



Kingsway

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KRA AGM Minutes: 23rd Nov' 2015

Committee Members Present: Joe Logan (Chair), Dave Talbot (Media), Clive Barton (Secretary), Richard Cook.

Apologies Received from: Sian Krotiuk, Kevin Lee, Andy Smith

1. Welcome & Presentation

Joe welcomed all to the meeting (approximately 25 attending, including several local councillors), and invited all present to tender questions during the meeting.

2. Reachout! Update

Q-Club Manager Richard Burnham gave the latest update for the Reachout! project (Est' 2013): Reachout! Aims to build relationships with youths (age 11-18) to assist/mentor young people and pre-empt antisocial behaviour issues.

Niall Jones took over from Holly Ford who emigrated to Spain during 2015.

Niall took some young people to "Frightmare" and is now engaging with young people on the streets of Quedgeley/Kingsway (mostly on Tuesdays).

3. Quedgeley News Update

Andy Jarrett announced that Dave Talbot (QN Editor) has now also become a Director.

Kevin Tudor (Director and Debt Collector) has stood down.

The QN has advertising space and opportunities for local business.

They are still seeking volunteer distributors for "bulk drops" and for volunteers to assist with Social Media work and Debt Collection.

Two ladies present mentioned that they don't get copies. Andy took their details and promised to look into it (addresses were Wainfleet Avenue & Dishforth Drive).

4. QUVL Update

Joe said that Andy Smith is now only working for 1 day per week on Kingsway and is in London today (apologies received), so Joe presented the information supplied by Andy (as follows):

Allotments:

Construction continues (building etc), now on-site and hoping for handover to GCC / QPC first thing after Christmas.

Street Lighting:

We are installing columns to the Persimmon Road – Swannington Drive – from the school through to Naas Lane today and tomorrow, and these should be lit this week.

Waterwells Primary Area:

We have contractors booked to renew the line markings outside the school and to mark 'Give Way' markings at Goose Bay / Boulmer and Boulmer / Wendling junctions.





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Adoptions:

- a. Open Spaces adopted by GCC now include the large Pond off Goose Bay Drive, and the pond and land behind the Barn Owl.
- b. The play area off Goose Bay Drive is due to be handed over later this week.
- c. Highways: All bus routes are now adopted, along with Brize Avenue between Thatcham Ave and Chatsworth Ave.

Please remember that GCC / the police now have full jurisdiction over these roads.

- d. Highways: Buckenham Walk, footways and Goose Bay / Brize Ave' are undergoing final inspections and should be able to be adopted in a month or so.

Place of Worship:

We are still told by the Jehovah's Witnesses that they wish to complete on this imminently, and remain hopeful of this happening this year.

Upcoming work 2016:

- a. Another play area (NEAP) between Abbey Homes and the back of Naas Lane
- b. Hope to start allotments off Goose bay Drive – opposite Waterwells primary late in 2016
- c. Road surfacing where practicable – Goose Bay Drive.

QUVL Q&A:

Q: About bin and dog bin placements around Kingsway.

A: Joe explained the situation (surveys & delays) and said the QPC is now lobbying the council.

Q: Road sign on Staxton Drive is still awaited (the original was stolen).

A: Joe explained that the road is not yet adopted and it's most likely that the sign will not be replaced until adoption is imminent.

Q: Local Doctors Surgery.

A: Joe outlined the situation and history/concerns over the local demographic. Barry Kirby (Glos County Council) added that there is talk of an area of scrubland near to Linda Virgoe Dance Studios which may make a better joint site for a joint Kingsway/Huntsgrove medical centre, and several other ideas/possibilities were also mentioned and discussed.

Q: Bus Routes.

A: Many Stagecoach routes were subsidised by the council and the QUVL, and those subsidies have now been removed, so Stagecoach now make all decisions, with little or no consultation and with no real relevance to local need! Cllr Kirby added his disappointment at the situation and applauded the QPC for encouraging Stagecoach to improve the situation. He is trying to get them to change the route numbers from 66E, 66F, 66S etc (numbers denote the destination: Eastington, Fretherne, Stroud, etc) and mentioned a consultation available on the GCC website.





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5. **Police Update** (Presented by Joe Logan)

The Quedgeley office (station) is no longer used and the numbers of Police have diminished to the stage where there are no longer dedicated officers per area, but one team policing the entire city, concentrating on areas as required.

Joe also presented a communication from Sergeant Williams who said:

“As you are no doubt aware, the service nationally is having to contract due to budget restraints, perhaps even more so when we hear of the further savings in the Chancellors statement on Wednesday. The website has an update on the role of neighbourhood policing in Gloucestershire from Supt Cooper. The most relevant part is as follows:

“Constables and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) will continue to work in each area but a key change will be that we will now police the county as ‘one team’. This means we will deploy our officers and PCSOs at the times, and in the places, where they are needed most. We will make this assessment not just by responding to daily demand but also by assessing on a regular basis up-to-date intelligence to pinpoint where harm and vulnerability are greatest.”

What this means is that although I have overall responsibility for issues in Gloucester South, which includes Kingsway, I also have to direct resources to other areas based on demand and manage an investigation team which covers the whole of Gloucester as well.

There are still neighbourhood PC's. PC Jenny FRASER covers Kingsway. Jenny has just gained a promotion to Sergeant and is awaiting a posting. In the interim PC Simon EVANS (Quedgeley) and PC Andy DOYLE (Tuffley) are filling the gap and I am seeking some confirmation over Jenny's replacement.

Kevin and the other PCSO's that have historically served the area are now deployed to where the demand is needed at any certain time. In theory if there is a particular problem, they could be deployed out of Kingsway for several days in a row. However Kevin will patrol the area as much as he can.

What does this mean for the residents of Kingsway?

Kingsway suffers from the same crime problems as the rest of the Gloucester area and from the figures I don't see any heightened issues. Residents should just take the basic crime prevention measures and report suspicious behaviour/people on the 101 system.

With regards to anti-social behaviour, there are the seasonal peaks and dips with regards to youths and some regular issues with some of the tenants. It is really important that if residents are experiencing issues in the street, or with their neighbours, they report them to either their housing association, or to us. We work closely with the housing providers and often find that they can provide solutions, when behaviour falls short of the threshold where Police powers come into play.

Please keep lines of communication open with us. Our direct numbers and emails are on the website and of course we can be contacted through the 101 system. It is more important than ever that problems are reported. The service is increasingly demand led, and resources are allocated according to this. If we don't know there is a problem in an area, resources won't be put into that area.”

Joe spoke about the Police web page “Crime Map” (see resources) and mentioned that Kingsway crime statistics have fallen over the past 12 months.





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Cllr Kirby spoke about the historical situation, the current situation (non-recruitment) and *more* expected cuts, and mentioned a consultation on the Police & Crime website regarding paying an extra 2% Council Tax to improve the situation (see resources).

6. Kingsway Residents' Association

Joe introduced committee members attending and mentioned Sian Krotiuk from Copeland Park who has been working with us throughout 2015.

Litter Pick (April 2015)

Another successful litter picking event took place in April, organised by the KRA.

Joe also mentioned that the QPC now employ a dedicated litter-picker for Kingsway/Copeland, the QUVL occasionally employ litter-picking contractors and both Tesco and Asda supply litter-pickers for their respective areas.

Big Lunch 2015

This event has been improved and expanded year on year. In 2015 we moved the event to the sports field and once again saw a huge increase in attendance (estimated around 3,000 people).

Once again the event was funded by contributions/fund-raising and the "KRA's coffers" and Joe mentioned that the event takes increasingly more time and effort to organise, and that we are in dire need of volunteers to assist with this event in future years.

Halloween 'Trick or Treat' 2015

Once again this event proved popular with the KRA committee in full fancy dress, providing treats to local children and snapping pic's of the amazing costumes on show.

Joe expressed our regret at the loss of Coco Coffee Lounge who supported the event in previous years, and our gratitude to our local Tesco Express who took a (major) part in this year's event.

KRA: Other Activity

Joe outlined our other 'regular' activities as follows:

Monitoring issues affecting Kingsway	Regular meetings with QUVL, City and County Councils
Support for ReachOut!	Facebook Membership
Kingsway Blog	Quedgeley Parish Council (support and membership)

7. KRA Finances

	2014	2015
Opening Balance	£2,120.37	£1954.01
Income	£2,782.11	£1,160.66
Expenditure	£2,948.47	£1,281.61
Closing Balance	£1,954.01	£1,833.06





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8. AOB

Barry Kirby Update:

Glos County Council are expecting a 30% cut which will affect all areas! Precepts are likely to increase everywhere (except in the Cotswolds). Devolution will also play a part (Government regulations re 'County Mayor' are 'unworkable'). Fire service consultation: May affect Cirencester (and for example for the recent Quay fire, engines came from around the county). Painswick may close... This *might* make a difference all over the county.

Post Boxes:

BK gave an update (regarding the number/position of post-boxes in Kingsway). The Post Office has given little help on the issue.

Bus Stops:

Barry mentioned the Bus Stops on the bend in Thatcham Avenue and by double-yellow-lines.

'Active Together for Youth' fund:

The fund has donated money for numerous local groups (contact Barry for details). There is still a little left for Kingsway/Grange, so contact BK if you need funding.

Ward Boundaries: Will make space for an additional councilor (could be non-partisan).

Q: Re' Updating Recycle Bins

A: Is a City Council matter; BK doesn't think it will happen soon (funding problems).

Q: Re' dog fouling in Buckingham Walk, and dogs off-lead scaring children.

A: BK recommends challenging the owners or calling 101.

Graham Smith said the QPC have some signs available and recommends using a mobile to record incidents and forward them to the Police. (Graham also mentioned that the QPC use the Kingsway Community Centre from 09:30-13:00 on Tuesdays & Fridays).

Joe Logan mentioned that all these constitute Anti-Social Behaviour and should be reported to the Police (101).

Q: Re' water volume problem affecting Stafford Close: Is anyone else affected?

A: No.

Joe Logan spoke about the QPC and all the things they do on our behalf, (noting that their budget may also be affected and many things are on hold whilst they await news on that).

Joe also spoke about the Kingsway Residents' Association ("Where do we go from here") and stated that we will be changing our constitution at the next public meeting (away from 'local issues', towards 'entertainment and local events').

The next public meeting will be held on Wednesday March 23rd 2016.

Resources:

Kingsway Residents Association (Web): www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk/residents-association

KRA Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Kingsway.Glos

Kingsway Blog: www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk/blog

Police: Kingsway Crime Map: www.police.uk/gloucestershire/BB3/crime/

Police: Consultation: (+2% Council Tax): www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk: Consultation

