

Kingsway Residents Association Public Meeting

Minutes

27 November 2009, 8pm at Kingsway Community Centre (Gladiator Meeting Room)

<u>Committee Members present:</u>	Barry Kirby - Chairperson (BK), Kimberley Poppitt - Secretary (KP), Morwena Grindle - Press Liaison (MG), Sarah Jones - Social Secretary (SJ), Clive Barton - Press Liaison (CB).
<u>Committee Member apologies:</u>	David Clough - Treasurer, Tracey Hodgson - Social Secretary, Steve Gurd - Social Secretary, Steve Martin - Social Secretary, Mark Spooner - Social Secretary.
<u>Guests</u>	Mike Reeve - Resident Representative for Gloucester Housing Association GHA / Guinness Partnership (MR).
<u>Minutes:</u>	Kimberley Poppitt - Secretary (KP).

1	Welcome
	BK welcomed all participants and opened the meeting. BK spoke about the venue choice and reasons behind it, namely that if we would have chosen the local primary school, instead of the community centre, it would have cost £20 to hire whereas we had managed to hire the community centre free of charge on this particular occasion. BK spoke of applying for a grant from the parish council to cover venue hire charges for future meetings for FY 09/10 and FY 10/11.
2	The Kingsway Residents Association Committee
	BK explained that an election - as mentioned on the orange flyer posted two weeks ago - would not be necessary. This was owing to the fact there were ten positions on the committee available to fill and exactly ten people had volunteered to fill said positions. The committee stands as follows: CHAIRPERSON - Barry Kirby; SECRETARY - Kimberley Poppitt; TREASURER - David Clough; PRESS LIAISON - Morwena Grindle; PRESS LIAISON - Clive Barton; SOCIAL SECRETARY - Sarah Jones; SOCIAL SECRETARY - Tracey Hodgson; SOCIAL SECRETARY - Steve Gurd; SOCIAL SECRETARY - Steve Martin; SOCIAL SECRETARY - Mark Spooner.
3	Guest Speaker - Mike Reeve (Resident Representative for GHA / Guinness Partnership)
	MR introduced himself and explained he was a Resident Representative for GHA / Guinness Partnership in the Podsmead area and that he also has ties to Kingsway. MR said his main reason for speaking at the meeting was to highlight the danger of only having one full time access road onto the Kingsway estate (the one off the A38). He spoke with concern about an incident which happened on 29/10/09 during which an accident on the A38 meant the access road for Kingsway was shut for four hours. During this time a doctor had tried to get onto Kingsway to visit an ill child but was not allowed into the village via this road, and instead was forced to park his car at Matalan and walk almost a mile to get to the ill child's house. MR stated there are 5 other access roads onto Kingsway - none of which are open - and he was petitioning on behalf of GHS / Guinness Partnership and the Kingsway residents to get another one of these access roads opened. Committee members and residents attending the meeting signed the petition and MR left some more blank petitions with us to be passed around the neighbourhood for signing (deadline TBA). MR also mentioned that in the covering letter with the petition he was going to ask for more post boxes

	<p>to be put on Kingsway as we only have one in the village.</p> <p>MR mentioned the possibility of applying for funds through GHA / Guinness Partnership for giving general help to the Kingsway Residents Association - for example to help pay for venue hire costs.</p> <p>MR promised to get Martin Beecham to fax us the names of the Kingsway Resident Representatives for GHA / Guinness Partnership, as he himself is the rep for Podsmead.</p>
4	Group Discussions
	<p>The meeting attendees were split into two discussion groups. The aim of the discussions was to speak about three areas: the positives aspects of Kingsway; the negative aspects of Kingsway; any ideas to help shape the future of Kingsway. The discussions resulted in the following points being made:</p> <p>POSITIVE ASPECTS OF KINGSWAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Friendly neighbours. ★ Open spaces. ★ Sports field. ★ Benches in parks. ★ Park facilities (ie: playground equipment). ★ Local primary school. ★ The orchard near the school is nice for walks. ★ Different styled houses. ★ Mixed size of houses all placed together to help prevent a "them and us" mentality. ★ Younger people involved with the community. ★ Crime is definitely not as bad as it's made out to be. ★ Good transport links, ie: easy access to M5; Park & Ride. ★ Kingsway Residents Association and the villagers' website. <p>NEGATIVE ASPECTS OF KINGSWAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ The terrible state of the road and pavements on Thatcham Avenue. ★ Lack of proper parking spaces throughout Kingsway (especially Thatcham Avenue) which results in haphazard parking - thus causing problems to traffic and pedestrians. ★ Lack of enforcement with regards to double yellow lines. ★ Blocking of access road on Woodvale due to Robert Hitchins Ltd. putting rubble there to prevent said access. ★ The promised shops/facilities/amenities have not been built. ★ A lack of communication between developers and the residents about their future plans for Kingsway. ★ Developers have not shown accounts to residents who pay a "Maintenance Fee". ★ Construction traffic blocking our roads (therefore restricting emergency access) and ruining the surfaces - and the contractors being abusive when challenged, especially on Henlow Drive. ★ Traffic bollards on roads often broken due to poor driving and vandalism. ★ Unfinished roads and pavements throughout Kingsway, even on phases which have long since finished being built on.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ No telephone box. ★ Kingsway doesn't exist on SatNavs, GoogleEarth etc. ★ Bad press reports making the village out to be a crime ridden, horrible place to live. ★ Lack of communication from QUVL, which is frustrating as we have bought our houses, paid our money and we live here yet they seem to have forgotten about us. ★ First roundabout when you come onto Kingsway is bare and neglected due to the maintenance company not doing anything with it to make it look welcoming. ★ Some roads do not have road name signs, or the signs are broken and haven't been repaired. ★ There is a sign pointing to the large map of Kingsway, but the map is no longer there. <p>IDEAS TO HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF KINGSWAY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ BK mentioned in previous meeting about a 5-a-side football team possibly being formed over on Waterwells Business Park - if this became reality it would bring the community closer together as people could meet and make new friends, get healthy and have fun. ★ Possibility of organising outdoor seasonal get-togethers such as Christmas Fayres, Easter Egg Hunts, Hallowe'en events. ★ Possibility of organising indoor social events such as regular group yoga classes etc. ★ Invite local Councillors to one of the next Residents Association meetings to highlight what they are doing for our community, and also so the Councillors can get information from the residents about what they would like to be done for the area. ★ Investigate Youth Pod as a possible (free!) venue for future Residents Association meetings.
5	Closing of the meeting
	<p>BK thanked MR and all attendees for coming to the meeting and participating. It was decided we would hold Kingsway Residents Association Public Meetings once a quarter from here on in. The Kingsway Residents Association Committee Members are to decide later on between themselves how often they want to hold committee meetings.</p>