

# KEPPEL WARD

Covering Grange Park, Kimberworth, Kimberworth Park, Scholes and Thorpe Hesley



Councillor  
Tony Browne



Councillor  
Maggi Clark



Councillor  
Carole Foster

## Report to Full Council

November 2023

### Ward priorities

- **Improve safety / appearance of St Johns Green**
- **Improve the appearance of the environment**
- **Address road safety concerns**
- **Promote opportunities for bringing people together and enhancing community spirit**
- **Improve community safety by continuing to address Crime/ASB**
- **Improve facilities for young people**



### How these ward priorities were agreed

We took the opportunity in June / July this year to review and update our Ward Plan priorities. We used a range of information. The new ones reflect what we are aspiring to this year and beyond.

Our aim is to put communities at the heart of everything we do by working on the things that matter to them as this not only supports the community but supports our Thriving Neighbourhoods Strategy too.

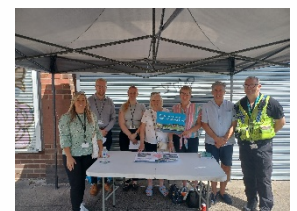
### Working in partnership

We work with a range of organisations, drawing on their knowledge and expertise. We really do appreciate the support we receive from both Council officers and officers from external organisations including South Yorkshire Police. We also recognise the role played by our local voluntary / community sector partners, both organisations and individuals.

### Here's a little taster of some of the work we've been doing in Keppel Ward.....

#### Improve safety / appearance of St Johns Green

Our aspiration is to develop a facility on St Johns Green which will benefit the wider community. We are meeting with partners this month to discuss the idea of establishing a resource centre in one of the currently vacant units. There are challenges to this, not least financial, but we are committed to doing everything we can to try and make this a reality. Finally, St Johns Green is the focus for our Towns and Villages funding, and we held a consultation event with partners for residents/businesses to give us their views. This will improve the appearance of the area. We meet regularly with a stakeholder group which is an opportunity to feedback on our work.



#### Improve the local environment.

We were approached by Redscope School to help with the creation of their outdoor Back to Nature project. The project was to create a tiny forest within the grounds of the school, create a wet and dry meadow to increase the biodiversity of the school field. Back in March Councillor Foster and our Neighbourhood Co-ordinator put on their wellies and helped dig many holes for the children to plant small trees.



We have also contributed CLF funding to Redscope School's Climate and Sustainability Challenge. This saw children undertake 50 different challenges throughout the summer holidays that were based around climate change and sustainability and ranged from recycling activities to planting wildflowers and supporting our environment / eco systems.

[www.rotherham.gov.uk/keppel-ward](http://www.rotherham.gov.uk/keppel-ward)

A beautiful Rowan Tree has also been planted by Councillor Maggi Clark, Christine Evans (Rotherham Museum, Arts and Heritage) and Ranger Harry Winfield at Keppels to commemorate the renovation of the column.



We support various groups by attending litter picks where possible. We took part in "Pick for Cause" back in May. This was to support Jude (a 10-year-old boy, who has been receiving treatment for Leukaemia) in his 3 month long sponsored spring clean, where he pledged to litter pick his community for 3 hours per week from Mother's Day to Father's Day in aid of Cure Leukaemia.



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Councillor Tony Browne, on behalf of the Keppel Councillors, presented Neil Collett from S61 Litterpickers with an award for the group who have reached 5000 sacks of rubbish collected.



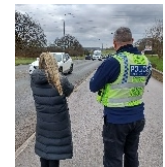
Grange Lane was a magnet for flytipping, particularly in a layby that backed onto the golf course. Neighbourhoods were project lead for works to try to alleviate this issue. Partnership working with other Council teams including Community Protection, Grounds Maintenance, Transportation, Planning and enabled these works to take place. Fencing was erected and boulders were strategically placed to block the layby, CCTV signs were installed, and Community Protection were able to use CCTV to monitor other sections of this road and catch vehicles fly-tipping.



### Address road safety concerns

We have received many reports of traffic issues on Thorpe Street. Following discussions at ward briefings and potential suggestions discussed, an informal consultation has taken place with local residents via a letter drop. Initial results show support for a one-way system. This has now been taken forward to the Local Neighbourhood Transport Scheme as our main priority for this area. This has been a major issue in the ward for many years and working together we intend to achieve a successful result.

We work to tackle reports of speeding traffic within our ward and attend Speedwatch sessions which are carried out by our local policing team. We also promote the use of 101 and online reporting in our newsletters along with other information concerning road safety.

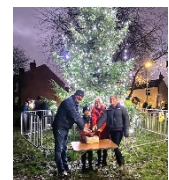


### Promote opportunities for bringing people together and enhancing community spirit



Each year we contribute through our CLF to the Thorpe Hesley & Scholes Village Show which takes place in September. The show is well attended by local residents, and it gives local businesses, charities and partners a chance to engage with residents through their stalls.

Three Christmas Trees are installed across the ward each year, these enhance community spirit.



### Improve community safety by continuing to address Crime/ASB

We meet monthly with local police teams to review reports from the police and discuss issues raised to us by members of the community. We have provided funding to purchase home security items to deter and protect people's property, these have been distributed to residents across the ward.

Following reports from both the police and local residents of disregarded nitrous oxide canisters, posters were put up within the ward advising people of the risks of using these and how to report any incidents.

### Improve facilities for young people

Under this priority, we are aspiring to improve several play areas within the ward. We have agreed to do this by utilising our Community Infrastructure Levy Funding (CIL). Site meetings and discussions have taken place to plan work at Hesley Grange, Barnsley Road and Lodge Lane. The first two will benefit from improvements and upgrades whereas our aspiration for the third site is a new play facility by using the CIL as match to draw down some external funding.