

## **ATM 2026 - Chairs Report**

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the groups and individuals who were nominated for the town awards which took place this evening, with a special acknowledgment to the individual award winners: -

Local Hero Award	Winner – Sarah Linsell Highly Commended – Joshua Emmersom
Young Person Award	Winner – Lily Parr Highly Commended – Holly Loftus
Council Chair’s Award	Winner – KWMCC Highly Commended – Café 66 Highly Commended – Teacher Pet Netball

Congratulations to you all.

This evening we can confirm the pump track has now been completed, CCTV installed, the mature loral hedging has been planted with final signage to go up and the official opening of ‘TRU PARK’ will take place on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of May at 11am.

The official opening will feature special guest professional mountain bike rider Jono Jones and a ribbon-cutting ceremony by Guy Nicholls of Tru 7 Group the benefactor of the project.

I hope to see you there on the day.

We are also working on other family and play areas, the central park area of OAK MEADOW, which has been under the ownership of Kesgrave for many years now, will have a replacement of the old wooden trim trail with a new installation of replacement equipment and the addition of swings, roundabouts and bounce mats accessible to all including wheelchair users. Funding for this project has been achieved with the support of SPARK, the charity which is funded by the Kesgrave 2<sup>nd</sup> stop shop.

Grange Meadow has also been updated with new equipment and protective fencing, funding for this project was provided and work undertaken by East Suffolk Council.

Now updated Grange Meadow along with other play areas and plots of open public land are about to be taken over by the Town Council from East Suffolk Council, for the residents of Kesgrave.

### **How we work**

The Town Council consists of fourteen members (all volunteers) who represent two different wards (Kesgrave East has seven seats and Kesgrave West has seven seats). All members elected or co-opted to serve on the Council are obliged to follow the local Code of Conduct and the rules, regulations, and procedures as set out by the Town Council and by central government.

We currently have vacancies for councillors to be co-opted, if you are interested, please speak to myself or the Clerk after this meeting, or make contact with the office.

### **We have developed a number of strategies for Kesgrave:**

**A Neighbourhood Plan** – which sits alongside the District Local Plan to define how Kesgrave will develop from a planning perspective.

**A Business Plan** - to define the overall strategic direction of the Council over a 4 year period.

And an

**Action Plan** – which translates the priorities of the Business Plan into specific actions, projects, and targets for the financial year, with assigned responsibility and timescales.

All 3 are available to residents via the web site or by visiting the office in Ferguson Way.

### **Key Focus Areas (2025–2026)**

**Community & Recreation Projects:** Improvements to local facilities, youth engagement programmes, and the pump track project.

**Planning & Development:** Land acquisition, open space adoption, and the review of the Kesgrave Neighbourhood Plan, including a housing needs survey.

**Finance & Governance:** Review of reserves, Land Management Plan, and Local Council Award Scheme (Bronze).

**Operations & IT: Office upgrades,** website redevelopment, and security enhancements using .gov.uk domain standards.

**Community Engagement:** Strengthening links with schools, colleges, and partner organisations, and implementing new digital communication tools.

On a day to day basis we work with many agencies and stakeholders to help resolve issues and improve our Town:

**Suffolk County Council** — who are responsible for roads, pavements, potholes, signs, hedges, and Public Open Spaces.

**East Suffolk Council** — for bins, public open space maintenance, community events, and services.

**Police** — for speeding, parking, antisocial behaviour.

And of course, our District and County Councillors.

As well as supporting citizens advise east Suffolk

And the Police Engagement surgery.

**We organise a full range of events for all age groups**, including

- Hang out, a youth initiative run by 4YP at the millennium jubilee hall every Thursday
- Monthly Market, every third Saturday at the scout hall
- Tea Party's, a get together for our older residents
- Senior Citizens Felixstowe outing
- Kesgrave Fun Day, a fun packed day for all the family 27<sup>th</sup> June this year
- Fireworks
- Remembrance Service, tailored for school age children
- Christmas Lights switch on
- And to finish the year the ever-popular Ice Skating

### **Moving Forward**

Kesgrave is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Largest town by population in East Suffolk, the council consists of 14 councillors all of whom are unpaid volunteers.

As you will no doubt be aware, County and District councils in Suffolk are to be replaced with the new unitary councils, we will be discussing this in item 7 on the agenda.

The next few years will see major changes, and we must embrace these changes, to the best for our community.

Cllr Neal Beecroft-Smith, Town Chair