

Kingsway Community Centre

Chair: Barry Kirby (KRA Chairman)

Minutes: Clive Barton

Guests Speakers: Ian Mean (Citizen: Editor –In-Chief)

Sam Jones (Quedgeley Community Police)

Andy Smith (QUVL Project Manager)

Barry Kirby opened the meeting with a brief introduction, stressing the informal nature of our meetings and emphasising the intent to give residents a chance to meet and chat.

### Underpass/Bollard

Barry notified the meeting that the “automatic bollard” was replaced by the new ANPR camera system (with fines) because of constant problems caused by vandalism to the bollard, which prevented emergency access.

Barry stressed that the Residents Association aren't “backing/supporting” the idea of fines; on the contrary, he wished to warn residents of the new system in order to prevent people from incurring fines unnecessarily.

Barry mentioned that –during the first 7-day period, 600 cars were recorded and fines issued! That figure is gradually diminishing.

A resident mentioned that cars left by the Balancing Pond were clamped.

Jackie Hall (Glos' County Council) stated that the City Council is issuing fines – not to raise revenue, but to deter drivers from using the underpass. She also said that they are considering improving local signage.

A resident asked where the money goes. Fred Wood (City Council member for Quedgeley, Fieldcourt) said it goes from City Council to County Council to Highways Department. When asked if it could be given back to the community, Fred and Jackie said they are looking into it, but didn't want to give any added incentives for people to use the underpass.

### County Council Boundary Review

The review proposes that Kingsway moves from Quedgeley to Lower Tuffley. If this proposal is accepted, the city boundaries may come under review. The Quedgeley Parish wards (currently 2) would become 4.

Kingsway could leave the Quedgeley Parish Council and create its own Parish Council. The meeting discussed the likely consequences and Council Tax contributions etc.

Barry will pursue the matter for more info' and report back at future meetings.

### Bus Network Review (Service No's: 10/14/113)

There are 2 proposals. Barry encouraged residents to visit <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/busreview> and give our views/support the No 14 service (See Fig' 2).

Jackie Hall supported that and suggested residents use the comments facility on the web page to give their views or write in (by 27/6). There are meetings (Guildhall – 2/6 and Eastgate Market – 4/6) and all residents are encouraged to fight for the local bus services.

### Ian Mean (The Citizen)

Ian introduced himself and said that he has been Editor In Chief of The Citizen and Echo for 8<sup>1/2</sup> years.

He said he was impressed by the turnout.

Ian thinks that the Glos' County Council have been quite inactive over recent years, particularly regarding the elderly (ageing population). He also talked about the European tendency toward family support.

Re' Education: Ian is keen on the "Academy" ideal and is not generally impressed with Junior Schools' performance; he believes children need to achieve a good level of education by 8/9 or it's too late.

Re' Waste: He talked about the £1 Billion contract for the waste incinerator and mentioned that the recycle rates are generally good in Gloucester, and very good in The Cotswolds.

Re' Citizen Articles about Kingsway: Ian admitted that he wasn't very proud or impressed by the negative articles published about Kingsway, but that they were triggered by (originated from) calls from members of the public.

Ian said that they haven't been informed (by the QUVL) of developments and schedule changes etc and that he would like an infrastructure timetable from them, along with information and statistics relating to Kingsway, from the Police and County Council. He would also like more information about positive aspects and stories related to Kingsway.

Mark Spooner (former Kingsway Residents Association committee member) mentioned that a reporter was invited to our "Big Lunch" event in 2010, but failed to show up. He challenged Ian to get a reporter there for the 2011 event. Ian said he would do so.

Mr Chambers (resident) was annoyed that negative stories make Page 1, whereas positive stories tend to be buried.

Andy Smith (QUVL) blames the devaluation of local properties and a general lack of interest in buying in Kingsway on the negative press and stated that all of the developers agree.

Ian was asked why Page 1 stories based on anonymous 'phone calls are published without any attempt to validate their substance.

After a lively debate, Ian summed up by asking the QUVL to keep him informed, and encouraging local people to come forward with more positive stories about the area.

Barry reinforced the idea that local residents need to approach The Citizen with positive stories and ammunition to help change the thrust of their coverage and the public's perception of Kingsway.

### Sam Jones (Community Police)

Sam said that Emma McDonald has joined Lucy to double our coverage, consequently there are now 4 Community Police Officers patrolling Kingsway.

Sam reported that approximately 10 local burglaries in (around) 7 days were the work of a recently released offender, now back in custody.

Re' Kingsway SARA Plan: Speeding and ASB are the current targets:

#### Speeding:

Sam repeated recent news that the 30MPH speed limit IS enforceable.

Woodvale was monitored; average speed was 27MPH. Thatcham was monitored; average speed was 24MPH.

It was generally agreed that people's perception of speed is often flawed, and a resident argued that speed limits are less important than the appropriate speed for the conditions/circumstances.

Sam said that – if we still see speeding as a problem, they may consider additional speed control methods.

#### ASB

Big Park: Mostly caused by youths. They have discussed "Police Cubs" and other youth facilities (local Youth Shelter etc).

Underpass: The Police are dispersing youths found gathering there, but are aware that there is currently no local youth provision.

Regarding local ASB in general, it was revealed that more than 25% of calls/incidents in one period had originated in Sarston Place; two local families were constantly "at war", one has since been moved and the subsequent level of complaints has been vastly reduced. All residents have also been asked to sign a "Good Neighbour Agreement" by their Housing Association landlord.

Kingsway Youth Pod: QCT and Prospects are discussing the possibility of taking control of Equals Youth Centre. The Police and (several) local Housing Associations are keen to provide facilities in Kingsway, thus are discussing the future of the Youth Pod.

#### Andy Smith (QUVL)

##### Progress

Since the February meeting, much green space has been planted, fencing removed and footpaths completed, and local lighting has been repaired and connected. More dog bins and litter bins have been installed and they are being emptied more regularly.

##### Play Parks

Last week the Bristol Road play area (part of the Charles Church development) was opened (for 6-7 year-olds).

Recent safety audits carried out on both play areas in Kingsway, reported that a slide, a roundabout and some fencing is damaged, and obscene graffiti was painted over in the big park.

Andy said that the play-park signs are to be changed to include an indication of their target age ranges, to try to encourage "appropriate use".

##### Adoption

QUVL's current target is to get Woodvale & Valley Gardens (and Woodvale-Naas Lane) adopted during the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2011; then onto Thatcham Avenue (target for Thatcham road surfacing is October. They also want to get the local parks and play areas adopted by Q4.

##### Sports Park

(East of shops / Halfway to Naas Lane... will include 2 shelters) Andy wants to get it done by October 2011, but reported that electric cable is delaying the start.

##### Shop Units

Tesco's / Badham's units are on target to be handed over in July.

The link road from Naas Lane (Linda Virgo's) to Valley Gardens is not yet open to public traffic, but should be ready when the shops open in July.

### Sports Pitches

Andy reported that – after an 18 month investigation – Environmental Agencies have now approved plans to bury ‘contaminated soil’ (non-toxic, not man-made, simply high in sulphur content and quite common in the Quedgeley area) 4 metres below the Sports Field (suitably surrounded and drained). The pitches should be laid and pavilions built next year. The QUVL will liaise with local residents before completing the pitches.

### Community Centre

Robert Hitchins have renewed the lease on the temporary premises until May 2012, when the QUVL expect to complete the (permanent) Kingsway Community Centre. Andy stated that the delay was due to lack of house sales.

### Allotments

Still 2-3 years away (are tied in with some of the Taylor-Wimpey housing parcels to provide access).

Management of the allotments is still undecided (Quedgeley Parish Council, Glos’ City Council or a Local Management Group).

### AOB

The Quedgeley Show will be held on July 16<sup>th</sup> (coincides with Severn Vale School’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary) at Severnvale School.

### Web

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

Kingsway Residents Association

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Kingsway Village Community Website