



Edmund de Langley  
&  
Isabella de Castilla

# KINGS LANGLEY PARISH COUNCIL

## ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2021/22

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to this the Annual meeting of the Parish of Kings Langley, finally face to face. Whilst the COVID pandemic has thrown us all into the virtual world we can finally look forward to a far more sociable meeting tonight.

Let me introduce my fellow Councillors:

#### **Alan Anderson**

Alan represents North Ward, is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Personnel Committee, is the Council's Finance portfolio-holder, and a Dacorum Borough Council Councillor for the Kings Langley Ward. Alan also represents the Council on the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society.

#### **Gerry Angiolini**

Gerry represents Central Ward, is Vice-Chair of the Council and the Personnel Committee, Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee, and works tirelessly on many aspects of the Council's activities, including the Christmas Lights event, the Best Kept Gardens' Competition and helping with the village carnival\*.

#### **Derek Collins**

Derek represents Central Ward and is a member of the Council's Leisure Group and a stout campaigner for road safety. Derek also represents the Council on the Community Centre Association.

#### **Rene De Silva**

Rene represents South Ward, is Vice-Chair of the of the Planning and Licensing Committee and represents the Council on the Kings Langley Local History & Museum Society.

#### **Alan Johnson**

Alan represents South Ward and is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Council's Vision Group (Leisure) and has also taken a very special interest in green / environmental matters. Alan is a school governor, organises the Kings Langley "Puffaten"\* , litter picks and has special responsibility for the village garden (and much of the work) and the Council's allotments. He is also Chair of Governors at the Primary School and very active in the scout movement. He helps Gerry with the gardens' competition and is also a Trustee of the Kings Langley Charities. Alan took on the role of Borough Councillor, representing Kings Langley in 2019.

#### **Bob McLean**

Bob represents North Ward, is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee, the Personnel Committee He is lead councillor on the Transport vision group and helps with the village carnival\*. Bob is also a Trustee of the Waterside Centre.



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## **John Morrish**

John is lead councillor for the Parish and Neighbourhood plans. He organises the local produce market\* (currently being held in the village garden) and is a leading member of the Kings Langley Community Benefit Society. John has also been working to improve the canal towpath amongst many other similar projects..

## **Mark Rogers**

Mark is a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee and the Council's Vision Group (Business) - working hard to set-up a local High Street business group. Mark also represents the Council on the Community Centre Association. He also took on the role of a Borough Councillor for Bennetts End in 2019.

## **Ian Sinclair**

Ian joined the parish council following in closely fought by-election held last year following the resignation of Andrew Hubberstey. Ian represents the South Ward.

**And, finally, myself, Howard Button**, Chair of the Council and the Personnel Committee, a member of the Planning and Licensing Committee; lead councillor for the Environment group and member of the Transport Group. In between campaigning for improvements to the paths and roads and protecting the grass verges, I lend a hand with everything, including the village carnival managed by a non parish group of volunteers

My thanks to all our Councillors for their support and dedication, working on your behalf, and for their support of me in the role as Chairman.

I would also like to say a thank you to the Parish Council's staff for their exceptional efforts throughout the past year:

- Paul Dunham - Clerk to the Council
- Beverley Ross - Administrative Assistant
- Paul Hier - Village Warden

I would like to say a big thank you to Paul our new Warden who is working tirelessly to keep the village looking clean and tidy. Great work Paul.

## **SPEAKERS & GUESTS:**

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce our speakers and guests:

- Melanie Parr Climate emergency and Sustainability programme lead at Dacorum Borough Council
- Mr David Fisher, Kings Langley School
- Mrs Frances Stickle, Kings Langley School
- County Councillor Richard Roberts



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## **COMMUNITY SAFETY:**

Once again, we would like to thank our Community Police team who continue to work in keeping Kings Langley safe. We are very fortunate to live in a village where crime is very low. That is not to say we are entirely crime free; we do suffer minor crimes like burglary, car break-ins etc. but these average around 12 or 13 a month in total.

Our much respected PCSO Ian Martin has recently taken up his well-deserved retirement and will be sadly missed around the village. Our new PC is Dean Childs-O'Leary.

## **CONTACT WITH THE COUNCIL:**

Anyone wishing to contact the Council can telephone or visit the Council premises at Charter Court, Vicarage Lane. Opening hours are 9.30am to 12.30pm, Monday to Friday.

The office telephone number is 01923 261828. The Council can also be contacted by email: [klpc@kingslangley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:klpc@kingslangley-pc.gov.uk).

The Council also has a website: [www.kingslangley-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingslangley-pc.gov.uk) on which you will find a range of information including the Council's agendas and minutes, and there is a Facebook page.

The Council meets on the first Tuesday of each month, whilst the Planning & Licensing Committee normally meets before Council meetings and on the third Tuesday of the month. These meetings are open to all and are now being held with blended online availability for those wishing to join from the comfort of the comforts of home, and everyone is welcome.

A list showing Councillors' contact details is displayed on the notice boards throughout the village and is also available from the Council office and website. This list also shows the contact details for the two Dacorum Borough Councillors for the Kings Langley Borough Ward and for the County Councillor for the Kings Langley County Division.

## **Portfolio Holders / Parish plan Groups:**

The Council continues to operate its "portfolios" so that each Councillor is responsible for an area of activity such as highways, environmental, and social and business issues etc., or a geographical area of the village, so that there can be a clearer focus on problems allowing a single Councillor to "own" and tackle them and report back on progress to the full Council, helping to reduce the duplication of discussion at council meetings.

The Council's "Vision" initiative evolved into a Parish Plan, which continues to be progressed, with a business focus group, and similar groups for transport, the environment and leisure, and better communications via Social Media. The resurrection of the village newspaper was another initiative to come out of the vision think tank and it is now a well-established feature in the village.

Work continues within the village garden and councillor Alan Johnson deserves huge thanks for all the hard work he continues to devote to the garden keeping it looking fantastic.,.

## **Best Kept Gardens Competition:**

The competition will be going ahead this year under the ever watchful eyes of Gerry Angiolini with judging due to take place in July.



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## **Christmas Lights Festival:**

The 2021 event was scaled right back due to COVID restrictions but work is already underway to ensure the event goes ahead this year. Put the date in your diary – Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

## **Carnival:**

The carnival is all systems go and I look forward to brilliant sunshine all day on 25<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations.**

The Council and Churches Together are organising a "Jubilee Garden Party" on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June in the village garden

## **Planning and Development:**

The Parish Council Planning Committee will continue to carefully monitor planning applications, especially to ensure that the Green Belt is maintained, and that the village of Kings Langley is not subsumed into the Hemel Hempstead, or indeed, Watford conurbations. The Council will always consider the concerns of its residents and support appropriate objections. Alas, sometimes the planning process and policies do not provide the same support, and applications are allowed despite everyone's efforts and objections.

The main focus of the Council's activity in this area has been in its campaign alongside the Kings Langley and District Residents' Association and other bodies to defend the Green Belt in Kings Langley vis-a-vis Dacorum Borough Council's Draft Local Plan, which identified areas of land for potential housebuilding. The updated version of the plan is still awaited. This hasn't been helped by the Government changing targets on several occasions.

## **Consultations / Lobbying / Highways:**

Councillor Bob McLean will be taking us through the transport vision group report shortly.

## **Neighbourhood Plan:**

As you will have seen from the several village consultations that have been carried out, the Council is developing a Neighbourhood Plan for the village. A Neighbourhood Plan gives us the chance to decide how the village and broader parish should develop together with the style of what should be built. When finally approved it becomes part of the Dacorum Borough Council Local Plan. Cllr Morrish will be providing a brief update at today's meeting.

## **Annual Grants to Local Organisations:**

The Council continued support local organisations and memorial donations, as follows:

- Memorial bench and plaques for John North and Freda Marshal
- Kings Langley Carnival Committee
- The Puffaten
- Sunnyside Rural Trust
- D.E.N.S.
- Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- DCVS (Community Action Dacorum) – Repair shed



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- THRIVE
- The British Heart Foundation
- Cats Protection
- Kings Langley Cricket Club

## **Village Environment:**

### **Damage to Verges:**

Sadly, this is a continuing and, seemingly, worsening problem throughout the village. The Environment group has recently taken up this challenging issue and has been a matter of much debate at several meetings. Can I please ask that all householders do their bit and refrain from parking on the grass verges.

### **Fly-Tipping:**

This seems to be getting worse, especially in Barns Lane and Rucklers Lane. Our Warden makes regular trips around the area, taking photos and these are reported by the office to Dacorum Borough Council. You can report it too on 01442228000 or <http://www.dacorum.gov.uk/home/environment-street-care/clean-safe-green/flytipping>

### **Volunteer Litter Picks:**

Litter remains an issue in the village despite the efforts of our Warden and the team from the Borough.

Councillor Johnson has managed several litter picks in recent months so please look for details of how you may assist.

### **Dog Litter Bags:**

The Council continues to provide these free of charge for those who live or walk their dogs in the village and would like to encourage more dog owners to make use of the bags, **but please, please also to deposit them in the appropriate bin.** It is encouraging that the number of dog litter bags being issued is increasing.

### **Budget 2022/23**

The Parish Council has had to make a small increase in the precept for 2022/23. Councillor Alan Anderson will take us through the budget in more detail within his report.

Your Parish Councillors are unpaid and give up their time and effort on your behalf, because they care about the village and the residents' issues. Much of what we do, we know, is appreciated by you, but without your support none of us would be here, and we aim to continue to support and further the needs of the village wherever possible.

**Thank-you.**

**Howard Button, Chair, Kings Langley Parish Council.**