ENCLOSURE 1

KENILWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the MEETING of the TOWN COUNCIL commencing at 7.00 pm on 02 December 2021

PRESENT: Councillor S A Cooke (in the Chair).

Councillors: P Austin, A G Chalmers, M F Coker, J A Cooke, A M Dearing, J A Dearing, K S Dickson, T J Drew, A J Firth, G D Hyde, A J Kennedy, A W Milton, R J Spencer.

Town Clerk: Miss M S Field.
Communications & Administration Officer: G Hollingsworth

1 Member of the press was present. 1 Member of the Public was present.

The fire and safety brief was displayed on the screens prior to the commencement of the meeting.

TC.617 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors J A Cooke, A M Dearing, J A Dearing, K S Dickson, A J Kennedy and A W Milton, made a general declaration of personal interest in relation to any items regarding Warwick District Council.

Councillors J A Cooke, R J Spencer and T J Drew made a general declaration of personal interest in relation to any items regarding Warwickshire County Council.

TC.644	NOTICES OF MOTIONS	Councillor J Dearing	Close Relative Involved

TC.618 MAYOR'S QUESTIONS

It was NOTED that no questions had been submitted to the Mayor.

TC.619 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr O Bartmanis had submitted the following question as Chair of and on behalf of Friends of Abbey Fields (FOAF):

We at FOAF have been working very closely with WDC over the last 18 months to ensure the Pool Development is both compatible and sympathetic to the surroundings in which it sits. These meetings have been very positive and our discussions have now focused on the actual plan for demolition and construction and WDC's plan regarding the surrounding recreational area. We are aware that KTC is also having meetings with WDC so we would like to share our growing concerns to establish if KTC hold a similar view on some of the issues raised. A number of these issues we believe to be 'at the edge' of our remit so we hope discussion is already taking place at KTC/WDC level but we do not want to assume.

1. *Children's Play Area (CPA) – WDC's plan is the CPA should remain open for the duration of the build with the exception of a few days when construction needs dictate*

otherwise. Access is still to be finalised but health and safety permitting FOAF have been lobbying to ensure the area is well protected and does remain open!!

2. *<u>The Tennis Courts</u> – you will probably know this area will be used as a holding area for trucks, materials and equipment and alternative facilities have been identified for the users for the duration of its closure. Our concern is that :*
    1. *There has been little dialogue on what this area will be used for recreationally afterwards. FOAF believe there is an opportunity to perhaps rethink this recreational area rather than simply replicate what is there already. The demand for Basketball has increased. Netball could be considered? Tennis is just one activity that should be considered. Is anyone actually focused on this question at Town or District level?*
    2. *This area will be the last to be developed after the Pool is finished. It could be 2 years before we see it used again?? FOAF hopes that discussion and decisions should be made sooner rather than later to ensure the closure of this area is minimised following the completion of the pool. Users should not have to wait 2/3 months after the Pool's completion.*
3. *<u>Duck Feeding Platform (DFP)</u> – The reconstruction of this attraction is not part of the overall Plan. This platform is possibly one of the most popular attractions in Abbey Fields and any reparations or development of this area should be planned in. FOAF would like to see a statement, in whatever Construction Plan is agreed, for the reinstatement and development of the DFP.*
4. *<u>The Pool Area bordering Finham Brook</u> probably hasn't seen ' the light of day' for 30 years because it is fenced off. Whilst we do not have evidence of any rare species residing in this area we do believe it should be treated with the utmost respect during the build phase. Also because of the stone remains of the mill, situated there, archeologically the area has even more historical significance. We have been informed there will be a need to clear some of the scrub from this area and to perhaps fell one tree. We have no evidence of any intention to damage this area but FOAF are nervous that this area may not be treated with the sensitivity is deserves.*
5. *<u>Vehicle movements to and from AF</u> - We are aware the plan is still to be finalised and Hauliers routes need to be submitted. We believe rather than Hauliers being allowed to seek the quickest route, given everything else going on around Kenilworth e.g. HS2, housing development etc, hauliers should be directed on a route that minimises disturbance to the local population.*
6. *<u>Substation</u> – This seems to be an immovable 'eyesore'. Do you have any influence???*

    Hopefully, KTC are able to acknowledge and share our concerns and we look forward to a positive response that ensures the final construction plan for the pool addresses these factors.

The Chair invited Councillor K Dickson to respond, as Chair of the Planning Committee and also a Member of the Town Council'sAbbey Fields Working Group –

Thank you for your question on behalf of Friends of Abbey Fields.

Firstly can I assure you that we have received and considered it and appreciate and share your concerns.

You may know that we have persisted in chasing the Abbey Fields management plan over the last two years and still await this detailed document which we hope will cover some of the specific items you have raised. I know that you, like us, as stakeholders are more than frustrated that we have not yet had sight of this long-awaited document. I would hope that areas like the Duck feeding platform and the pool area next to Finham brook ecology will be included in this and their importance recognised.

With regards to the other specific items mentioned:

Members of this council were responsible for ensuring that a condition to protect the use of the Children's play areas was made in the planning permission. The tennis courts are similarly protected by planning conditions as a result of representations from members of this council. It should therefore be no more than three months after work has finished that they will be fit for use again. We are also aware that the WDC playing pitch strategy document identified the need for improvement of the facilities at this site.

It would appear that the Substation is to be immovable and it did form part of our concerns with the plans but we notice that in the final plans this does have some wooden screening.

We do recognise that there will be disruption to Abbey Fields whilst demolition and construction takes place at the pools and it is particularly unfortunate that this is to take place over the period of the Commonwealth Games when our District will be attracting guests to the area with an interest in sporting activities.

To enable ourselves as well as FOAF to represent our concerns, I would like to propose that the Mayor on behalf of the council writes to Kier and to the Programme Manager at Warwick District Council to identify a member of the construction team as a single point of contact, in case we have any concerns and who can keep us updated with progress during work on the site.

I would suggest also that your question be forwarded to Green Spaces Manager at WDC with endorsement from this council, should this find approval from other members of this Council.

TC.620 COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair confirmed the following:

Christmas Market – Saturday 11 December
Boxing Day at the Castle – hosted by the Mayor
Summary of recent Mayoral Engagements –

Oct 23rd. Official Launch of Repair Cafe, attended by Deputy Mayor, as Mayor away.
3Oth. Lunch at Kenilworth Rugby Football Club. Other guests included Parliamentary Rugby Club. Spent time with Conservative MP for Rugby and Labour MP for Newport West, as well as President of KRFC.
Nov 2nd Zoom meeting of AGM of Warwickshire Community and Volunteers Association.
5th. WDC Chairman's Supper at the Glasshouse Restaurant, Jephson Gardens. Excellent company (on my table), delicious food, speech by Andrew Day on proposed merger of Warwick and Stratford councils, and a battle royal between our town clerk and a heritage carrot which did not want to be cut up and eaten. Not seen Town Clerk bested before and I have learned not to grow heritage carrots.
6th. Kenilworth War Memorial to join George Illingworth in planting a field cross in the garden of remembrance.
7th. Methodist Church, Priory Rd, to join a service to officially welcome the new Minister.
11th. War Memorial for Two Minutes Silence.
14th. War Memorial for full Remembrance Day Service and Parade, followed by hospitality at Copperhouse Club.
17th. Whitnash New Civic Centre and Library's official opening. Excellent cake.
19th. Kenilworth Allotment Tenants Association Annual Presentation Evening at Kenilworth Sports and Social Club. Suggested a new competition, for Untidiest Shed.

22nd. Abbey End for short service with Gemma and Rev George Jones to lay a wreath in memory of 25 civilians killed in bombing of Globe Hotel in 1940.
26th. Christmas Lights Switch-ons, much reduced because of crowd safety fears in high winds.
29th. Stoneleigh Church for Licensing of new Vicar by Bishop of Warwick.
30th. Kenilworth Community Forum.

Members NOTED these updates.

TC.621 APOLOGIES

Councillors: R J Barry, R G Dickson, P J Jones.

TC.622 MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS

Members NOTED the passing of former Town Councillor Mary Harrison on Sunday 24th October 2021, aged 97 years. Tributes were made by Councillors Michael Coker and Kate Dickson who said Mary worked very hard as a Member, she was incredibly supportive and '*gave great encouragement in everything we did'*.

Members further NOTED the passing of Kieran Amos, former Chief Fire Officer at Warwickshire Fire & Rescue service. Councillor Richard Spencer said Kieran would be remembered by all who knew him, he was well respected and the very best wishes were being sent to his family at this time.

TC.623 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Town Council held on 21 October 2021 were moved, seconded, ADOPTED and signed.

MATTERS ARISING

TC.624 CIL/COMMUNICATIONS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

Councillor A Milton presented the two published reports, highlighting the agreed list of priorities for further exploration and development. After consideration it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that Kenilworth Town Council -
1. Approve and adopt the following priorities in respect of the spending of CIL funding:

Projects that's are almost ready to go which will now be proceeded with:

- Cycleway over St John's Bridge (up to £50k)
- Design work to better integrate the Pavilions Development into the town including changes to the highway configuration (c£5k)
- Traffic Strategy for the Town (up to £30k).

Projects which are a priority for the Town Council but which will require support from other partners where we will commence discussions immediately:

- Abbey Fields Cycleway
- Safe Routes to School
- Skate Park (& Pump Track)

- Station Road Pedestrianisation

Projects that require further exploration but which will be ongoing priorities for the Town Council.

- Highways improvements for all road users*
- Renewal of Playgrounds & Park Equipment
- Community Wood(s)
- Wayfinding (links to the Castle)

2. Agree that all funding requests should be presented to the Finance & General Services Committee before being recommended to Town Council for approval

3. Delegate the Task & Finish Group to continue this work and commence engagement where needed on behalf of the Town Council, accepting that they will in some cases require additional support from other councillors and external resource.

Councillor J Kennedy added that the voices of young people still had not been heard and brought Members attention to a recent petition called 'Pedal to Protect' aimed at establishing safer routes to school. Councillor A Milton confirmed a map would be incorporated into the Cycling stall at the Christmas Market on 11 December 2021 in order to identify appropriate routes, and commented it was fantastic to see young people with such passion, something that should be supported. Councillor R Spencer added the group were still pursuing an introduction at Kenilworth School and the Town Clerk confirmed the school had been contacted and we were awaiting a response.

Councillor M Coker wished it to be noted that Warwickshire County Council had a vast knowledge of traffic within the town and they should be consulted concerning any traffic strategy moving forward. He further reiterated policy dictating there was an advance business case for any spending and we should abide by that. Finally, Councillor K Dickson gave thanks to the group for the constructive discussion that took place and stated it was a privilege to be a part of this.

TC.625 WELCOME BACK FUND

Councillor M Coker gave a verbal update from the Task & Finish Group in relation to progress in utilising the fund.

Six new planters will replace the barriers in Station Road on Monday 6 December 2021 which will be filled by Smiths Nurseries to match the others in town. Current planters will be re-arranged and the hope is to have a seating area in the middle which can be decorated by the Arts Festival. All planters will be sanded and re-oiled. The group will be obtaining three quotes for murals on the walls by the entrance to Abbey End Carpark, on the side of the Hospice Shop and by Forrest Coffee Shop. Expected cost to be around £5,000 due to the boarding required. Abbey End will be jet washed. It was pointed out the number of hours spent on this by the Town Clerk and, due to the approaching deadline, this should take precedence over new initiatives for spending from this fund.

Councillor R Spencer added that, at High Street, all black traditional lampposts were also being repainted and the group were awaiting a final quote to proceed with this.

Members NOTED this update.

STANDING MATTERS

TC.626 HS2 LTD UPDATE

Councillor M Coker gave a verbal update report on relevant aspects of HS2 and recent liaison meetings held, pointing out the published report from the latest Balfour Beatty Vinci (BBV) meeting. He thanked Councillor K Dickson for a thorough report and commented they had encountered no problems yet.

Councillor K Dickson referred back to MP Jeremy Wright's meetings with HS2 when it was believed the minutes were being published on his website. It is the case these are not published and a query was raised as to whether minutes could be obtained moving forwards.

Members NOTED this update.

TC.627 UPDATING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLAN AND FLOOD INCIDENT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS TO WDC.

Councillor K Dickson reported that members of Compassionate Kenilworth were looking at updating the Community Emergency Plan with the proviso they are not responsible for its implementation going forwards. It was noted that they had responded to possibly the biggest emergency the town had seen (during the Covid outbreak) and had done a tremendous job.

The Town Clerk advised we had received a good response from the Council's offer of rock salt to the residents of Kenilworth, demonstrating that our website and social media are being seen.

Councillor A Milton confirmed that no reportable floods had taken place.

Members NOTED this update.

PROJECT WORKING GROUP

TC.628 BLEF

Councillor J Kennedy gave a verbal update report on the latest position of the BLEF project. A six monthly report had been submitted to Groundworks which he was pleased to advise had been approved. Contingency funds had been secured for further digital advertising, a re-print of the trail leaflets and for extra filming to improve workstream 3. All contractors had been asked for ideas on how the work done could be sustained long term to provide a lasting legacy in the town. Councillor J Kennedy commented the funding had really taken the town forward and in the next six months they hoped to produce a final report which would attract good publicity and point a way to the town's future in these areas.

Members NOTED this update.

TC.629 Wayfinding

Councillor A Dearing presented the published report and welcomed ideas from Members as to how we could move forward on the mechanism of procurement with little support from WDC. They were requesting we draw down the CIL contribution if possible. Councillor J Cooke commented that he had made representations on this, however, WDC had made their position clear that the Town Council would not receive assistance with procurement. He

commented it would be a shame to lose the CIL contribution, however, if we were to write to WDC it should be along the lines of requesting advice on the best way of seeking a procurement device in the area which passes all regulations.

Councillor J Kennedy commented that it was a difficult situation where we had been offered money, knew what we wanted to do with it, however, we did not have the legal assurance we were doing this correctly. He supported writing to WDC with Councillor J Cooke's amendments. Councillor J Kennedy requested any Members who had contacts in this area to step forward, and we should pursue the Chair of the Chamber of Trade for any assistance they may be able to provide. Councillor Coker suggested approaching Warwickshire County Council for any assistance they may be able to offer.

After consideration, it was proposed, seconded and:

RESOLVED that Kenilworth Town Council write to Warwick District Council expressing their disappointment that no help has been offered in initiating the mechanism for the procurement process for the Kenilworth Wayfinding Project, and to request advice on the best way of seeking a procurement device which meets all regulations.

TC.630 CYCLING DELIVERY WORKING GROUP

Councillor A Milton presented the published report and had nothing further to add to this.

Members NOTED this update.

TC.631 COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP

Councillor A Firth gave a verbal update report on the latest position of the Communications Group. After receiving feedback from Leaders on the possibility of a quarterly newsletter, it has been decided to first launch our new website, and explore our options on updating our residents via that platform. In the meantime Nub news would be publishing Town Council updates alongside our regular articles for the Courier.

Members NOTED this update.

TC.632 CLIMATE WORKING GROUP

Councillor J Dearing presented the published report. He wished to bring Members attention to the Plant-a-Tree scheme for the Queens Platinum Jubilee. So far we had limited uptake for the discounted tree offer and he asked Members to share via their own platforms to encourage take up within the town.

Members NOTED this update

TC.633 TOURISM WORKING GROUP

Councillor A Dearing presented the published report and highlighted Shakespeare's England (SE) proposal for group membership. Councillor A Dearing advised a meeting was due to take place on 10 December 2021 where a representative from SE would promote the idea further.

Members NOTED this update.

TC.634 TOWN CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Councillor M Coker presented the published report and confirmed he had nothing further to add.

Members NOTED this update.

TC.635 ABBEY FIELDS MANAGEMENT PLAN

Councillor K Dickson gave a verbal update report and confirmed we still awaited the Abbey Fields management plan. We had received assurance this would be received before Christmas, however, with the public question in mind,

After consideration it was proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED that the Mayor would write to Keir Construction and WDC to identify a member of the construction team as a single point of contact. The question by FOAF would also be shared with Warwick District Council with endorsement from this Council.

TC.636 UPDATE REPORT FROM WARWICK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

Councillor J Cooke presented the published report.

Councillor K Dickson noted that they had not received an update from WDC in recent years concerning the parking charges within the town and, after making enquiries, had been informed this was no longer available. Councillor J Cooke expressed surprise and asked for this to be considered further. The Town Clerk advised this was not a legal requirement of WDC, however, she would make some enquiries.

Members NOTED this update.

TC.637 UPDATE REPORT FROM WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCILLORS

Councillor J Cooke presented the published report.

Councillor R Spencer further reported that Kenilworth had been used as an average sized town for research purposes on reducing all/part of our roads to 20mph zones. No decisions had been made yet and the committee was due to report to Cabinet in December/January.

Members NOTED this update.

NEW MATTERS AND CORRESPONDENCE

TC.638 REVIEW AND UPDATE OF FINANCE REGULATIONS

Members reviewed the updated Financial Regulations as considered and recommended by the Standing Orders and Policies Working Group. It was proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED that the revised Finance Regulations, be agreed as published and adopted by the Town Council.

TC.639 APPLICATIONS FOR SCHEDULED MONUMENT CONSENT

Members NOTED that an application for Scheduled Monument Consent has been applied for by English Heritage for works at Kenilworth Castle comprising the installation of a storage shed, new fencing and beehives within the formal garden.

Members further NOTED that an application for Scheduled Monument Consent has been applied for by English Heritage for works at Kenilworth Castle comprising fire alarm replacements for the stables and Visitor Centre.

Members further NOTED that EH have written to indicate that they are hoping to undertake works to the toilet drainage in the next couple of weeks.

TC.640 HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT LAND AVAILABILITY ASSESSMENT

Members NOTED that the Warwick District Council and Stratford District Council Draft Methodology Consultations will take place between 10th November – 22nd December 2021.

TC.641 OFFICER'S REPORTS

None.

TC.642 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councillor J Cooke presented for recommendation the Minutes for the Finance and General Services Committee. After consideration, it was proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Finance & General Services Committee meeting held on 11 November 2021 be APPROVED.

Councillor M Coker presented for recommendation the Minutes for the English Heritage Liaison Meeting. After consideration, it was proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED that the Minutes of the English Heritage Liaison Meeting held on 28 October 2021 be APPROVED.

TC.643 STATEMENTS OF EXPENDITURE FOR THE 2021 - 2022 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Statements of Expenditure, inclusive of Petty Cash Expenditure, for the month of October (Month 7), including supporting documentation and trial balance, was proposed and seconded. Following this it was:

> RESOLVED that the Statements of Expenditure and supporting material (inclusive of petty cash expenditure) for the month October 2021 (Month 7), including supporting material be APPROVED.

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

TC.644 Councillor Andrew Milton moved his motion that:

This council recognises the valuable part that people from all around the world have played in the life of Kenilworth. People from across the globe have chosen to call our town home and bring with them new skills, experience, and diversity.

This council resolves to write to the Chief Executive and Leader of Warwick District Council to express the following:

We recognise and thank Warwick District Council for the work that it has done welcoming Afghan refugees to our district.

We also recognise that the council has gone beyond its initial commitment to the number of refugees that the district is able to accommodate.

Kenilworth Town Council wishes to put on record its willingness that refugees from Afghanistan are re-homed in our town should the District Council deem it appropriate. We would ensure a warm welcome and look forward to enabling them to make this the place they call home and be part of a community to which they feel able to contribute.

During consideration of this motion, Councillor J Dearing made a general declaration of personal interest and abstained from the vote.

Members were all in general agreement, with Councillor T Drew suggesting an amendment to include any refugees were an integral part of our community. It was proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED that Kenilworth Town Council write to the Chief Executive and Leader of Warwick District Council to express the following:
>
> We recognise and thank Warwick District Council for the work that it has done welcoming Afghan refugees to our district.
>
> We also recognise that the council has gone beyond its initial commitment to the number of refugees that the district is able to accommodate.
>
> Kenilworth Town Council wishes to put on record its willingness that refugees from Afghanistan are re-homed in our town should the District Council deem it appropriate. We would ensure a warm welcome and look forward to enabling them to make this the place they call home and be an integral part of a community to which they feel able to contribute.

Members subsequently AGREED that the Town Clerk would be designated to take this matter forward.

TC.645 Councillor John Dearing moved his motion that:

Kenilworth Town Council writes to relevant planning officers and portfolio holders in Warwick District Council requesting engagement with plans to redevelop the Leyes Lane and Rouncil Lane sites that will take place following the construction of the new secondary school. In particular, to suggest that the Council should become a consultee in the discussion of housing, layout and travel options prior to the emergence of any significant blueprints or briefs.

In support of his motion, Councillor J Dearing made the following points:

Despite the pandemic, greenhouse gas concentrations (CO2e) in the atmosphere reached new record high levels in 2020 and have continued to rise in 2021.

Emissions are also increasing in Kenilworth, currently standing at ~11t CO2e per household per year, with emissions from Housing the largest component at 4t CO2e per household per year

The Kenilworth Climate Emergency Working Group, a group of local residents and cross-party councillors, was established in 2019 to help make a positive impact on reducing

greenhouse gas emissions from Kenilworth. It is particularly keen to see zero carbon housing and active travel wherever possible.

Kenilworth Town Council, working with the Working Group, would facilitate engagement of residents and businesses in order to feed local neighbourhood views into the development process.

During consideration of this motion, Members were all in general agreement. It was proposed, seconded and:

> RESOLVED unanimously that Kenilworth Town Council writes to relevant planning officers and portfolio holders in Warwick District Council requesting engagement with plans to redevelop the Leyes Lane and Rouncil Lane sites that will take place following the construction of the new secondary school. In particular, to suggest that the Council should become a consultee in the discussion of housing, layout and travel options prior to the emergence of any significant blueprints or briefs.

Members subsequently AGREED that the Town Clerk would be designated to take this matter forward.

TC.646 NEXT MEETING

Members NOTED that the that the next scheduled Meeting of the Town Council will be held in Jubilee House on Thursday 13 January 2022 at 7.00pm.

The Meeting closed at 8:46pm.

Signed: ….…….……

Dated: ……

POST MEETING NOTE

21 December 2021

Asylum seekers welcome in Kenilworth

Current situation

In the past two weeks approximately 125 asylum seekers have been welcomed in Kenilworth. They're being accommodated at a local hotel with support from SERCO, the charity Migrant Help, the Welcome Here – Leamington group and a consortium of Kenilworth community groups.

The asylum seekers are mainly male adults, but include some women, teenagers and children. The country from which they began their journey – in some cases more than 12 months ago – varies and includes Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Sudan and Syria with a variety of languages. Upon arrival the asylum seekers are classed as eligible for support under S98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999. This means they are eligible for accommodation and three meals/day. No outside family/friends are allowed in the accommodation. There is a curfew of 10pm. After the asylum seekers have been processed/registered (via Migrant Help) they are classed as S95 cases. This means they are

eligible to access a very small amount of weekly funds (this amount will cover the cost of a single prescription). They are issued with Aspen ATM withdrawal cards to access the funds.

The asylum seekers are offered access to immigration advice,but have no funds to travel to appointments. It can take up to two years to be offered dispersal accommodation and even longer for their cases to be heard. This is generally in large cities, and there is currently no suitable accommodation available in Warwickshire. Families are prioritized in the processing and applications may be rejected. As some asylum seekers are moved on, they may be replaced by new arrivals.

Migrant Help assist in completion of the asylum application forms and make contact with local charities to offer the support required to help with resettling. Most of the asylum seekers have limited use of English language so use interpreters (e.g. Clear Voice) or, if they have access to a mobile phone, the Big Word app.

The majority religion amongst the group is Islam, and also Christianity and Sikhism. Contact with a mosque and the Gurdwara in Leamington has been made and prayer mats supplied.
The group has been registered with the NHS and have an HC1 so are eligible for health cover and GPs from both Abbey and Castle surgeries in Kenilworth are visiting and undertaking health assessments. A mobile dentist who will be visiting in the near future. All members of the group take LFTs twice weekly and have access to home PCR kits. All have been offered vaccinations.
Migrant Help is recruiting a tutor to give educational resource for the children and Barnardos have been supporting with counselling and access to digital equipment

Kenilworth's response

Two meetings of a consortium of local community groups have been held to work with Migrant Help and Serco to help meet the practical needs of these residents. This joint working builds on the network and contacts established firstly from Kenilworth's response to the Calais refugee crisis in September 2015 and, more significantly, during the recent COVID pandemic. The consortium includes Compassionate Kenilworth, theKenilworthCentre, St Nicholas church, the Lions club, the Rotary club and the Soroptimists. The consortium is next scheduled to meet in early January.

Immediate needs

These have been identified as

- Warm clothing, waterproofs, shoes, socks, underwear for all ages.
- Entertainment - craft activities, arts, puzzles, board games (without words e.g. cards and dominos).
- DVD players and DVDs, CDs & CD players.
- Basic English language text books and children's books, colouring activities.
- Toiletries - they have some feminine hygiene products but not deodorant, hairbrushes, nail scissors etc.
- Laptops/phones - a scanner is needed for sending paperwork to Home Office.
- Umbrellas.
- Access to sports equipment – football, pool table, football goals, table tennis.

Already the generosity of local people has been seen to supply many of the above items. For example, Kenilworth Rugby Football Club has a winter coat and trainer collection event over the weekend of 18th/19th December. Immediate provision of children's clothing has also been sorted for the time being. For the list of items above, requests for items will come through existing community networks in Kenilworth.

A donations page to which local residents/community groups/businesses can give for the consortium group to help buy the above items has also been set up at https://bit.ly/3oWzlqw.

St Nicholas church (01926 857509) and theKenilworthCentre (tel 01926 855205) have agreed to act as collection points for the above tangible items **by prior appointment**.

Support is also being sought from local businesses (cafes, hairdressers, bookshops, castle, gyms etc), volunteers from the university (STAR, Immigration professors, law clinics etc) and bikes from Bikeability with helmets, locks and hi vis jackets).

Richard Dickson & Andrew Milton
Kenilworth Town Council
December 2021