

Venue: Kingsway Community Centre

Chair: Barry Kirby

Minutes: James McKenna

Guest Speaker 1: Andy Clarke (Severn FM Community Radio)

Guest Speaker 2: Sue Oppenheim (GlosVAIN – Gloucestershire Vale Against Incineration)

Guest Speaker 3: PC Sam Jones (Quedgeley Community Police)

Apologies: Andy Smith (QUVL Project Manager), Peter Badham (Badhams Pharmacy)

1. Introduction

- a. Barry Kirby (BK) introduced himself and set the scene by welcoming guest speakers and new residents.
- b. BK set agenda for evening; update on the schedule of developments, parish council proposition and GlosVAIN presentation re. the campaign group's position on the proposed mass burn incinerator (MBI) at Javelin Park.

2. Community matters

Family events – help needed in the form of volunteers

- a. Big Lunch - The residents association co-ordinated another successful event at the big park. BK raised prospect of the 2012 event coinciding with the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. If spread across the (extended bank holiday) weekend, we could accommodate a large marquee in the big park and host more events including a disco. Subject to reasonable cost, this could also provide continuity in the event of wet weather. A resident raised issue of noise and we would need to take our neighbours into account if a disco were held.
- b. Halloween – Another event planned in October, 2011 for children and families in the little park.
- c. Kingsway Fun Day – A very successful event; organised by consortium of housing associations at Waterwells Sports Centre.
- d. Gloucester Festival – A very popular annual event in the city's calendar; BK raised the idea of Kingsway providing a float for next year's parade.

3. Council business

- a. Gloucester City Vision - BK urged residents to provide feedback to the council on its 10 year vision. *Please note – The 3 month consultation period closed 26th August, 2011. However, residents can find out more or get involved by referring to the following web page on the city council's web site: <http://qoo.gl/RleFG>*
- b. County Council Bus Review – BK confirmed that the proposed expansion of the number 14 service through Kingsway would not be affected by the review of existing services. The bus fare between Waterwells Park & Ride and the city has been increased from £2 to £2.50.
- c. County Council Boundary Review of Wards – KRA has responded to Boundary Commission. This has bearing on political decisions, the precept and the emergence of a new Parish Council.
- d. Travellers – two evictions from private land within the locality.

4. Developments Schedule – an update

Local hub – retail

- a. *Tesco Express* due to open, Friday 26th August, 2011
- b. *Badhams Pharmacy* due to open by end of August, 2011.
- c. *Cocoa Coffee Lounge* plans to open soon, subject to outstanding planning considerations.
- d. Remaining units to be occupied by Hairdressers and Veterinary practice – dates to be advised.
- e. *Barn Owl eatery/pub* due to open January, 2012.
Please note – Taylors Estate Agents, Tesco's and Badhams all operational at time of drafting Minutes.

Local hub – community centre

- f. BK confirmed that QUVL's objective for completion has slipped back two years, to the end of the 2013 calendar year. The Project Manager for Kingsway, Andy Smith has asked the QUVL board to review its decision. The centre itself will comprise of two big halls and outside areas.

Commercial zone – retail

- g. Subject to a planning application being lodged and approved, an *Asda Superstore* will be developed next to the main access road in to Kingsway. The land was originally designated for commercial use but the landowner; *Hitchen's* have reviewed their plans in light of economic operating conditions. Some concerns expressed about environmental impact in view of current infrastructure.

Primary School '2'

- h. Gloucestershire County Council plans to have the second primary school opened by the start of the 2013/2014 academic year. The school is part of the final phase of Kingsway's development but as yet, there is no information about what 'status' the school will carry.

5. Presentations

Severn FM Community Radio – Andy Clarke (Founder)

Andy introduced himself and the community radio project; he also serves Hardwicke Parish Council. Severn FM has been on air since June 2011. It has an FM license and can be heard and seen via its web site <http://www.severnfm.com>. The station broadcasts from Hardwicke and serves the south Gloucester suburbs and surrounding parishes. It operates as a not for profit company having been awarded funding from Stroud District Council. Its aim is to provide a voice for local people and local groups. Furthermore, it wishes to provide opportunities for children, young people and those wishing to develop their own potential. This would benefit the unemployed and/or those seeking to cultivate an interest in the media. It could also be used to relay news including coverage of local sport and would help to promote participation amongst children from across the area.

Gloucestershire Vale Against Incineration – Sue Oppenheim (Chair)

Sue introduced herself as the Chair of GlosVAIN, a consortium of campaign groups opposed to mass burn incineration in Gloucestershire; she also serves Standish Parish Council in her capacity as Vice Chair. Sue set out the rationale for opposition based on economic, human and environmental grounds. The presentation made consistent references to scientific research. This included the source of UK health research in respect of infant deaths which were previously posted by a local councillor on the Kingsway Villagers blog.

Sue made light of the difficulty in obtaining information from Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), however, this was due, in part, to commercial sensitivity between GCC and the two remaining bidders. This was attributed to EU procurement laws. From the outset, Sue indicated that GCC had/had been 'technology neutral'. The primary stimulus stems from the (financial) need to avoid landfill taxes that will amount to £150 million over the (25 year) lifetime of any contract with the plant's operator. Sue emphasised that technology is changing fast and that better solutions could be drawn from more localised and sustainable approaches. These are already being deployed in other parts of the UK/EU and have led to improved rates of recycling.

Sue stressed that we were now in a period of public consultation and this would draw to a close in November 2011. During this period, the two remaining bidders, *Urbaser* and *Complete Circle* will have a second and final opportunity to present more detail about their plans to the public. Once the tendering process has been completed, a planning application will (presumably) be submitted by the successful bidder and that application will be subject to planning approval. At this point, concerns raised by pressure groups, the public and any government concerns re. environmental/human impact will be examined in full. If the application succeeds, the plant at Javelin Park would be operational by 2015.

In bringing the Question and Answer session to a close, BK thanked Sue for her presentation and encouraged residents to consider what Kingsway can do as a community to increase rates of recycling, reuse and reduction.

Please Note: The full presentation (.PDF format) can be accessed at: <http://www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk/pdf/incinerator.pdf>

Gloucestershire Vale Against Incineration – Sue Oppenheim (Chair)

Continued

Sources of information:

Lobby against

GlosVAIN web site:

<http://www.gloucestershire-against-incinerators.org.uk>

The Local Authority responsible for Residual Waste

Gloucestershire County Council web site (official):

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/wcs>

Gloucestershire County Council web site (user friendly):

<http://www.recycleforgloucestershire.com>

Bidder proposals for Javelin Park (with facility to provide feedback):

Complete Circle:

<http://www.completecirclejavpark.info>

Urbaser Balfour Beatty:

<http://www.ubbglooucestershire.co.uk>

Agencies with legal responsibility for Public and Environmental Health

Health Protection Agency (HPA)

Position statement on Municipal Solid Waste Incineration:

<http://goo.gl/YssU> As at 18th April, 2011.

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)

Position on Waste Incineration Directive

<http://goo.gl/pt9ir> As at 28th June, 2011

The Environment Agency (EA):

Waste incineration – questions and answers:

<http://goo.gl/l3UUG>

Position statement on Waste Incineration at October, 2003:

<http://goo.gl/sqMSa>

Kingsway Community Council – Proposition for Parish Council status – Barry Kirby (Chair)

BK referred us to a leaflet which had been circulated prior to the start of the meeting. BK advanced the idea that we take forward what has been built up through the residents association and place Kingsway on a stronger and more formal footing. Based on the number of current households in Kingsway and Copeland Park, a Parish Council covering this area could raise £84,000 through its tax precept. This would rise to £130,000 based on the projected upper limit of 3,600 households. It would take between 12 and 24 months to establish a new council and we would need to scrutinise income and costs closely, having regard to adoption and QUVL's 'commuted sum' over a 8 to 10 year period. BK stressed the importance of using financial modelling and seeking professional advice and support.

BK asked residents to study the leaflet and consider pro's and con's with a view to it being used to petition the entire community on Parish Council status. Although the legal requirement is for 250 signatures, BK proposed we canvass every household and gain a much larger number, so we send a very strong message and garner support from across the community. In the meantime, BK is receiving advice from the responsible legal person at Gloucester City Council.

Pro's

Could invest in events

Greater accountability to residents

More clout across the tiers of local government (and with developers)

Choose what to invest in and/or maintain

Money raised in Kingsway, spent in Kingsway

Con's

Apathy - the success of a new Parish will stand or fall on community support

Income (from precept) could be absorbed by administrative costs alone (Cllr Fred Wood)

Resident feedback

An alternative proposition was put forward by one resident. Specifically, whether Kingsway withdraw from Quedgeley Parish and be absorbed into the wider Gloucester city area in common with an area like Longlevens, which has no parish affiliation.

Another resident suggested that given the importance of this issue, we consider having an additional meeting to discuss the proposition in isolation to any other matters.

Cllr Fred Wood was broadly supportive and suggested we consider very carefully the following before moving forward:

- a. The (re)alignment of boundaries so that a new Parish Council fits with prevailing boundary changes coming from city and county, specifically the 'cutting off' of Naas Lane;
- b. Think about what we (currently) get out of the precept;
- c. The true/full cost of running a council.

Fred indicated that Quedgeley parish serves 15,000 citizens which makes it larger than some town councils. Its existence is historical, i.e. it is not rooted in any constitutional change. (In this sense, it 'married' the rest of Gloucester but in doing so, did not lose and has not lost, its original identity).

Please Note: The draft leaflet (.PDF format) can be accessed at:

http://www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk/pdf/KCC_leaflet.pdf

Community Police - Sam Jones (PC)

A quiet period for crime and ASB; only one reported burglary in the last three months and this was due to a resident leaving their windows open. Moped use to be monitored Friday nights, especially in the vicinity of Lyneham Drive/Valley Gardens. The police may be able to seize motorbikes if they are contributing to anti social behaviour. One resident raised the idea of trial bikes so there is some form of 'provision' for young people.

There have been cut backs in PCSO's and civilian staff which will help to preserve Police Officers. Some concerns expressed about speeding and driving behaviour. Previous monitoring revealed average speeds on Thatcham Avenue at 24mph, however, in view of resident concerns, traffic operations may be brought in.

Young People - community policing continues to partner with Project Solace and the Housing Associations.

6. AOB

None.

7. DONM

22nd November, 2011 – Annual General Meeting to (re)elect committee members.

8. Meeting closed at 22:00 hours.

Web references

<http://www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk/residents-association>

Kingsway Residents Association

<http://www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk>

Kingsway Village Community Website