

**The Kersey Annual Parish Meeting
was not held in 2020
due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Due to the government restrictions on the
movement of people no public meetings were
allowed to be held.**

**All the organisations who normally attend Kersey
Annual Parish Assemblies to give their annual
reports have submitted reports which are all
published here.**

Annual Report 2019-20
For **Kersey Parish Council**

County Councillor
Robert Lindsay (Cosford)

147 High Street
Bildeston
Ipswich
IP7 7EL

07738264087
robert.lindsay@suffolk.gov.uk

The year 2019-20 divides itself dramatically into two very different halves. There was the world pre-Covid crisis and there is a very different world now the pandemic is with us. Government advice and information during the crisis has been changing almost every day so the best way to keep up to date is to check with the below websites. Latest Government advice: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

- Latest SCC information: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19>
- Suffolk schools guidance: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/schools-guidance/>

If you have any specific queries, please don't hesitate to contact me. I know Kersey has always had a strong community spirit and I notice that the village moved immediately to set up a volunteer network with support from the parish council to help those self isolating. In a crisis, the reaction from local people on the ground is often swifter and more effective than that from more remote public authorities. However, I hope Babergh and the county council are now linking up people that might need support with those that can provide it via your local village coordinators. If not, do let me know. Bildeston volunteers have now set up a food bank and are offering to supply food parcels to surrounding villages, including Kersey. If you know of anyone in need please do let coordinator Shaun Moffat know shaun_moffat@yahoo.co.uk. 01449 257136

2020-21 Budget

Suffolk County Council's 2020-21 budget was agreed on Thursday 13 February. This included a council tax rise of 3.98%, a £3m "Suffolk 2020 Fund", and a £0.5m Highways Investment Fund.

The council received additional funding compared to previous years, which means that there were no major cuts to services in this year's budget. However, most of the surplus funding was added to the council's reserves rather than invested into services.

Both opposition groups proposed amendments to the budget. The amendment of my political group (LibDem, Green and Independent) included additional funding for health visitors, increasing social worker salaries, investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and increasing funding to Citizens Advice. These amendments were voted down by the Conservative administration.

Bus cuts

Several bus routes in my Cosford) (division were placed under threat by the county council announcing they would remove the subsidy from them. They are the 112 (Hadleigh to Sudbury via Bildeston) the 461/2 (Hadleigh to Stowmarket) and the 120 (Hadleigh to Ipswich via Whatfield and Elmsett). I am pleased to say that I was able to encourage GoStart to take over the 112 route and timetable, and that route is now running, though currently restricted to a maximum of 9 passengers in order to keep social distancing. I provided £1000 towards the start up costs of this route. The route no longer includes Kersey and starts at Bildeston, due to lack of demand on that first section. I also, along with two other county councillors, contributed £1000 towards the 461/2. However that route has been suspended owing to the lockdown, as has the 120.

Motions from the Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group

My political group proposed three motions to Council in 2019-20:

- Asking Suffolk County Council to acknowledge the UN's report into poverty in the UK and to set up a taskforce to tackle poverty in Suffolk (May 2019);
- Calling on the council to cease any further spending on the Ipswich Northern Bypass and instead spend equivalent funds to commission a study to investigate a zero net carbon transport policy for Ipswich and its surrounding communities (July 2019);
- Reversing the council's decision to cut 35% of Health Visitors (October 2019).

Unfortunately these motions were not agreed by the council at the time. However in February the Cabinet voted against proceeding with the £250m Ipswich bypass citing widespread vocal opposition and the fact that the council has declared a climate emergency.

We also planned to submit a motion in March calling on the council to oppose the development of Sizewell C and retract in-principle support for nuclear power. Given the current situation, the March Council meeting was cancelled and our motion has been postponed. We intend to submit it again at the earliest opportunity once meetings at Suffolk County Council start up again.

New Home to School Transport Policy implemented

The new school transport policy was implemented in September 2019. Children moving to a new school will only receive free transport from the council if it is their nearest school and more than 2 miles from their homes. Parents of eligible children will need to opt-in for free transport each year, if they wish to continue receiving it.

There were a number of issues with the implementation of the new policy and hundreds of applications for transport were still outstanding at the end of August, leaving families

unsure of whether they would be allocated a seat on an SCC school bus in time for the start of the new school year.

Suffolk County Council has since undertaken an internal review of the implementation of the new policy. The report from the review group identified nineteen failings and was discussed by the Scrutiny Committee on 12 February. The Scrutiny Committee has agreed to also review the policy itself, although it is not yet clear when this will happen.

Under the new policy, parents must actively “opt in” to receive a seat on a school bus for their child every single year before the start of the year in September. So if you are a parent of a school child don't forget to do this.

Post Lockdown

When the Government began the lockdown in early March, the county council cancelled a full council meeting due that month and cancelled all public meetings indefinitely. However, the work of the council continues with staff working from home and Endeavour House more or less empty. Decisions are being taken under delegated powers by the chief executive. However this is in consultation with the relevant cabinet members and political leaders of each group. An AGM due this month has also been cancelled with the next full council meeting now scheduled for July. We have the legal ability now to hold online meetings and I feel this is a better option than not holding them at all. If lockdown is still in place in July I will be pushing for an online meeting. As councillors we are receiving briefings from officers online and the political leaders are holding a weekly Skype meeting with the CEO.

Highways – pot hole filling, verge cutting, etc continues as normal.

Care homes - The county initially struggled to source Personal Protection Equipment for care workers. An initial report from the cabinet member for adult care on 6th April said they had just enough for two weeks. However her report of 15 April now says that care homes appear to be finding their own equipment and where there are gaps, the county has been able to fill them with emergency supplies on request. The county have set up what they call a “cell” to keep in regular contact with the Suffolk Association of Independent Care Homes to provide advice, information and support.

There have been 16 suspected or confirmed outbreaks primarily in care homes in Suffolk since 08/04/2020, split as below:

10 Ipswich/East of County
3 West of the County
3 North of County

If a resident tests positive, then they will have been to hospital as this is the only place where testing is currently happening.

Babergh District Councillor Annual Report from Leigh Jamieson

The last year has been an unprecedented one, with a snap election taking place just before Christmas, the first since 1923. Then finishing with the current situation, locked down in the grip of a global pandemic. What the rest of the year holds for us no one knows. There seems to be a lot of talk about a new normal, but I don't think anyone really knows, at this stage, what this new normal actual entails.

Before the current crisis took over our lives a lot had already happened in the Council.

[Joint Local Plan](#)

The lack of an up to date local plan is a key issue at the council. The current development plan was published in line with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and subsequent amendments, such as the Localism Act 2011, which introduced neighbourhood plans. The national approach to planning policy matters is now set out principally in the new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2019). This means that our current Local Plan is well out of date and as it gets older it becomes increasingly difficult to defend planning decisions that go against developers. The new Joint local plan that is being put together with Mid Suffolk is essential to remedy this situation. Once adopted, the policies and allocations set out in the Development Plan will provide the primary consideration in determining applications, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Back in the Summer last year this emerging plan was put out to the public for consultation. The consultation opened on the 22 July and ran for 10 weeks. Since the autumn I have been on the working party reviewing these comments and will use them in developing and amending the plan before moving on to the Reg 19 stage.

[5 Year Housing Land Supply](#)

While we still do not have an up to date Local Development Plan, both councils are now able to demonstrate a five-year housing supply.

Babergh District Council published an annual five-year housing land supply position statement which demonstrates a 5.67-year supply. The Council had a requirement to have 2100 dwellings agreed, on paper, over the next 5 years with a 5% buffer. Our current agreed developments total 2499, although many of these are still not started.

This has made a significant difference in how applications are dealt with. With the plan not up to date and no 5-year housing supply it was very difficult to reject any application. With sufficient housing in the system not every application now needs to be agreed.

[Climate and Biodiversity Emergency](#)

Another important decision that was taken during the summer was to declare a Climate and Biodiversity emergency. This followed on from similar declarations by both Suffolk County Council and Mid Suffolk Council.

Following on from this decision the council has set up a joint task force with Mid Suffolk. I am part of this task force and we have been meeting monthly since before Christmas to review the challenges that face us in terms of Climate and Biodiversity. The aim is to deliver a set of recommendations to the Cabinet for implementation by the Council. Unfortunately due to the current situation the final set of meetings have been postponed.

[Bus Cuts](#)

While this is more a County issue, it was disappointing to see that the subsidies for local buses were due to be stopped and the decisions seemed to affect our part of Suffolk in particular.

971

It was confirmed that the 971-bus service from Hadleigh to Colchester, which is important for people with children going to Colchester schools will continue to run after the public subsidy is withdrawn. Beestons, who are the current operator for the service has agreed to continue the contract on a commercial basis.

There will be a slight change to the route, which will now take the following journey: Hadleigh – Capel – Bergholt – Stratford – Colchester. This means that the bus will no longer stop in Layham, Raydon and Holton St Mary but people living in these villages can meet the bus in Hadleigh or East Bergholt.

112

The Sudbury bus has been saved but this bus will now start and finish in Bildeston and will no longer run through Kersey.

[2020/21 Budget Summary](#)

The new budget was agreed by Council earlier this year.

General Fund

The Council's 2019/20 gross expenditure is £33.5M with an income of £23.3M. The Net Cost of service of £10.2M.

Over the course of the next four years the Council's cumulative deficit is estimated to be £1.1M. To address this the Council will need to deliver significant income and/or savings by reviewing, remodelling and re-inventing the way that it operates. Its key objectives are to become self-financing and to have more than enough funds to invest within the council itself and across the district.

Housing Revenue Account

A surplus position is forecast for 2020/21 of £334k which is a significant improvement on the 2019/20 position (deficit of £193k). This has been achieved by reducing both revenue and capital budgets. A fundamental review of the housing service has been undertaken during 2019/20 to identify savings, efficiencies and income generation opportunities to achieve a sustainable business plan into the future.

Right to Buy (RTB) sales for Babergh were lower than those projected in the business plan. In 2018/19 Babergh sold 15 against an original projection of 27 sales

The HRA reserve is currently £12.9M and the current business plan estimates that this will fall to £12.6M by 2049/50.

General Fund Capital Expenditure

The main General Fund projects included in the Capital Programme for Babergh over the period 2020/21 to 2023/24 are Kingfisher Leisure Centre (£1.1m), Hadleigh Pool and Leisure Centre

Refurbishment (£1.5m), Babergh Regeneration Investment Fund (£3m), Housing grants (£3.3m), Community Grants (£0.6m) and replacement vehicles (£2.3m).

Commercial Investments - Former Council Offices in Hadleigh

The conversion of the former Corks Lane Council office in Hadleigh into 31 new homes and also the construction of an additional 26 new homes on the site, all for market sale was due to start in the spring. I expect this to be delayed now.

The council will provide 50% of the finance for this work through Babergh Growth Ltd in joint venture with Norse Group Holdings Ltd. A peak cash flow funding requirement of £3.57m is included in the capital programme.

CIFCO Ltd

The Councils also approved the CIFCO's draft business plan for 2019/20 back in July. The property investment company is looking to increase the £1.4m annual income it already generates for services in Babergh and Mid Suffolk – the equivalent of increasing council tax by more than 12%. CIFCO Capital Ltd, which is wholly owned by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, generates income through property investment which is then ploughed back into council services within the districts to offset reductions in funding from central government. Over the next 12 months the company plan on investing another £50m.

[Coronavirus](#)

Following the start of the lockdown work at the council has been hectic. While the vast majority of people are working from home it has not stopped the council putting in some key initiatives to help our residents.

Support lines have been established to help the vulnerable and officers at the council have been getting in touch with people well beyond normal business hours.

Community teams have been set up to contact and assist local support groups and have also been in touch with businesses across the district to ensure they are getting the government funding that they are entitled to.

We have also been working vigorously to make sure that our council tenants are looked after at this worrying time, while also ensuring that anyone either homeless or on the verge of homelessness are cared for.

Unfortunately a number of services had to be suspended due to staff shortages and for safety reasons.

[Parking Management](#)

On the 6th April parking enforcement was transferred from the police to local authorities. The enforcement in our district will be managed by both Ipswich Borough Council and West Suffolk Council. The dividing line effectively runs down the A1141 and along the A1071, so that Kersey enforcement would be from West Suffolk, while Hadleigh falls under Ipswich Borough Council. Expect to see more traffic enforcement officers on the streets in the future and a number of tickets have already been given out in Hadleigh.

[Free Swimming – Hadleigh, Sudbury & Stowmarket](#)

One positive move was the introduction of the free swims offer during the Summer holidays, October half term and the Christmas holidays. The free swim offers for under 17s was to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the districts and the opportunity was taken up by enthusiastically by many.

Annual Reports from Kersey Community Organisations Spring 2020
The Annual Parish Meeting was not held in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Kersey Parish Council - Chair's Annual Report 2019-2020

This is my seventh annual report as Chair.

The Parish Council is the first tier of government. We aim to represent the best interests of our 360 residents, as detailed in the Kersey Parish Council website. Residents are encouraged to raise matters of concern either with individual Councillors or by attendance at Parish Council Meetings.

The current Councillors were elected in a contested election held on 2 May 2019. They are Penny Calnan, David Finch, Pascoe Gibbons, Philippa Harris, Kevin Pratt, Andrew Rogers, the Vice Chair and me. Contact details are shown below and are on the website. I thank them all for their contributions and support during the year. New Councillors attended training on their duties and planning matters, with further guidance from the Clerk when needed.

Robert Lindsay, Suffolk County Councillor and Leigh Jamieson, Babergh District Councillor regularly attend our meetings and I thank them for their advice and for taking up matters on our behalf.

Your Parish Council is financially strong with reserves well within the required range of annual expenditure. Finances are reviewed at every meeting and detailed in the minutes. We look at income and expenditure against budget, bank reconciliations, balances, expenditure approval and cheques are signed by approved signatories. Finances are audited regularly.

During the year, Kersey Parish Council considered 18 Planning Applications. We supported 11 which were approved by Babergh District Council. Two not supported were refused by Babergh. Of the remaining five, three were objected to and two supported and their outcome is awaiting decision by Babergh.

The Kersey Emergency Plan has now been approved for implementation. This initiative provides for action in the event of a serious incident in the community, with named volunteers and sites to support emergency and other services.

The Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG), was formally launched at a briefing at The Bell on 29 February 2020. The purpose is to enhance our environment by collecting litter, reporting potholes to Suffolk County Council and problems to the relevant utility provider. Sixteen volunteers were allocated specific parts of the Parish to monitor, issued with hi-vis vests and litter picks and given safety advice.

The Parish Council implemented a revised risk assessment programme which takes into account severity and likelihood and approved mitigation actions.

Proposals to carry out a Neighbourhood Plan and a Housing Needs Survey were discussed by the Council and not supported. The decisions were made because of cost, difficulty of completion and concerns that they may stimulate planning applications in sensitive or unwanted sites.

Work is underway led by the Vice Chair to finalise the Parish Infrastructure Investment Plan to back up applications for grants from the Babergh CIL.

A grant has been secured for the Emergency Telephone System; it is hoped to progress work on setting this up shortly.

The Parish Council has expressed concerns to Suffolk County Council over safety, following accidents at the road junction on the A1141 north of Kersey Mill. Some minor improvements have been made to visibility but it is still dangerous. Complaints about speeding in Wickerstreet Green and Church Hill resulted in traffic speed monitoring. These showed the average speed was below the speed limit but Councillors will continue to monitor the situation.

The COVID-19 virus has prompted significant changes in our lives and the Parish Council has reacted in three main ways.

First, for the foreseeable future, meetings will be held on-line, using Zoom. This has proved very satisfactory in the two meetings held so far but may be difficult if large numbers wish to participate.

Second, the Parish Council, using the KVG as the model, set up a group of volunteers to assist with shopping, prescriptions, mail, urgent deliveries and telephone contact. I sent a letter on 17 March to every household in the Parish giving details and contact telephone numbers. We are all grateful for the rapid and generous support offered by the 24 Volunteers.

Third, the Clerk is liaising with SALC, Babergh, Community Action Suffolk and other bodies to share information and good practice.

Finally, our Clerk, Sarah Partridge has worked in excess of her contractual hours on Data Protection matters, seeking legal advice and arranging extra meetings. She has also been key in introducing the Zoom meetings. We are fortunate to have such an experienced and efficient Clerk and I thank her for her contribution to our community.

John W Hume
Chair, Kersey Parish Council
21 May 2020

Kersey Parish Council Contacts

Parish Councillors:

John Hume (Chair)	Ayres End, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 810098
Andrew Rogers (Vice Chair)	The Gables, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 212242
Mrs Penny Calnan	Wickerstreet House, Wickerstreet Green, Kersey IP7 6EY	01787 210459
David Finch	1 Row Cottage, Priory Hill, Kersey IP7 6DX	07769 612933
Pascoe Gibbons	Kedges End, Kedges Lane, Kersey IP7 6RY	01473 822815
Mrs Philippa Harris	4 Ancient Houses, The Street, Kersey IP7 6EA	01473 827079
Kevin Pratt	Green Gables, The Green, Kersey IP7 6EB	01473 823028

Clerk & RFO:

Mrs Sarah Partridge	Bridges Farm, The Tye, Kersey, IP7 6HB	01787 210859
---------------------	--	--------------

kerseypc@gmail.com

Kersey Parish Council publishes on the Kersey website past minutes, financial information, ordinary meetings dates for the year and contact information. There is also a wealth of other useful information on the Kersey website.

Kersey Parish Council Budget and Precept

Parish Council	Budget/ Precept 2019/2020	Budget/ Precept 2020/2021	
Post/Tel/Stationery/copier cartridge	£135.00	£135.00	
Clerk's working from home exp	£208.00	£208.00	
Hall Hire: Parish Council 12 @ £5	£60.00	£60.00	
Annual Parish Assembly @ £10	£10.00	£10.00	
SALC subscription	£180.00	£185.00	
External Audit	£100.00	£0.00	
Data Protection	£35.00	£40.00	
Website hosting	£100.00	£110.00	
Sub total for Admin	£828.00	£748.00	
Clerk's Salary & Staff Costs	£4,905.00	£5,400.00	
Training/External Meetings	£250.00	£250.00	
Street Lighting	£240.00	£275.00	
Parish Council Insurance	£340.00	£370.00	
Glebe Insurance	£50.00	£50.00	
Hedge Cut - The Glebe	£80.00	£80.00	
Playground Safety Inspection	£87.00	£90.00	
Dog Litter Bin emptying charge	£45.00	£48.00	
St Mary's Church	£420.00	£420.00	
Defibrillator & Village Emergency Tel	£215.00	£215.00	
Chairman's Allowance	£0.00	£0.00	
Election costs	£25.00	£165.00	
Church Walk future maintenance	£130.00	£130.00	
Footpath Map printing reserve	£75.00	£75.00	
Mowing The Glebe		£100.00	
Contingencies	£300.00	£300.00	
Precept	£7,990.00	£8,716.00	
<i>Other PC income</i>	£64.54		
PC Income	£8,054.54		
Agreed spending from PC reserves: From the defibrillator and VETS reserve	£100.00	£100.00	
	£8,154.54	£8,816.00	Total Budget

The Precept for 2019/20 was £7,990

For a band D property the council tax was £44.83

The Precept for 2020/21 is £8,716

For a band D property the council tax is £47.88

Footpath Working Group

This is my first Annual Report for the Kersey Footpath Working Group (FWG). May I first take the opportunity to thank all the volunteers and landowner representatives for all the help and co-operation given throughout the course of the year. It would not have been possible to maintain the footpaths without this commitment.

I would also like to extend our thanks to Ray Attridge for his long service and commitment to the cutting of the footpaths at 17A,B and 18A,B,C, up and around the Priory and along the Shoulder of Mutton. Following Ray`s retirement from the group we are seeking new volunteers to take on the

task. In the meantime, the footpaths will be maintained by a member of the existing volunteer force.

The FWG has also taken on the challenge of footpath 21C, opposite Kersey Mill, this has now been cut and it is hoped that with the recent increase in facilities and services at the Mill it will enjoy greater use by the public.

The equipment available for use by all volunteers has recently undergone an annual service and all remains in good working order. The annual budget for the FWG was recently approved by the Parish Council and there are sufficient funds currently available in the accounts to enable the work of cutting and maintaining the footpaths in the season ahead.

Finally, I would ask any member of the Parish who finds any issue with a footpath to contact the chair of the FWG so that it may be rectified. I trust you will enjoy walking in the beautiful Kersey countryside on our footpaths.

Kevin R Pratt
Chair Kersey Footpath Working Group

KCPC Working Group Annual Report April 2020

This report highlights last year's key events and some plans for 2020. The playground continues to be a popular resource for children in the village and locality, though is currently closed under Government guidelines.

I am pleased to report Jonny Hamp agreed to join the working group.

The Quiz Night held in November 2019 was a successful evening, and we raised £644.86 net of expenses. We plan to hold the event again at a similar date later in the year and Friday 13th November 2020 has been pencilled in.

The KCPC funds stand at £2,966.07 and are insufficient to cover our current planned expenditure on a new piece of equipment.

The exercise equipment is serviceable and available for use. Two successful maintenance days were held. The cricket net was available throughout the year.

The RoSPA report highlighted a number of issues, the urgent matters were rectified. There are ongoing issues surrounding some rot on the climbing wall posts and plans are underway to replace what we can without scrapping the whole piece of equipment. The chestnut fencing and posts surrounding the playground were replaced in 2019.

The parish consultation about infrastructure and facilities in the parish identified a need for a piece of disabled friendly play equipment at the playground. To that end quotes for a cradle swing were obtained and a winner selected. This will include a rubberised surface surrounding the swing to allow for wheelchair access and the cost will be in the region of £7,000. We will look for outside funding to help with the cost and the Parish Council have generously agreed to provide £2,800 towards this.

The mower has suffered some rough treatment and hence necessary repairs. Frustratingly the manufacturer now no longer supports the model with spares and so a decision will need to be made on its future and replacement.

I thank Pascoe Gibbons for continuing to run the Grass Cutting Rota and Inspection Schedule. We have managed to recruit a few new volunteers for grass cutting, but still need more to replace those who have retired from the list. I would make a request that if people are unable to mow the grass on their designated day, could they please organise a stand-in, and email Pasco when they complete the task.

I would like to thank Sarah Partridge and Dominique Young for their hard work and support, and we would like to thank all the volunteers who assisted with the maintenance day and the grass-cutting last year. We continue to be very grateful to the Whymarks for allowing us to use their garden for the mower storage. I would also like to add a personal thank you to the members of the committee for their hard work and support.

JPFM 21.4.20

The Kersey Volunteer Group (KVG)

The KVG was formally launched on 29 February 2020 at the Bell Inn.

The aim of the KVG is to make Kersey a pleasant and safe place in which to live, work and visit. This is done by continually collecting litter, reporting potholes and hazards to Suffolk County Council and notifying Anglian Water of leaks and drainage problems.

Sixteen volunteer residents were allocated specific areas to monitor and briefed in detail on preventive safety measures. Volunteers have been provided with litter pickers, hi-vis vests and over 16s are covered by the Parish Council insurance while completing these tasks.

The KVG model was used as the basis for the response by the Parish Council to the COVID-19 crisis, offering help and support to parishioners in shopping, collecting prescriptions, posting mail, delivering urgent supplies and telephone support. Guidance was provided to all volunteers in how to carry out these duties. A letter, which was well received, was delivered on 17 March 2020, to each household in the Parish, detailing the available support.

The volunteers are to be commended and thanked for their contribution to our community.

I also pay tribute to the late Martyn Rudkin, who showed by his example how individuals can improve our environment.

John Hume
Chair - Kersey Volunteer Group

Art Group

Eight people attended the Kersey Art Group meetings in the Village Hall on Thursday mornings, on a regular basis, working in a variety of media, but mostly watercolour. The resulting work was of a pleasingly high standard, relating to members' level of experience.

David Griffiths

The Forget Me Nots 2019-2020

The Forget Me Nots group are a thriving group of older residents that enjoy meeting up and lunching out together twice a month. There are usually 10 attendees, with a few others joining us when they can.

We have enjoyed various restaurants and hostelrys all around our area, and relish trying new venues to add to our list of places to eat. We sometimes enjoy a leisurely coffee morning, for example in a garden centre, or a venue where there are various shops to browse.

The Group extend a warm welcome to anyone who wishes to join us, or just dip in and out whenever they like the look of the outing. There is no obligation to attend regularly, we are always delighted to meet old and new friends. If you would like to join in and need a lift, just call Veronica on 01473 823188, or you can call just to book a place at table.

Veronica Partridge

Franey, Rand and Pest House Charities

During the past year, the Charity has made grants to local groups such as the Shelley Riding Centre and the Hadleigh Elderly People's Welfare. In addition, grants have been made to individuals. The Charity did not receive any applications for grants in Kersey during the year.

In October, the Charity was represented at the event 'Hadleigh on Show', where local groups, clubs and societies were given the opportunity to promote themselves. The trustees unanimously agreed to this idea and found the event itself to be a success.

An advertisement will be placed in the Kersey Parish Newsletter, prior to the next meeting of the Trustees' to remind local people of the Charity and how to make an application.

Rachael Rogers

Friends of the Bells of St Mary's Church

There is not much to report. The bell ringers did manage a full year of ringing 2019.

The coming 12 months seem to be uncertain as it not clear when the coronavirus lockdown will be lifted. The 50th anniversary of the rehangng of the bells will be in June, at the moment it looks unlikely that we will ring to mark the occasion.

More bell ringers would always be welcomed. Bell ringing practice is on a Thursday evening in the bell tower 7.45pm to 9.15pm.

Neville Whittell

Friends of St Mary's Church

Year ended December 31st 2019.

The Friends of St. Mary's charitable trust was established after an inaugural open meeting on January 8th 2019. The following residents are the initial trustees Mr Mark Rigby Chairperson, Ms Mary Pearce Secretary, Mr Bruce Newbigging Treasurer, Mr Chris Partridge, Mrs Sarah Sterling, Mr Mark Pertwee, the Reverend Jackson Compton-Battersby, is a co-opted Trustee.

By 31 December 2019 a total of £3,628.68 had been raised for the trust fund, via a number of fund-raising events, presented over the year and other donations gratefully received by fund raising from Kersey Projects via Mrs Suzie Rudkin and her project team.

A number of events for 2020 had been booked or planned prior to the Covid-19 lockdown. They were:

April 5th Family Fun day at Bridges Farm hosted by Sarah and Chris Partridge

April 25th The Kelvedon Singers at St. Mary's church.

Both of these events have been formally cancelled.

Two further events are planned for later in the year but will be reviewed as the situation of lockdown unfolds. The dates are:

July 25th The Chris Ingham Jazz trio at the village hall.

September 5th An American supper dance August at St. Mary's Church.

Further fund raising was to be potentially available via the open gardens in Kersey in June, but that has also been cancelled. We have also discussed the idea of opening membership applications for the Trust planned later in 2020, again this will remain under review.

The Trustees remain very positive and excited about being able to help and support the PCC at each of the above events with their fundraising with bar and accessory sales.

Mark Rigby

GRAYS' TRUST, KERSEY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

The object of the Grays' Trust is to promote the education of residents of the Parish of Kersey and its surrounding area. Applications are invited, via the Newsletter, annually in July and should be made to graystrustapplications@gmail.com. We welcome applications from educational organisations within the area, pupils in Years 12 and 13 of secondary school, university and college students and mature students taking educational courses, or retraining.

During the year 2019/2020 donations have been made to two A-level students, six university students, an apprentice, Kersey Primary School, and the Tuesday Club. Money was set aside for the St Mary's Church Arts project and for possible applications from Kersey School. Leaving presents were given to eight school leavers.

Joan Hattrick retired from the Trust after many years of service as Trust Secretary. She has our heartfelt thanks.

Philippa Harris

Kersey School Annual Report – April 2020

My report to you this year comes at a very peculiar time for our school, and for all schools across the country. Having been closed since 20th March 2020, our staff have been working tirelessly to ensure that the pupils at Kersey have the opportunity to continue their learning in the best possible way; it is certainly not the way that we had planned for the summer term to pan out. We are very pleased with the online learning so far and continue to have very positive feedback from parents and staff. We look forward to the day when we can safely have the pupils and staff back in school once again.

The staff have continued to focus on key areas for improvement raised in our Ofsted report last February, most notably, the inconsistencies in the quality of teaching and learning across the school and a lack of challenge for the more able pupils.

We were very sorry to lose a dear member of staff over the Easter break, after a short battle with cancer. Mrs Blyth will be sorely missed by the pupils and staff of Kersey.

At the start of the academic year, we had a whole school trip to the Science Museum in London. This trip was fully funded by the Friends of Kersey parent group, and was designed to extend and challenge learning and opportunities for all pupils. Parents were also able to come on the trip on a first come, first served basis. The trip was a definite success, despite the long coach journey there and back. Our visit revealed new learning for all pupils and enthused pupils who had perhaps not realised how important Science is to our everyday life. On the back of the success of the Science Museum trip, we organised another trip to Colchester Zoo in January; again, this was another opportunity to expose pupils to different 'real life' contexts, and also linked to the Science work for the academic year.

We have worked hard this year to draw in new parents to our school. We ended last academic year with a celebratory opening of our new Early Years outdoor area, opened by two of Kersey's oldest residents (we were very sorry to hear of the passing of Jack Stiff, who had been with us to celebrate this occasion). This brought in a number of new faces and we are pleased that we have high numbers ready for admission in September too. The staff have developed marketing documentation and we are very grateful to the Grays Trust for their kind and very generous donation towards our new school website; this will benefit the whole school in the long term, as a more appropriate website will inform parents and prospective parents about what is happening in our school, therefore, we hope, increasing our school population and revitalising our reputation locally.

Our Learning Council this year have worked with me and our Interim Head to focus discussion with the pupils around feedback and marking. The school's Worship Council continues to govern and lead acts of worship at St Mary's Church including Harvest and Christmas. Our usual Easter service was not able to go ahead due to Covid-19. The school continues to benefit hugely from Rev. Jackson's input in many areas of school life. The children have continued to share their learning with their parents and the community during Discovery cafes and celebration assemblies. Most notably, this school year, the children have shared their learning during Science week, on World Book Day and in the lead up to Christmas. The pupils have enjoyed several educational and sporting visits this year which are shared on the school's website along with dates and events which are included in a fortnightly newsletter, which we would happily send to your members if requested.

Our Eco Council took part in a local area litter pick, supporting the community and our eco-status. The children thoroughly enjoy helping out in the local area; thank you for providing us with the litter pickers.

We also started up a Junior Road Safety Officer initiative but unfortunately, due to the circumstances, this has been put on hold. If you would like to work with our Junior Road Safety Officers in future, please get in touch with the school; they would very much appreciate your expertise and input.

The Friends of Kersey continue to support the school, purchasing educational equipment and providing transport to and from events. They continue to organise very enjoyable film nights for pupils, provide refreshments at the Christmas Carol Concert, and presents for all pupils. In normal circumstances, we would be looking forward to our school Summer Fayre!

As well as individual music and drama lessons, all Key stage two pupils have instrument lessons which some of them are continuing to do, even at home. This academic year, we plan to begin our Arts mark journey, which will see us take on performing arts, visual arts and culture across the school in many different ways.

We are very aware of the vital involvement the community has facilitated through shared venues and facilities, without which the school would struggle to fully function; the village hall, the church, the Glebe, Partridges Farm and The Bell Inn. We thank them all for their cooperation and continued support.

Thank you to all of you involved with the school. We have thoroughly enjoyed having local residents in to read with the children! Please feel free to come and visit the school, just make an appointment so that we can welcome you.

Jess Damant (Acting Head Teacher)

Kersey Playing Field Association 2020 Report

I would firstly like to thank Ian Hattrick for his many years of service to this organisation. I stepped into his role as Secretary at the start of this year and he has been a fount of useful knowledge in handing over his responsibilities.

The Glebe continues to be a valued resource in the village. The equipment and playing area are in regular use by the school children for various sports activities, as well as by parishioners and some from further afield. The Friends of the School were planning to use the Glebe for their Summer Fayre on 28th June, but due to a loss of several of their members this year had to scale this back (prior to the current crisis).

I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that the Glebe is available, weather permitting, for events or for car parking for larger events in the village for a small contribution. We are grateful to KCPC for their ongoing maintenance of the facilities they have installed in the areas that they lease. We are also grateful for the ongoing grass cutting arranged by Suffolk County Council as their contribution for the school's usage.

Mark Pertwee

April 2020

KERSEY PROJECTS

On 11 May 2019 Kersey Projects organised a Sale Trail with Plant Sale. This took the form of villagers selling their own wares from a table outside their homes. Street food was available from one stall holder and further refreshments were available from the Village Hall. Plants were on sale at the Church. It was a very successful event, attracting a lot of interest from outside visitors and enjoyed by everyone. £626 was donated to St Mary's Church, Kersey.

Over the weekend of 12 & 13 October 2019, Kersey Projects helped organise an Autumn Flower Festival in St Mary's which was hosted by Philippa Harris, Arthur Bacul and their team. Coffee, lunches and teas were available throughout the weekend. The whole village were invited to a drinks and nibbles evening for prior viewing on the Friday before.

It was a hugely successful event with many, many accolades given regarding the stunning flower displays. After expenses, £700 was donated to the Friends of St Mary's Church, Kersey.

Future events for 2020 were planned to be Kersey Open Gardens and a Christmas party. Sadly due to the COVID 19 pandemic the Open Gardens has had to be cancelled.

Suzie Rudkin

Lewis Mowles Trust

Last year the Lewis Mowles trust donated £600 towards a new cooker for the Village Hall. The balance now stands at £9200.

Norah Orriss

Millennium Book Fund

The Parish Council agreed this year to allocate the funds in the Millennium Book Fund for a new piece of play equipment at The Glebe. This will be a cradle swing which can be enjoyed by disabled children. The idea for this type of swing was identified following consultation with residents about infrastructure needs in the Parish. It is hoped this money will help secure match funding from other sources.

Neighbourhood Watch

There is a vacancy for a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. Anyone interested in finding out more about this role should contact the Parish Council.

The Nightingale Trust

The Nightingale Trust is a registered charity responsible for the operation and maintenance of 27 allotments in Kersey. In 2019 all of the allotments had tenants providing a total income for the year of £680. Charity and bank interest income amounted to £201. Other donations or sponsors amounted to £60 bringing the total income for the year to £941.

After providing a total of £185 to seven residents in the village who the Trustees felt merited the winter support payment, together with a donation of £185 to the local food bank programme, total outgoings for the year was £790.97 inclusive of the above. Cash in hand for the Trust now stands at £3934.97.

The Nightingale Trust has a full complement of Trustees and foresees no issues in the 2020/21 year of maintaining a full number of tenanted plots. We currently have a waiting list of two names for plots when available.

Finally, we would like to make mention that this year a number of tenants sheds were broken into and some items stolen. The incidents were all reported to the police, but no arrests have been made to our knowledge.

The Trustees of the Nightingale Trust, Kersey.
April 2020

St Mary's Church PCC - Short Report on the activities for 2019-20

The business of the St Mary's church would not be possible without the continued help and support from the people of Kersey Parish. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all: our newsletter editor, the advertisers and households who contribute to its profitability; those on the cleaning rota, the flower arrangers, the organists; those of you who look after the grounds or respond to requests for help at events or maintenance days; those who supply the church with things to sell or who hold impromptu cream tea afternoons. Many, many of you turn up to support events which ultimately help us keep the doors open; the brilliant Friends of St Mary's Church (FOSM) events, spectacular Flower festival, the plant sale and the Christmas Buffet supper – thank you all for your support and your very good company.

This year three of our most long serving volunteers have decided to retire: Joan Hatrick who continued to support us by drawing up the cleaning rota even after she retired from the PCC officially; Dr Frances Moore served as a Governor and Foundation Governor at Kersey School for 20 years; and Neville Whittell who has wound the clock for many years. Thank you all for your many years of devoted service.

The PCC met regularly and our minutes are published online whenever possible. There are vacancies on the PCC for this April 2020 and we would love to see someone in the role of the second Church Warden.

The PCC has undertaken work on the fabric of the building by restoring the Chancel door, the rood screen door and the West door and improved the entrance; repaired a leak in the lead roof of the north chapel; ramps have been built to enable full access to all. The ringing room was cleared, limewashed and a screen installed to hide the boiler and LED lighting added. The Quinquennial inspection was undertaken in November 2019 and we await the report. Many thanks to FOSM and its supporters, who have made much of this work possible.

A Worship Team was formed to look at our current services and service patterns. Some changes are being trialled from Feb/March 2020.

A working party was formed to oversee the re-hallowing of the Shrine. With the support of many Kersey residents, of Bishop Martin and Archdeacon David a year of preparation began in March. It culminated with a very moving service on 8th March 2020. There will follow an arts festival for the years to come. Philippa is our Benefice Administrator and as part of her work across all the

parishes helps to organise events in church including the arts festival to exhibit local artists' work. Obviously, this is now delayed due to the pandemic which shut us all down on March 20th 2020.

Our finances remain very tight. We have done everything required to maintain our public building status as well as meet annual insurance. We have introduced contactless payment devices in the hope of increased sales of gifts and giving at services. Despite the marvellous fund-raising effort during 2020 finding the regular income to sustain our Parish Share will prove even more challenging by the COVID-19 pandemic; we are not alone – this has hit many charities and businesses very hard.

Thank you for all you are doing; collectively we have raised £25,000 each year to keep our church open and in good condition – no mean feat.

If you are interested in a more specific role then please do contact lindanewbigging@btinternet.com or someone else on the PCC.

Kersey Table Tennis Club - Report for the Year ending 31st March 2020

The Table Tennis Club has had another successful year with attendances up on the previous year. Participation from within the parish has also improved and occasionally contributes up to twenty five percent of players.

A new table was purchased in February to allow the use of three tables when appropriate.

The Clubs finances are healthy and self-supporting via the fees structure. The accounts for the year 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020 will be audited in the next few weeks.

The club operates from Kersey Village Hall on Thursday evenings between 7:30 and 9:00pm. Players may elect to play either one hour or the full session at a cost of £1.50 or £2.00 respectively. Juniors are charged £1.00 irrespective of the duration. Fees will remain as stated and will be reviewed if hire charges are changed. The season normally runs from September to June but is currently suspended until further notice.

The purpose of the club is social and recreational and all abilities are welcome.

Adrian Blyth
01473 827805
amblyth1@gmail.com

TUESDAY CLUB

A varied programme in 2019 included talks on a holiday in Russia, Rev Jackson on his life, Ethiopia, Life of a journalist, Farmhouse cheeses, Ugandan crafts and the coast to coast walk. Members and friends enjoyed a visit to Kersey Mill to see how the restoration work was progressing ending with cream tea in the cafe. The club continues to sponsor Tilly at the Shelley Riding school.

Rachel Wells

KERSEY VILLAGE HALL REPORT 2019 -20

Kersey Village Hall is very much in use from day to day, so providing a guaranteed income to keep the Hall modernised and in good condition.

The Village Hall is used by Kersey School on a frequent basis, and it is often booked by the school for extra school related activities throughout the year. Also there is Yoga classes, a regular Table Tennis booking, monthly Tuesday Club activities and gatherings. The Art group also meet regularly on a Thursday morning, and there are many meetings held in the Hall.

The only fund-raising event the Committee of the Kersey Village Hall organises is the Annual Buffet, held every October. This is a very well attended event, with a raffle and a small quiz, as well as a well-stocked bar and an excellent buffet. The Hall hosts the Annual Village Lunch, which unfortunately this year had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Also St Mary's Church hold a Christmas Buffet with all the trimmings, carols, mince pies and great food, a good start to the Festive Season.

This past 12 months, the Hall has had a major makeover in the kitchen and the toilet block. A new range cooker with 4 ovens was installed along with a dishwasher; the fairly new kitchen units were adapted to fit these in, and the electrics were upgraded to accommodate these appliances. The toilet block was fitted with automatic lighting and self-turn off taps. This was done to minimise the lights and taps being left on as was happening before the change. The ladies toilet pans were renewed along with the washbasin and water heater plus a more efficient hand dryer.

The Hall has been used by Friends of St Mary's Church for fund raising events and the Committee decided to purchase suitable crockery for these events. The cost of the works was over £8,000, and the crockery cost was just over £400.

The Village Hall Committee are to be highly commended for the excellent condition of the Hall and all the effort that goes in to achieve this standard.

Veronica Partridge
Chair of the Village Hall Committee

VILLAGE PRODUCE ASSOCIATION

The annual outing had been to Wisley, although not very well supported this had been enjoyed by those who went. The flower show was held in September and had made a small profit, the first for many years. New lightweight folding tables were purchased to replace the old trestles. These were used at the show and were a great success. Marquee bookings were down on previous years but the association was still able to give donations to help the newsletter, churchyard and floodlights.

Rachel Wells

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Affordable Housing	<p>PP 2008. Wish for carefully planned expansion identified (18 households stated that someone would want affordable in the next 5 years)</p> <p>R2014. As 2008</p>	Monitor need for affordable housing and carry out further survey as necessary	Parish Council	Medium	<p><u>October 2011</u> Scheme abandoned as no residents attended the information event to express an interest in affordable homes in Kersey.</p> <p><u>October 2014</u> There may be a need for affordable housing but PC still not aware of current need in Kersey.</p> <p><u>November 2015</u> Parish Council to investigate idea of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Kersey.</p> <p><u>December 2015</u> During discussions about a planning application for new housing, which included an element of affordable homes, the PC acknowledged there was support from residents for affordable housing in Kersey which the Parish Council would need to address.</p> <p><u>January 2017</u> The Parish Council decided not to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan, it is too big a project compared to the possible benefit to the Parish. Alternative community led planning options are being considered by the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>April 2017</u> The PC agreed not to work on any formal community led planning policies. The PC will investigate carrying out a housing needs survey.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p><u>November 2017</u> The PC decided not to carry out a housing needs survey because the benefit did not outweigh the considerable cost of £3,000 for a survey which would be valid for only 5 years. Professional advice was that a survey would identify a small need for affordable housing.</p> <p><u>January 2019</u> The Parish Council are considering whether Kersey should complete a Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an enormous task with a separate steering group and community consultation.</p> <p><u>September 2019</u> The Parish Council resolved there was not enough support to complete a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>February 2020</u> The Parish Council resolved not to carry out a Housing Needs Survey – the community benefit did not outweigh the significant cost and it would only be valid for 5 years.</p>
Market Housing	<p>PP 2008. Wish for carefully planned expansion</p> <p>R2014. To survey all residents about their wishes relating to planning and development in the parish</p>	To carry out a further survey of residents specifically asking about building and development in the parish	Parish Council	Medium	<p><u>November 2015</u> Parish Council to investigate idea of creating a Neighbourhood Plan for Kersey.</p> <p><u>January 2017</u> The Parish Council decided not to embark on a Neighbourhood Plan, it is too big a project compared to the possible benefit to the Parish.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p>Alternative community led planning options are being considered by the Parish Council.</p> <p><u>April 2017</u> The PC agreed not to work on any formal community led planning policies. The PC will investigate carrying out a housing needs survey.</p> <p><u>November 2017</u> The PC decided not to carry out a housing needs survey because the benefit did not outweigh the considerable cost of £3,000 for a survey which would be valid for only 5 years.</p> <p><u>January 2019</u> The Parish Council are considering whether Kersey should complete a Neighbourhood Plan. This will be an enormous task with a separate steering group and community consultation.</p> <p><u>September 2019</u> The Parish Council resolved there was not enough support to complete a Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>February 2020</u> The Parish Council resolved not to carry out a Housing Needs Survey – the community benefit did not outweigh the significant cost and it would only be valid for 5 years.</p>
Planning and Development	R 2014. Improve the knowledge of residents about the planning system, powers of the Parish	Produce information for residents about the	Parish Council and Babergh DC	Medium	<p><u>March 2017</u> A new web page (Planning and Development Management), a sub-page under the Parish Council tab, on the Kersey website has been</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
	Council and the responsibilities of property owners.	planning process, conservation areas and listed buildings			created giving information and links to Babergh District Council website which covers planning applications, planning policy, heritage, Conservation Areas and listed buildings. ACTION POINT COMPLETED no further action.
Cultural, Sporting and Recreational Facilities	<p>PP 2008. Desire for more planned social and sporting activities, including activities for young people to be achieved by creating a Kersey Sports and Social Club</p> <p>R2014. Clubs and groups enjoyed by members of the community but tend to be run by same few generally older volunteers. Younger people need to be encouraged to join in and volunteer to help</p>	<p>Monitor.</p> <p>Ensure website is up to date with contact info for all the various clubs.</p> <p>Encourage new volunteers to get involved in running clubs and societies.</p>	Community members and Parish Council	Medium	<p><u>October 2014</u> No committee established for a Kersey Sports and Social Club; a variety of social and sporting activities take place in Kersey. See the Kersey newsletter and Kersey website for information on all the clubs, societies, events and activities in the parish.</p> <p><u>September 2016</u> A drop in event was held to showcase all the village organisations to the whole community.</p> <p><u>December 2016</u> Members of the community are organising one-off community social events such as a Christmas Party and erected a Christmas Tree in the centre of the village.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> Welcome pack put together to be given to new residents which highlights events and gives details of the Kersey website to find more info.</p>
Voluntary and Community Activity	PP 2008. Desire for a Good Neighbour Scheme and a Volunteer Driving Scheme	Monitor possible future desire for schemes	Community members, Church and Parish Council	Low	<u>April 2011</u> Following further investigation Good Neighbour Scheme not pursued because residents did not wish for a formal scheme. Informal community help and support is evident in the parish.

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
	<p>R2014. Support is offered on an informal basis. The community may support a formal scheme in future if the need arises</p>				<p><u>March 2018</u> Investigations are being made into the idea of setting up a volunteer driver scheme. May 18 agreed not to pursue as no appetite for scheme.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> It is planned to set up a Village Emergency Telephone System which can support lone rescuers in the event of a medical emergency. A new volunteer group was set up to support residents during the Covid-19 pandemic. A flyer with contact details was hand delivered to every house in the Parish.</p>
Public Transport	<p>PP 2008. 80 people would use public transport R 2014. There is still a need for some public transport from and to Kersey</p>	Monitor provision	Parish Council and public transport users	Low	<p><u>March 2020</u> Hadleigh Community Transport Group operates a pre-bookable service covering Kersey and the Babergh area. There are no timetabled public transport services for Kersey.</p>
Traffic Management	<p>PP 2008 Wish for 20mph speed limit in Kersey village and 30 mph speed limit in the rest of the parish</p> <p>R 2014. There are still concerns about the speed vehicles travel through centre of the village</p>	Monitor and investigate 20 mph limit for the centre of the village	Parish Council and SCC highways	High	<p><u>November 2015</u> Parish consultation in Sept 15 showed residents wished for 20 mph limit in existing 30 mph area in centre of village.</p> <p><u>January 2016</u> Parish Council met with SCC highways to discuss road safety and 20 mph limits. SCC agreed to carry out speed monitoring.</p> <p><u>May 2016</u> Speed monitoring data showed traffic speeds on Church Hill were quite low and indicated speeding</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					<p>was not an issue. A change in speed limit is therefore deemed not necessary.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> Concerns raised with the Parish Council about speeding in the parish. SCC have been contacted to request speed monitoring in the Parish.</p> <p><u>Summer 2019</u> Continued concerns raised about poor visibility at the A1141 crossroads as you leave Kersey. The new landowner carried out some work to improve visibility. The PC is in communication with SCC to press for improvements.</p> <p><u>November 2019</u> Speed data from a number of locations in the parish were reviewed. This data indicated speeding was not excessive and the areas would not meet the SCC criteria for reduced speed limits. Any reduced speed limits would require additional signage and infrastructure such as speed humps or bollards paid for by the Parish Council. The PC agreed not to pursue a change to speed limits.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> The police had carried out speed monitoring in Wickerstreet Green. This identified low levels of traffic with a few high speeds but not enough to trigger further action. Average speed 25.9 mph.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Parking	<p>PP 2008. Concern about too many cars parked in the centre of the village and inconsiderate parking.</p> <p>R 2014. Lack of car parking and inconsiderate parking is still a problem</p>	Monitor and ask Police for support, liaise with school, explore car park options	Parish Council, police and school	High	<p><u>November 2015</u> Police carried out regular visits to Kersey at school drop off and collection times to remind parents of the need to park safely. School sent letter to parents.</p> <p><u>May 2016</u> The Parish Council has worked with the police and school to encourage more considerate parking by parents. Residents are encouraged to use off road parking as much as possible.</p> <p><u>March 2019 & 2020</u> The school contacted. School parents are regularly reminded to park considerately. Parents are able to park in The Bell carpark and walk up to the school.</p>
Road Safety	<p>R 2014. To improve the footpath links between Vale Lane and the centre of the village</p>	Progress Jubilee Steps and Vale Lane Footpath Link Project	Parish Council and SCC Rights of Way	High	<p><u>January 2014</u> Stage 1 Jubilee Steps –proposal put to SCC Stage 2 Vale Lane Footpath Link – arrange to meet with landowner to discuss options</p> <p><u>November 2015</u> Parish consultation in Sept 15 showed residents wished to keep the grass path up beside the Church from the village sign to the Church lych gate. PC agreed to abandon plans for Jubilee Steps but continue working on finding a safe pedestrian route around the corner from Vale Lane to Church Walk. Working Group set up.</p> <p><u>May 2016</u></p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					The working group met a couple of times after discussions with the landowner no progress could be made on a safe pedestrian route around the corner from Vale Lane to Church Walk. Working Group dissolved.
Natural Environment	<p>PP 2008. Requirement for Dog litter bins</p> <p>R 2014. Dog fouling still a problem</p>	<p>Monitor and publicise the issue.</p> <p>Put note in newsletter reminding owners of their responsibilities. Investigate need for more dog bins.</p>	Footpath Working Group and Parish Council	Low	<p>Dog litter bin installed in Kedges Lane in 2009</p> <p><u>March 2012 update</u> Installation of a dog bin in Water Lane not possible as Babergh would not be able to empty the bin in this location. New ‘no dog fouling’ signs put up in Water Lane and around the parish.</p> <p><u>April 2016</u> Note put in newsletter reminding owners to clear up after their dogs and to keep dogs under control or on a lead.</p> <p><u>March 2017</u> Dog fouling still a problem in some parts of the village, particularly Bell Fields footpath near the allotments. Noted at PC meeting & newsletter.</p> <p><u>April 2017</u> New signs to be put up and another note in the newsletter.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> 3 new dog poo bins erected in the Parish. Kindly sponsored by The Bell, Kersey Mill and The Miller’s Kitchen café at Kersey Mill. Regular items put in the newsletter and signs on problem footpaths to encourage dog owners to clear up after their dogs.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
Natural Environment	<p>PP 2008. An appetite for working groups to tidy village.</p> <p>R 2014. As 2008</p>	<p>Invite residents to take on areas they would like to keep tidy throughout the year. Encourage residents to join the Footpath Working Group to help keep paths walkable.</p>	<p>Parish Council, Footpath Working Group and community members</p>	<p>Medium</p>	<p><u>January 2014</u> There is a group of volunteers who have tidied areas of the parish, in particular the area of Cherry Hill next to the footpath. PC to continue organising annual spring litter collection, promote widely to encourage participation. The Footpath Working Group maintains the footpath network in the Parish.</p> <p><u>March 2017</u> Appeal in newsletter for more Footpath Working Group volunteers.</p> <p><u>March 2018</u> The Footpath Working Group has several new members helping to keep footpaths well maintained. The Annual litter collection was well supported and the PC is to discuss an idea to organise regular litter collections throughout the year.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> Successfully annual litter collection again. Footpath Working Group continue to maintain footpath network.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> Successful annual spring litter collection. Kersey school joined in again. Kersey Volunteer Group launched. Members will collect litter on a regular basis as well as reporting other problems such as potholes.</p>

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
					Footpath Working Group continues to maintain footpath network. More volunteers would be welcomed.
Access to Information	<p>PP 2008. Creation of Website</p> <p>R 2014. Existing website is good but needs promoting</p>	Promote the website and continue to improve content	Parish Council	Medium	<p>Website created and launched Feb 2010. www.kersey.suffolk.gov.uk</p> <p>March 2018 Website promoted in the newsletter and updated regularly. A new Local History page has been created.</p> <p>March 2020 Website continues to be developed. New events calendar added. Kersey Newsletter published on the website.</p>
Access to Information	R 2014. Improve Broadband speed and provision in the parish	To continue to highlight the issue with SCC	Parish Council and SCC Councillor	High	<p>March 2014 BB speeds variable but very slow in some areas. No fibre technology available in Kersey yet which would enable high speed BB.</p> <p>January 2017 Most homes in the parish can access fibre. Residents need to contact their service provider or seek an alternative provider who offers the high speed fibre service. ACTION POINT COMPLETED no further action.</p>
Access to Information	R 2014. Improve mobile phone reception in the parish	To investigate ways to boost the signals	Parish Council and SCC Councillor	High	<p>March 2014 Some areas, particularly near the Splash have very poor mobile reception.</p>
Local Democracy	PP 2008. Keeping the Parish Plan alive in the community	Monitor	Parish Council	High	

Kersey Parish Action Plan for 2015 to 2020 – showing progress to April 2020

Category	Issue identified in 2008 Parish Plan Or during 2014 Review	Action 2015 to 2020	Lead organisation and partners	Priority	Progress
	R 2014. As 2008				
Local Democracy	<p>R 2014. Vacancies for Parish Councillors.</p> <p>Low public attendance at Parish Council meetings.</p>	Encourage residents to engage with the Parish Council and review 'Parish Time' engagement at meetings.	Parish Council	Medium	<p><u>June 2015</u> Both vacancies for Parish Councillors now filled</p> <p><u>April 2016</u> PC considered ways to improve engagement with parishioners at PC meetings. It was agreed to keep 'Parish Time' at the end of meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise matters with the PC. The PC welcomes residents to all meetings and the Chair ensures the public present have the opportunity to comment during meetings, particular before discussion about planning applications.</p> <p><u>March 2019</u> A small number of residents regularly attend Council meetings. Their attendance and relevant contributions are appreciated by the Parish Council. 'Parish Time' moved to near the start of Parish Council meetings to enable engagement earlier in the meeting. Public participation guidance published on the website.</p> <p><u>May 2019</u> Contested Parish Council election with 9 candidates standing for 7 seats.</p> <p><u>March 2020</u> A very small number of residents continue to attend PC meetings regularly.</p>