

REPORT BY THE CHAIRMAN OF KETTLEBURGH PARISH COUNCIL
TO THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ON 6TH MAY 2015

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is often said that a good speech is a brief one. Today I shall aspire to excellence.

As you have heard, Kettleburgh continues to be a thriving and active village, and I always feel privileged to live in our small but active community in such beautiful countryside.

This year, we meet on the eve of a particularly auspicious day, because tomorrow, we have the election of our next government. Having endured weeks of frenzied activity, with each party trying to outbid the others on what it will give us with our own money, it is a pleasure to reflect on the more measured pace of life here, where we endeavor to think before we speak and act.

On this theme, we may have gone too far, as only six parishioners offered themselves for election to this Parish Council on 13th May, and we have to have a quorum of eight. I am partially responsible for this as, after eight year on the council and six as Chairman, I think it is time I stood down so that someone can bring fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the Parish Council.

The council can co-opt to ensure that there is a quorum, and we have one person who has already volunteered, and either Debbie Germain or I will fill the gap until we have another candidate. If you, or anyone you know, would like to join the Parish Council, will they please contact our clerk, Martin Sims.

I would like to say a big thank you to all my colleagues on the Parish Council, and for the support we receive from our District and County Councillors. Sadly, but doubtless for good reason, we do not normally have someone from the police service to report at our meetings as they used to. It was therefore a great pleasure to hear from Tim Passmore today.

On a personal note, but also as Chairman of the Parish Council, I want to say how saddened I was by the untimely and unexpected death of

Valerie Upson. To say that Valerie did not enjoy the best of health is to massively understate the position. Despite this, her contribution to the village, and St Andrews in particular, was absolutely enormous. We owe her a great debt, and she will be much missed.

In summary, the village is in good heart but, as always, there are challenges to be met:

- The first is the current incoherent policy on planning, which threatens to convert our ever-diminishing green land into housing, in places where there is no adequate infrastructure or employment opportunities. Currently, Framlingham is under threat, and we need to be vigilant.
- The second is that, like most other communities, our village activities depend on the support of a small number of people. If we are to continue to thrive, we urgently need other people willing to support our various activities. There are several to choose from, and they are all important in their own way.

This is a great place to live – let us keep it so for ourselves and our children.

Finally, if you have any questions for me, or for anyone else for that matter, now is your chance.