier edition). David and Doy Orchard have moved from Acorns, Wickerstreet Green to Hadleigh. In their place we welcome Simon and Katie Clerck and their three boys Ethan, Freddie and Arthur.

FAYRE

Thank you to everyone who organised and helped with the Christmas Fayre. It was an enjoyable and successful day with a steady flow of visitors pleased to get out and have somewhere to go after being in lockdown. £1,000 was raised for the church.

SERVICES

There will be no more in person services in church until March. The first service will be on 7th March 9am BCP Holy Communion. The plan is each month to have a BCP service and a festival service. Meanwhile all Sunday services are online.

PLANT SALE

It is unclear at the present time whether we will be able to hold our annual plant sale in May. If this is not possible I shall have plants to order and be collected as last year. **Rachel**

CHURCH FLOWERS

I will soon be arranging the new flower rota to start at Easter. Hopefully this year we will be back to near normal with the church open and more visitors coming again to St Mary's. If anyone would like to join the rota you would be most welcome. **Rachel**

INVALIDS

We send our best wishes to those who have been in hospital for operations, attending for treatment or unwell at home. It's good to know that some in the parish have received their first vaccine jab which hopefully is the way forward to a more normal life.

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PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL (cont.)

THANK YOU

Thank you to those who have contributed so far to the cost of producing the newsletter, contributions are gratefully accepted at anytime.

CHURCH COUNCIL

The PCC met via Zoom on the 5th January.

The recent gift fayre was very successful and enjoyed by many visitors and stall holders and raised much needed funds of £1,000. A summer fayre is planned. Visitors to the church continue to be welcome but social distancing, masks and good hand hygiene remain essential when visiting. We ask all visitors to use the QR code or sign the visitors book. The outdoor torchlight Carol service was really well attended and it was a delight to see so many new faces (and lots of dogs) among our regular congregation. It was lovely to be able to sing carols. As a result of the feedback from the service the PCC are now working on some new ideas for (special) services in the future.

As a result of the latest lockdown face to face services will be suspended for January and February. An online weekly service will continue to our mailing list. If you would like a link to Jackson's weekly service please contact ***lindanewbigging@btinternet.com***. The Church of England website also offers services and prayers online. The PCC would like to offer support to our residents. If you need help of any kind, practical or emotional, please contact: Rachel Wells, Linda Newbigging or Rev Jackson.

The PCC are now drafting a VISION FOR ST MARY'S – this will consider where we would like to be in five years time. Once in suitable draft form it will then be sent out to our residents for further consultation. Do let us know now if you have any ideas you would like included.

WEATHER

November rainfall	40mm (1.5")
Maximum temperature	17°C (62°F)
Minimum temperature	0°C (32°F)
December rainfall	112mm (4.4")
Maximum temperature	11°C (52°F)
Minimum temperature	-2°C (28°F)



Total rainfall for 2020 was 554mm (21.8")
Total rainfall for 2019 was 620mm (23.5")

*Thank you to Kate Banks who records the weather for us in Wickerstreet Green.
The rainfall amount sometimes varies in different parts of the parish.*

FIREWOOD

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PARISH NEWS

BECOME A 'FRIEND OF ST MARY'S' AND HELP SAVE OUR CHURCH

The Friends of St. Mary's Trust helps to maintain, develop and renovate our beautiful church in Kersey. Since our conception in 2019 we have held events to raise funds but as we all know last year was 'troublesome'. Hopefully we will soon be able to recommence our programme but in the meantime there are two more ways that you might help. You could become a 'Friend' and subscribe to the Trust with Single, Couple or Family membership for as little as 50 pence a week for a couple or £1 a week for the whole family. Or you could become a Golden Donor for as little as £2 a week and enjoy a complimentary ticket to events, premium access and seating, plus the peace of mind that we are working together to help save our church.

Or you could have a little flutter each month for a fiver and maybe even win a little cash back for yourselves!

Details of our new 500 Club monthly lottery, plus all membership information can be accessed at: www.kerseychurch.org/fosm

Or for further details please contact either Mark Rigby on **07484 649235** or Bruce Newbigging on **07734 595404/01787 210137** or email fosmkersey@gmail.com.

All contributions are very welcome.

The first **500 Club** draw took place in the Church on Saturday 23rd January with independent witnesses and the winners were:

1st Prize – Jackie Rigby

2nd Prize – Viv Marsh

3rd Prize – Suzie Rudkin

Well done to all the winners and thanks to everyone who has already joined the Club.

SPEED AWARENESS

The Parish Council have been made aware of several complaints about speeding and ultimately, dangerous driving, in and around Kersey.

Slow Down and expect to find pedestrians, dog walkers, runners, cyclists, horse riders and farm machinery sharing the roads with you. Please drive with due consideration to residents and other road users and travel with extra care in the wintry conditions.

The most fatal road traffic accidents occur on rural roads and lanes.

LOST AND FOUND

If anyone has lost some prescription glasses with red frames and black arms, possibly a child's, please contact Bruce Newbigging on **01787 210137** who found them on the back road to Boxford, just a bit further on from Trickers Farm.

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PARISH NEWS (cont.)

THE KERSEY BELL

Like everyone else in hospitality, we remain closed and unsure of when we will reopen. The Bell Inn has always been a place where friends, family and the community come together and we cannot wait to throw the doors open to make that possible again. But until that day, please stay safe and do what you can to keep the virus at bay.

CENSUS 2021

The census, that provides a snapshot of society, is almost upon us. Households across Kersey will soon be asked to take part in the nationwide survey of housing and the population. It has been carried out every decade since 1801, with the exception of 1941. Information from the census will help decide how services are planned and funded in your local area. This could mean things like doctors' surgeries, housing or new bus routes. Households will receive a letter with a unique access code in the post, allowing them to complete their questionnaire online. Paper questionnaires will be available on request. Census day is March 21.

For more information, visit [census.gov.uk](https://www.census.gov.uk).

KERSEY HEALTH TRAVEL

In conjunction with Hadleigh, Boxford Community Car Scheme

The Nightingale Trust was originally set up in 1875 with a remit to help the poor and needy of Kersey. Times have changed and with them, so have peoples needs. Today, we help those in need with their winter fuel bills, in a small way, and we also make donations to the local food bank in the hope this covers Kersey too. We are always looking for new ways to help each other and those with a genuine need.

To this end, we have managed to include Kersey in the existing **Hadleigh and Boxford Community Car Scheme** which has been running for some years and is organised by Jen Eastwood, a resident in Boxford.

If you are a patient, registered at Hadleigh Health Centre, Boxford Surgery, or Bildeston surgery in need of a lift to medical appointments including Doctors, Consultants, Physiotherapists, Opticians, Dentists etc. we will be happy to help. We have a number of volunteer drivers who are available to take you to your appointment, wait for you and then bring you home. There is a charge of 45p per mile for this service to cover the petrol and depreciation costs which I hope you find acceptable.

For Kersey residents using this service and in genuine need, the Trustees of the Nightingale Trust would like to contribute £5 towards your taxi costs each month to a limit of £20 per year.

If you need help in getting to a medical appointment then please contact:

Jen Eastwood on **01787 211853** or **Mark Rigby** on **01473 829147** who will arrange a driver for you.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

A Blue Hat For A Blue Day

No, I'm not going to do it. I'm not going to list the reasons why I'm feeling low. Partly because that would be self indulgent, partly because that's probably too much detail and mostly because other people have a lot more weight on their shoulders.

I do know that some things would be top of the list, like the endless way in which everything is taking 97 times longer to do than it used to and that nothing, nothing, nothing is certain. Oh the arrogance of my western liberal mindset; I've benefitted from certainty: the presence of cooked chickens and loo roll in the shop through to a final salary pension scheme. I've forgotten the lessons of my childhood where it seemed I was always at the mercy of the whim of a teacher saying "it's no longer like that, it's now like this"; I forgot the whim of fate which took my brother when I was a young boy; I forgot that life can't always be fixed or made better.

Instead I've had to discard the pride of believing that a positive open mindset and the freedoms of a western democracy will insulate me from "The World". I'm learning that just about good enough is more than good enough and that resilience is more likely found in the things I can't do than the ones that I can. We are more isolated than we have ever been and more connected than we ever thought we could be. It's a sadness that part of the connectedness is the vulnerability to being infected by a shared virus.

That connectedness though has had a hugely positive boost. I have been profoundly moved by the way in which so many parishioners have welcomed us into their homes through the pandemic. Through the readings, poems and hymn introductions in our online Sunday services I have been a guest at Linda's desk; joined the chickens and the dog in Colin's greenhouse; I've sat and listened to Karl and his family in their garden; sat with David and Ruth in their house; listened to Jackie and looked at the pictures over her shoulder; admired Lucy's amazing collection of cow pictures; sat with Sarah in her beautiful garden; listened to Hebe read better than I do now, never mind at her age; and sat with Mark as he introduced last Sunday's hymn from his leather wing back chair that suggested we might see a fluffy white cat on his lap "so Mr Bond, what shall we do with you?" All of this from the safety and comfort of the Rectory lounge as we go to church together as a family much more regularly than we used to, in what surely must now be called The Olden Days.

Connectedness was there in Jesus' first action before he ever did a miracle, preached a sermon or thought of turning water into wine, was to start bringing his disciples together. The church has had a name for it for a very long time, it's called fellowship. It's a bit of friendship and lot more of the resilience and strength that comes from mutual support. The Holy Spirit strengthens those connections and makes them more than they could be. That precious forty minutes you and I spent in the massive great big churchyard at St Mary's. All 115 of us (David B counted) just released from one lockdown; socially distanced and incredibly respectful of each other's space and welfare, we stood and listened to those ancient stories; sang those timeless carols and prayed that one day, healing for the nations would come again. An oasis of shared celebration and yearning. May God bring closer the day we share it again.

Jackson

www.kerseychurch.org

ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES

In addition to our monthly BCP Communion here are services for the year ahead, there will be other services but these – we hope – we can be sure of:

March 14th Mothering Sunday
April 4th Easter Sunday
May 9th Rogation Sunday Pet Service: Pooches, Ponies and Parrots
June 20th Father's Day
July 4th Rose Festival
September 26th Harvest Festival
October 31st Thanksgiving service for the lives of those we love
November 14th Remembrance Sunday

Sunday services are continuing online on YouTube. Search for "Parish Connection" or use the QR code here.

You may also subscribe to the channel via YouTube – search "Parish Connection". A lovely way to 'visit' our Benefice churches.

Please go to www.kerseychurch.org for more information.



DIARY DATES

1 Mar – Parish Council Online 18.00
2 Mar – Parochial Church Council 19.30
12 Apr – Annual Parish Assembly & short Parish Council

If there are urgent matters that need considering that do not fit these scheduled meetings then extraordinary meetings will be called as necessary.

**Until further notice Parish meetings are being held online using "Zoom.us".*

Links are published on <https://kersey.suffolk.cloud/parish-council/meetings/>

The next issue will cover **March 2021**.

Please send items for inclusion well before the deadline of 23rd February to:

Rachel Wells: 01473 822230 - rachel@kersey-village.co.uk or

Viv Marsh: 07747 175858 - kersey@moonridge.me.uk

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PARISH COUNCIL

An extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council was held remotely on the 21st December. In attendance was chair John Hume, four councillors and the clerk.

One councillor declared an interest in planning for 1 Ancient Houses.

Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed as correct.

Planning progress:

Holtons, The Uplands. Babergh had approved siting of caravan for use during house renovations.

Trickers Farm. Conversion and extension of existing barn/ outbuildings to provide one unit of holiday accommodation and one dwelling had been granted by Babergh.

Manor Farm. Proposal for alterations including first floor extension approved by Babergh.

1 Ancient Houses. Partial demolition of outbuilding and erection of wood store and screen fence in garden plus some internal works. After much consideration councillors supported this subject to advice from Historic England and Babergh Heritage officer.

Kersey Walks Map: This had been updated and it was agreed to go ahead with the reprint.

AOB: Good news from Suffolk Community Foundation. The grant application for the playground project has been awarded so the project can now go ahead. The chair thanked all councillors and clerk for attending meetings in what had been a difficult year.

A parish council meeting was held on 18th January via Zoom.

Present was Chairman John Hume, five councillors, the clerk, District Councillor, one member of the public plus County Councillor for part of the meeting.

Apologies were received from one councillor.

The chairman started by expressing his thanks to Adrian and Natalie Blyth who had erected the Christmas tree.

Reports: Suffolk County Councillor Robert Lindsay. In his report it says the SCC are preparing to raise the precept on council tax by four percent. Green budget amendments. The council is preparing its budget and his political group are planning some amendments. Warm homes, supporting community groups and charities through the pandemic and Income generation and the climate emergency. The Biodiversity motion was unanimously approved by the full council in December. Views are wanted on new Suffolk Streets Guide. This will help assist with the design of new housing estates showing how best to create road layouts that promote walking and cycling.

District Councillor Leigh Jamieson. He said the cabinet were due to decide on the implementation of car parking charges in early January. Due to a public outcry this has now been deferred to a later date. Cabinet have agreed to using HVO as a replacement for conventional diesel in the council vehicles. This is a cleaner less polluting fuel. Garden waste collections. The brown bin collections have been suspended until further notice. This will allow crews to prioritise essential waste collections. The crews have been affected by COVID. Leigh answered questions from the councillors unhappy with the proposed car parking charges. Most felt an hour minimum was needed for shopping not half hour. He would forward comments.

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PARISH COUNCIL (cont.)

Parish time: Councillors had received reports of cyclists riding on footpaths, this is not allowed.

Drivers are reminded to be thoughtful and drive with courtesy and to be aware of walkers and horse riders.

Minutes of previous meeting were confirmed as correct.

Clerk's report: She had responded to consultations from CIL, Joint Local Plan and Quiet Lanes. Footpath map has been updated and should be printed soon. A decision about the proposed new bench still to be agreed. After speaking to parishioners there was no apparent reason why they do not join the council Zoom meetings.

Correspondence: The 10 year census is being carried out in March preferably online. Paper copies will be available for those unable to access the Internet.

Finance: This was noted and agreed.

Report from internal auditor: No issues had come to light.

Planning progress: Application for alterations at River House barns had been withdrawn. Leys House. Plans had been received for extension at rear of property plus demolition of greenhouse and replace with a one bed apartment. The majority of councillors did not support the extension. There were concerns that if an apartment was built it could set a precedent and in future could become a residence. It was also said that it would have a negative impact on a listed House. A majority of councillors did not support.

Little Manor. Application for a garden shed. Councillors fully supported.

Footpath working group: Some signs have been replaced. Due to the recent bad weather conditions the paths are very wet and muddy. There has also been an increase in walkers who must be encouraged to keep to designated paths. Riding of bikes is not allowed on footpaths. It was suggested that an item go into local news publications as well as our own newsletter.

KCPC working group: A maintenance morning was held. The grant application for future project was successful.

Review and adopt policies: Equality and Diversity policy and Safeguarding policy. Everyone was happy with these.

Spring litter collection: No specific date was set as it was noted that the volunteer group was doing a good job. Anyone was welcome to join the group.

Consider any actions necessary due to COVID 19: The playground continues to open. District councillor Leigh Jamieson said he could be contacted if any help was needed.

Confirm the budget and precept: The precept was confirmed at £9,500.

Content for February newsletter: Pride in your Parish would be on footpaths.

November SALC forum: Minutes are available.

AOB: Barn adjacent to Red House Farm. There were local concerns about the dormouse habitat as clearance work was being carried out. The proposed closure of the CAB at Sudbury was still ongoing.

Next meeting: 1st March.

FARMING NOTES

Arable:

Well, what a difference a couple of months make! It is late January and the price of best quality breadmaking wheat has hit the heady heights of £230 per tonne for March – unfortunately we only have one lorry load left to sell at this price due to the reduced harvest 2020 yields. Of course this shortage of grain also affects animal feed prices and those livestock farmers who are not able to grow their own feed will have margins squeezed. This may result in increases in pork and poultry prices in the shops. When I wrote the last farming notes back in late November I was pleased that we had managed to complete most of the autumn sowing of cereals. That is still the case but those crops do not look particularly well, largely due to the continuing wet and more recently, colder conditions. The cold snap per se is no bad thing – it does help to render the soil more friable for when the spring cultivations come around, and helps keep insect pests and fungal diseases at a lower level, but is not helpful with later sown and waterlogged crops that are not forward enough to deal well with the frozen ground. We did complete the sugar beet harvest in early December and these have now all been delivered to the sugar factory in Bury St Edmunds although again the yield was not great.

Recently we have been dealing with the effects of the nasty pandemic and this has meant attempting to isolate ourselves from one another whilst trying to continue with the farm work. Alternating weekly who comes to work is one system we have been trialling, which is fine until we get to the busy period in the spring. Mitigating the effects of the vast amount of rainfall that we had so far this winter has been

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FARMING NOTES

high on the list and entails much ditch and hedge maintenance. We are all looking forward to warmer, safer times!

Livestock:

The recently imported polled Belgian Blue heifer arrived and has settled in nicely, she is called Tenten on account of her ear tag number being 01010. She was bought by Cogent, in calf to an extremely muscly Belgian Blue bull and consequently when she started to calve in early December the vet was called for a C-section. Caesarean sections are routinely done in Belgium due to the muscularity of the cattle,



where on some farms all of the calves are delivered through the 'side door'. This is less acceptable in the UK where we usually only have it done in an emergency situation. A nice heifer calf was duly delivered. Tenten carries one polled gene and the calf's father is horned so there was only a 50% chance that the calf would be hornless. On this occasion luck was on our side and we were delighted to find that the calf, which we named Promise, is carrying her mother's polled gene. This makes her a valuable breeding animal for the future.

Four more pedigree British Blue calves were also due to be born just before Christmas as a result of embryos transferred last March. Unfortunately three of these four also had to be delivered by C-section, two of them were coming backwards which can be risky for the calf and the third was oversized. All of the calves were safely delivered and are growing well however the vets' bill will be enormous! The main calving period starts in February, with a further 65 calves due between then and April.

The ewe flock were ultrasound scanned in December to check for pregnancies and lamb numbers. We were pleased to find that only five ewes were barren and the lambing rate should be 186%. During the autumn we were approached by three different farmers who were looking to start up flocks of Suffolk Sheep and we have recently sold 15 in lamb ewes. This reduces the number of ewes we will be lambing in March, but it is nice to see other flocks of Suffolks being established in the home county of the breed.



**Please remember to
keep dogs under
close control and to
clean up after them.**



PRIDE IN OUR PARISH

Community Support for Kersey Residents

Kersey community support volunteers continue to offer help to all residents in Kersey. If anyone needs a new flyer with details of the Kersey volunteers who are happy to help residents please contact **Sarah Partridge** on **01787 210859** or **kerseypc@gmail.com**. Support and help is also available from Babergh including financial support. Residents can contact **Leigh Jamieson**, our district councillor, on **leigh.jamieson@babergh.gov.uk**.

Kersey Volunteer Group

As you may know, there is a Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG), made up of local residents. The purpose of the KVG is to improve the quality of life throughout the Parish, mainly by collecting litter, reporting potholes and dealing with related matters.

Each member is allocated a specific area, provided with high-viz vests and litter pickers. They are also given guidance and instructions on how and where to report problems.

We have a superb crew at the moment but new volunteers are always welcome. If you'd like to join up and take part, please contact **John Hume** on **johnwhumekerseypc@gmail.com** or **Sarah Partridge** on **kerseypc@gmail.com**.

John Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council

Most of this detail is on the **Useful Information** page on the Kersey website:
www.kersey.suffolk.cloud.

If you don't have access to the internet, contact a Parish Councillor for help.

The Kersey Parish Newsletter

The Parish Newsletter is sponsored and distributed by St. Mary's Church on behalf of all parishioners.

The newsletter is delivered **FREE** to properties within the parish 10 times a year and is also available to download from:

www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/newsletter/

The approximate production cost is 50p per copy (£5 per year). All contributions gratefully received – please pass via your distributor or to:

Rachel Wells, 1 Vale Corner, Vale Lane, Kersey.

Or make online transfers (or arrange an annual standing order) to:

Kersey St. Mary PCC, 30-13-52 00694777.

*For further parish details and events, please see **www.kersey.suffolk.cloud***

BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Car Parking Charges

The recent proposals to implement parking charges has been extremely controversial across the district. In particular the removal of free parking in Hadleigh and Sudbury has caused outrage across social media.

The decision on parking charges was due to be made by cabinet on the 7th January. However, following the submission of a valid petition this was deferred to the next meeting, on the 4th February, so that it could be debated by both Scrutiny and Full Council first.

These are difficult times for local authorities and all funding opportunities need to be looked at to ensure that we can meet all the commitments that we have, and the Council did sign up to a climate emergency. If we are to stand a chance of being carbon neutral by 2030, we need to reduce car journeys across the district and in fact across the wider county.

However, having said that I have objections. It is imperative that we give our high streets every opportunity to survive and at the moment they are under assault from all directions. The Council need to be committed in their support for our towns and I do not think that implementing a charge in the middle of a pandemic, when businesses are struggling, would be appropriate.

When the proposals were reviewed by Overview and Scrutiny on the 18th January they recommended that the free period should be an hour not 30mins. They also recommend that the implementation date is pushed back to September.

On the 19th we had the opportunity to debate the petition that had been submitted by Hadleigh residents, at Full council. This asked for parking to remain free in Hadleigh and no decision to be made to change this without full consultation. After a very tight vote the members of the Council agreed to support this petition.

The proposal now goes back to cabinet on the 4th and they now can change their minds, alter the proposals or plough on regardless. However, it would be reckless for them to now ignore the feelings of both members of the Council and residents.

Ideally the proposals should be incorporated into a wider transport plan and most definitely should not come before the parking strategy is published next year. We will wait and see what happens on the 4th Feb, but I will writing to cabinet before this date to once again air my feelings.

Covid

The "Home, But Not Alone" free phonenumber is open. The helpline is in place to support clinically extremely vulnerable people who may need additional information or support. The helpline also places vulnerable people in contact with local networks or community organisations who may be able to help.

The telephone number is 0800 876 6926 and the service will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday. I am also happy to help with any concerns or queries on the contact number and email below.

In Brief

- At the time of writing the Council have received an application from Enso for the Flowton Solar Farm. This application was waiting to be validated. No application had been received for the EDF site, but this was expected to be submitted before the end of January.
- Cabinet agreed to move to using HVO as a replacement for conventional diesel in the Council vehicle fleet. This is a cleaner, less polluting fuel and results in a significant CO₂ emission reduction and can be used in place of normal diesel with no changes to the engine.

Leigh Jamieson (Cllr.)

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FOOTPATH WORKING GROUP

Please help us to protect our countryside

As you know, the recent pandemic means an increasing number of people are isolated, with restrictions on movement of individuals and families. One of the few opportunities for daily exercise is walking, leading to a big increase in visitors and residents using the Kersey footpaths. Kersey and its countryside is beautiful and we are fortunate to be surrounded by a large network of footpaths and farm fields. Recently, the wetter weather and the increased use of the footpaths has put this amenity under considerable pressure. We recognise that visitors will come to the countryside to exercise but need the support of all visitors and residents to help us maintain the quality of the footpaths.



We ask you to PLEASE:

- Stay on the designated Footpaths, which are all signposted and include the popular *Circular Walks*. A copy of the Footpaths Map is available and can be downloaded from the Kersey website – <https://www.kersey.suffolk.cloud/our-community/walks/>

- STAY on the footpaths and keep off fields which are not official footpaths. Walking on the edge of fields can damage or destroy wild flower growth and cause harm to hedgerows.
- Keep your dogs under control at all times and always on a lead near other animals and where requested to do so on a footpath.
- DO NOT ride bicycles or track bikes on any footpath. This is prohibited because it causes extensive damage.
- Pick up your litter and use the provided refuse and dog bins. If none are available on your walk, we ask that you take your litter home with you.

We hope we can rely on all visitors and residents to follow these requests. It will help us to maintain the quality of the footpaths for everyone's enjoyment, pleasure and safety.