

Kingsway Residents' Association Public Meeting

Date: Friday 14th May 2010

Time: 8pm – 10pm

Place: Kingsway Community Centre

Committee Members Present: Barry Kirby (Chairperson); Kimberley Poppitt (Secretary); David Clough (Treasurer); Morwenna Grindle (Press Liaison); Clive Barton (Press Liaison); Mark Spooner (Social Secretary); Emma Lane (Social Secretary).

Committee Member Apologies: Tracey Hodgson (Social Secretary); Sarah Jones (Social Secretary).

Guest Speaker: Andy Smith (Representative of Quedgeley Urban Village Living – QUVL)

Barry (BK) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for coming – he also introduced Andy Smith (AS) of QUVL and thanked him for attending. BK said glasses of wine were available throughout the meeting for a small donation towards the Kingsway Residents' Association, as well as a raffle for the same cause.

BK then let AS take the floor. AS gave a brief synopsis of what QUVL were trying to achieve in the village, both currently and in the future. This included:

- Trying to open out the park and get it adopted by Gloucester City Council (GCC).
- They are trying to get an up-to-date plan/map of all the road names and positions in Kingsway as the developers made a lot of the road names without informing QUVL what or where they were.
- QUVL are currently trying their best to get the lampposts which are out of order up and running. This apparently involves having all the connections done and the contractor who is dealing with it has had an amount of finance withheld from him until the job is completed – therefore giving him an incentive to finish the job as soon as possible(!)
- QUVL are concentrating on getting Phase I of Kingsway adopted. This will happen in the following manner and order: The balancing pond on Valley Gardens needs to be properly designed and fully completed by the GCC. When this is done, SevernTrent Water will adopt the pond and drainage of Kingsway. When this is done the Highways will then adopt the roads of Kingsway as will the GCC.
- Nearly all the roads of Phase I are surfaced, and this coming Monday (17th May) from Woodvale Roundabout up Thatcham Avenue 'til Uxbridge Lane the footpaths will start to be surfaced. After Uxbridge Lane there is still building work being done so the footpaths there won't be surfaced as of yet.
- The planning and design stage of a sports park, community hall, playing fields and shops are currently under way. These will be available for villagers once Kingsway has sold 2000 houses. As of the end of March 2010 there were 1500 sold houses in the village and, according to Andy Birchley of the QUVL planning office, they think by mid-late 2011 we will reach the number of 2000. They will start building the amenities now so they are ready in time for mid-late 2011.
- Questions were asked of AS regarding parking on Thatcham Avenue. After much long debate in the meeting between AS and the residents, it was decided QUVL would re-do the double yellow lines as there was much confusion where some had worn away or been blacked-out. Double yellow lines would not be put on small certain areas of Thatcham where it is indeed safe to park a car (a safety audit could be taken if necessary), but the rest would be lined as it is getting very dangerous on that road due to people parking in certain areas – it is also causing too much congestion. The clamping company would be told they have to start coming

out and enforcing the rules too. One resident mentioned the possibility of inserting pelican crossings along Thatcham all on different sequences so as to help with congestion.

- AS confirmed, after complaints from some residents present at the meeting, that construction workers should not be starting work until 8am at the earliest on site. Another resident mentioned the “considerate constructors” scheme and said if residents have complaint about the attitude/behaviour of certain constructors they should contact this scheme to report them too.
- There was a brief discussion about speed monitoring in the village by the Police. Although they cannot enforce the limit (until the roads are adopted by the Highways) it is recommended drivers go no more than 30 miles per hour as there are plenty of school children, young families, pets etc. in the village. Quite a few people (both residents and contractors) had been clocked going at dangerous speeds of 50 and 60 mph on Woodvale, which is both worrying and unacceptable.
- AS was asked whether he can ask the Highways people if we can have the bus bollard on Valley Gardens left down until other entrance/exit roads have been opened/adopted. This is so there would be more than only one entrance/exit road in and out of Kingsway. Also regarding the bus bollard, apparently QUVL have given the emergency services the phone number of where they can order a transponder from in order to operate the bollard, the same as the bus company. It is up to the emergency services whether they choose to purchase a transponder or not, but they have been given the opportunity.
- On the same subject AS said there will be gates put at each end of the road leading from Naas Lane Roundabout into Kingsway. This small stretch of road could then have the gates opened in an emergency situation requiring another entrance/exit into Kingsway. It cannot be used at the moment as a full-time road as Robert Hitchens (who own that piece of land) are still going to be building quite a few things there in the near future and so it would not be feasible to open it right now as a full-time road.
- The other road at the top end of Thatcham Avenue (which leads into Tuffley) which has a bus bollard will remain blocked off until the bus company decides they want to use it as a bus route. The decision lies solely with the bus company as that particular entrance/exit was specially designed to only be used as a bus route road.
- AS encouraged residents to come to him and QUVL with specific things we want to be involved in/want to change if they're still in the planning stage. His office is in the last building within Avionics House (“QUVL Planning Office” written on the letterbox) and he will be more than happy to chat things through with residents, and is also happy for us to get involved with aspects of the village that are still needing to be done. They welcome our input.

Our Treasurer, David Clough (DC) took the floor and briefly explained we, as the Residents' Association Committee, had opened a bank account for the Association. He spoke of how Quedgeley Community Trust (QCT) kindly provided the funding for our last Public Meeting and also how they provided money for us to buy Public Liability Insurance with. We have also received £250 from Quedgeley Parish Council to help fund The Big Lunch we are holding this summer.

BK then briefly spoke of future events to be held by Kingsway Residents' Association. The first one is part of a nationwide event called The Big Lunch on Sunday 18th July. We will be holding it in the park next to the primary school and everyone brings their own little picnic and we all use it as an opportunity to meet our fellow villagers and socialise. We will also have a few other things going on at the same time like stalls etc. BK then spoke of the Kingsway Fun Day being organised by Gloucester Housing Association (GHA) on Wednesday 11th August over on Waterwells Football Field from 11am – 4pm. People such as the emergency services will be attending; there will be BBQ food and refreshments; there'll be a tuck shop; a bouncy castle; a hovercraft; climbing walls; Heart FM will be covering the

event too! GHA will be providing a shuttle bus to ferry people between Kingsway and Waterwells. BK mentioned the two other upcoming events will be detailed at a later stage but there will be one round Hallowe'en and one round Christmas. He also said if anyone is interested in being part of 5-a-side to contact him as the Headteacher of the primary school said we could use their pitch, and it's a great way to meet people of the village.

BK spoke of a "Constitution" which the Residents' Association needs to adopt in order to be eligible for more funding etc. We have drafted a rough copy and BK asked if anyone has any expertise in this area would they be willing to contact him to help/comment on our draft Constitution.

BK closed the meeting by confirming the date of the next Public Meeting as Friday 20th August 2010.

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