

KINGSWAY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION **PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: Friday 26th February 2010
TIME: 8pm
PLACE: Kingsway Community Centre
COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Barry Kirby, Kimberley Poppitt, Clive Barton, Morwenna Grindle, David Clough, Mark Spooner, Tracey Hodgson, Emma Lane, Sarah Jones
GUEST PRESENTERS: **Mr Parmjit Dhanda MP** (our local Member of Parliament)
PC Frazer Mackie (our local Community Police Officer)
Mr Chris Jones (representative of our local Navy Training Corps)

Mr Barry Kirby (BK) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, and also thanking Quedgeley Community Trust for kindly sponsoring our cheese and wine night. BK mentioned he hoped we could perhaps have a similar 'fun' format for future meetings to encourage people to attend. BK briefly filled in the attendees on what the Residents' Association Committee had been up to since it was formed just before Christmas, and spoke about who we are and what we aim to do for Kingsway (ie: hope to organise community events to bring about a more village community feel, and also help be a sounding board for problems people may be having on Kingsway and see what we can do to help them).

BK spoke about what he had learnt about the finishing/adoption of the roads in Kingsway: the adoption will be done in phases and as each phase is finished it will then be passed onto Severn Trent Water before finally being adopted by the local Council.

A risk assessment will be done on the local pavements, especially Thatcham Avenue, to assess whether any further work needs to be done. After any such work is carried out the pavements will then be surfaced and finished properly.

BK had been informed by QUVL that the road entrance between Woodvale and Naas Lane will be kept shut as there are construction works due to start round there in the near future, and QUVL didn't want construction traffic to start using that entrance as it would cause too much inconvenience to Kingsway villagers.

On 25th March 2010 there will be a meeting comprising someone from the Kingsway Residents' Association Committee, someone from QUVL, someone from the City Council and someone from the County Council regarding Kingsway, any problems it may have and its way forward.

BK confirmed he had made contact with the new Project Manager from QUVL for Kingsway. The Project Manager wants a good relationship with us, and also he will try to give us adoption dates of certain phases.

The lighting under the overpass bridge (on Valley Gardens) is apparently the wrong type of lighting and that's why it doesn't work! All lights there and around Kingsway are going to be finished by the end of March.

PC Frazer Mackie (FM) is Quedgeley's Community Beat Manager and spoke about how there will be more staff to come as Kingsway is expanding so rapidly (there are currently 5 members of the force responsible for Kingsway).

FM said how their top priority was to install the Youth Pod to help stop youths congregating in undesirable places. Youth Services can interact with them in the pod and hope to offer

things like doing the Duke of Edinburgh Award etc. The Youth Pod is to be erected on 12th April 2010.

FM said approx a third to a half of crime in Quedgeley is associated with Kingsway, and that this figure is in proportion with the size of Kingsway. The police cannot prosecute people for speeding on Kingsway as the roads aren't adopted by the Council and it's classed as private land.

There will be a large main Police Station called "Waterwells II" to be opened in Quarter I of 2013. This will mean a bigger police presence in Kingsway, which can help act as a deterrent.

A question was asked by an attendee to FM about the opening hours of the local police station in Quedgeley. It's 9-5 Mon-Fri but we can get hold of them 24 hours a day by phone, e-mail etc. and there will never be a police car too far away for a quick response time to Kingsway. Another attendee asked whether Emergency Service vehicles can use the road under the overpass bridge where the bus bollard is. FM answered that as of yet they haven't been able to use it, but there are several plans being spoken about on how this can be changed in the future.

An attendee asked FM how he found getting around Kingsway as it is such a maze and he agreed. The person then suggested perhaps we could get street signs with "such and such a street *leading to* such and such a street" made to help people find where they're going.

Mr Chris Jones (CJ) is s representative of the local Navy training corps in Quedgeley, based at the Kingsway Community Centre. CJ spoke briefly about the organisation: they are a registered set-up charity and are not MOD funded. They work with youngsters aged 8-18 years and help instil Navy values into them. They currently have 25 cadets and do a range of activities such as power-boating, map-reading, shooting range etc. They are looking for more adult volunteers and all meet twice a week at the Kingsway Community Centre (Mon and Thurs 7pm-9pm) at a cost of £2 per head to help cover renting the Centre, getting the uniforms etc. CJ encouraged everyone to spread the word and think about getting themselves and their child involved.

Mr Parmjit Dhanda (PD) is our local Member of Parliament for Gloucester and Quedgeley. He was elected in 2001. PD spoke covering the following topics:

How we need facilities in such a growing community. Pressure on health services is a big issue. There should be some news in March regarding GP services for 4000 new patients in the Kingsway area and PD is confident the surgery will be in Kingsway itself.

PD has been to Kingsway Primary School and said how much it's growing, and that they may be getting a Sure Start Children's Centre.

PD spoke briefly about our local football team Quedgeley Wanderers and how he helped get some money for a new astro-turf pitch, which is now a great incentive for getting children to join.

PD spoke of his hope of seeing the Community Beat Team for Quedgeley/Kingsway grow in years to come.

PD mentioned the Javelin Park incinerator plans and how he's still fighting against them. He does not feel it's in the best interest of the people of Gloucester, and that we can still do more in the recycling side of things instead of an incinerator.

During a Q&A session a resident asked why are we paying Council Tax if the Council doesn't own anything in Kingsway? PD answered how we need some clarity from the Developers' about when the streets can be adopted, so the Council can do something about the state of them etc. One resident said they reported some fly-tipping to the Council and the Council did come to move it but were extremely reluctant about it to begin with.

Another resident asked about whether there were plans for NHS Dental Services as part of the health service agenda PD has been pushing. PD answered that his main priority had been getting GP places for the people of Kingsway as people can get ill at the drop of a hat, but regarding a dentist we tend to normally only go once or twice a year for a check up and it is perhaps more tolerable going into Gloucester for dental as opposed to when you're ill and

need to see a GP. PD mentioned he believed there were still some NHS patient places available at some of the dentist surgeries on Eastgate Street.

During the general discussion at this meeting, one resident mentioned getting a rapport going with the Citizen newspaper as they seem to Kingsway-bash all the time. BK said we now have 2 press-secretaries on the Committee who are establishing a relationship with a reporter at the Citizen, and that we are aiming to get at least one article a month published regarding Kingsway, told from our point of view instead of the reporters. This will also bring Kingsway into the public eye more, and get our name out there to let people know who we are!

BK briefly spoke of the rest of the year events we are planning:

An Easter Hunt and Fete on Saturday 3rd April.

The Big Lunch on Sunday 18th July.

A Hallowe'en event.

A Christmas event.

BK then advertised a “nearly new” sale by the National Childbirth Trust on Saturday 27th February at The Crypt School.

BK closed the meeting by asking if anyone wanted to consider joining the Kingsway Residents' Association Committee as we are currently one member short.

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

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

Kingsway Village Community Blog

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