From the Chairman of KVPS

Kirby-le-Soken Village Preservation Society usually holds an Annual General Meeting during May, but because of Corona Virus restrictions it was not possible to hold an AGM in 2020. We initially expected to be able to hold one this year, but due to continuing restrictions we reluctantly decided that we should defer this year’s meeting as well. The committee has continued to meet during lockdown, via Zoom but it was not felt practical to hold a public meeting using a video conferencing format.

Looking back over the past year, the Committee has been faced with the same old issues, predominantly those concerning housing development, overgrown footpaths, weight of traffic and potholes. Despite our protests and objections, most applications for development in the Village and surrounding areas seem to get the green light. In a more optimistic vein, we are heartened by the fact that the Local Plan is close to being finally adopted and this should impose more control over the siting of future developments. As regards potholes and paths we are grateful to Councillor Mark Platt for his efforts on our behalf but more needs to done.

The amount of traffic passing through the Village seems to have increased out of all proportion and with more development still planned for the area this is a problem that will only get worse. We have asked for priority control where the road narrows at the western end of the Village and we are told that this is now the subject of a feasibility study, so perhaps we can look forward to some progress in due course. In the meantime, speeding through the eastern approach is making access onto Walton Road increasingly difficult and dangerous and perhaps an extension of the 30-mph limit towards Walton may be worth consideration.

At our last meeting, the Committee questioned whether our activities are still relevant or should be a change of emphasis. Kirby-le-Soken Village Preservation Society was established during the 1960s with the following objectives.

* *To maintain the character and rural atmosphere of the village.*
* *To uphold the principle that any property development must be planned as an asset to the village both for the present and the future.*
* *To defend the rights of residents in a constructive manner.*
* *To co-operate with The Local Authority in achieving these ends.*
* *To obtain and preserve records of the history of the village and to initiate any activity for the encouragement of local pride.*

Personally speaking, I believe that these objectives are still relevant today and the committee’s activities still strive to achieve these ends, however, others may wish to see changes and we would welcome any suggestions as to how the Society’s aims could be updated or improved.

Over recent years, we have lost several members of the committee who have either resigned or moved away, creating vacancies yet to be filled. If you feel that you would like to become more involved with KVPS, then please get in touch; either via the website or Chris Walters walterseco@hotmail.com and we would be delighted to hear from you. We particularly need people with IT skills who can assist with the website and promote our exposure on local social media. Above all, we need people who are enthusiastic about the Village and care about maintaining its charm and character. If you feel that you would like to become more involved with the activities of KVPS please let me know, preferably by email to davidtwood@live.co.uk

In the meantime, the committee will continue to meet on a regular basis to consider and act on issues concerning the Village. We need to hold an AGM once it is possible to do so. Given that donations collected after the AGM now form the main part of our annual income, the need to hold one becomes even more urgent!

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all my fellow committee members for the work they undertake and in particular, Chris Heal who deals with all the secretarial duties and Victoria Burgoyne for creating and maintaining the Website. Sadly, for us, Victoria has recently moved to Frinton and has had to leave the committee. I am also grateful to Walton and Frinton Yacht Club for continuing to allow us to hold our meetings (subject to lockdown rules) in the club, free of charge.

Hopefully, the restrictions that we have all been experiencing will be relaxed so that we can get back to a semblance of normality.

David Wood (Chair KVPS)