This has been a challenging year as we did not meet as often as I would have liked. We are all leading increasingly busy lives and getting the time to attend evening meetings is harder for everyone. For all of you who are here tonight thank you.

I would like to divide this report into four main sections 1. The Community Centre. 2, The North Fermanagh Valley Park. 3. Finance and keeping the doors open and 4. Looking to the future and Christmas and Summer

1. The Community Centre has been used more often this year than ever before. It is hard to get a night free but the facilities are old, cold and unwelcoming. Thankfully we are about to have over £150,000 spent on the Centre, putting in an additional room, redoing the heating system and toilets. This is welcome and we hope that work will start before Christmas. This will make the Centre even more attractive to users and hopefully with modern efficient heating a centre we can see even greater use. We also need to look again at the Centre running costs and re-examine how much we charge. The new Committee room in place of the stage will be a good meeting place for all sections of the community and should be warm and welcoming for our older folk. Their persistence and effectiveness helped secure this improvement.

2. The North Fermanagh Valley park is due to be completed at the end of this month. It has been without a doubt one of the hardest tasks this Association has ever undertaken. With support from Jayne Thompson and Kesh Running Club we have now a beautiful open space with a tartan track and excellent facilities. The next stage is to install new drainage and improve security around the site. We hope everyone can come to the opening later in the year.

3. This has been a very hard year to keep bills paid and keep the hall heated. Catherine continues to provide reliable administration and the photocopying, MOT applications as well as car taxing and flight booking makes the office a busy place. We have been fortunate that continued support from our sister company Kesh Enterprise has been able to help keep the lights on but to Fermanagh Omagh Council we are disappointed that their financial allocation continues to shrink every year while demand for the Centre rises. On a positive note the new interest in the Christmas Lights has proved very beneficial and the new ‘Christmas Lights Team’ is already buzzing with ideas for this year. The Lights bring the whole community together but last year its was the community carol singing to lonely, old or isolated that really brought the Christmas message home. Also we have had a good summer and floral displays have been well tended and looked after.

4. Looking to the future I want to see more clubs and societies represented at Kesh Development Meetings. We need to share ideas, build dreams and most of look forward as a community. There is every chance that we will need to look more within ourselves and within the Kesh Community in the future. An ageing population and reduced support for community transport means that we will have to look within our own talents to build and develop a sustainable community. That’s the real challenge for the future.

Billy Gilmore Chair