

Kersey People and Place Plan

Summary of March 2025 survey responses from Kersey Community Organisations and Working Groups

Overview

There are twelve community organisations and three Parish Council working groups in Kersey who are all run by volunteers.

Kersey Community Organisations:

- Forget-Me-Nots
- Friends of the Bells of St Mary's Church
- Friends of St Mary's Church Trust
- Grays' Trust
- Kersey Playing Field Association
- Kersey Projects
- Nightingale Trust and allotments
- St Mary's Church PCC
- Table Tennis Club
- Tuesday Club
- Village Produce Association
- Kersey Village Hall

Kersey Parish Council Working Groups

- Footpath
- KCPC (Playground)
- KVG (Volunteer Group, helping to keep Kersey tidy, report highway and issues)

This document summarises the feedback from the seven community organisations which responded and three Parish Council working groups in Kersey, detailing:

- Volunteer engagement
- Audience demographics
- Needs, challenges, and suggestions for improvement
- Carbon footprint and sustainability efforts

Volunteer and audience participation

- Age range of volunteers: Primarily over 60; very few under 40.
- Virtually all volunteers live in Kersey
- Target audiences: Ranges from children to seniors; many groups cater to all ages.
- Attendance: Participants mainly come from Kersey with a few from surrounding villages, Hadleigh and further afield.

Transport to activities

- Car is the main mode of travel.
- Walking and cycling are used by some more local attendees.
- Car sharing is mentioned by Tuesday Club and VPA.

Kersey People and Place Plan

Summary of March 2025 survey responses from Kersey Community Organisations and Working Groups

Facilities and service needs

Common Requests:

- Better car parking particularly for the village hall
- Improved facilities at Village Hall
- Flood risk prevention and better footpath signage at the allotments
- Better broadband and mobile connectivity (for security and event coordination)

Organisational concerns and values

What Matters Most:

- Preserving village assets like the Village Hall and allotments
- Maintaining community spirit and increasing local participation

Common Worries:

- Low community engagement in events
- Ageing volunteer base with limited new or younger participation
- Sustainability of groups threatened by reduced attendance or support

Carbon footprint and sustainability

Current Practices:

- Allotments use rainwater harvesting and bore holes (very low carbon impact).
- Footpath and playground working groups depend on walking and volunteers.

Suggested Improvements:

- Solar panels, heat pumps, insulation for Village Hall (requires funding).
- Government grants to support energy-efficient upgrades.
- Better broadband to enable sustainable tech (eg security systems at allotments).

Key insights and opportunities

Village Hall at risk: Concerns over declining use and financial sustainability.

Suggested actions include:

- Hosting regular social events (eg coffee mornings)
- Promoting awareness of hall and activities
- Encouraging younger residents to get involved

Sustainability is valued but under-supported:

- Many organisations are mindful of environmental impact.
- Lack of infrastructure/funding is a common barrier.

Need for broader community engagement:

- Most of the community organisations rely heavily on a small number of older volunteers.
- All groups would welcome more community engagement and participation.
- Opportunities exist to better involve newcomers and families.