



Kingsway

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KRA Public Meeting Minutes: 9th July 2014

KRA Members Attending: Joe Logan (Chair), Clive Barton, Dave Talbot, Gill White, Michelle Ryder, Lisa Short.

1. Introduction.

The meeting began at 7:30pm with more than 40 people in attendance. Joe Logan (Chairman) welcomed all to the meeting and gave a short introduction.

2. Reachout! Update.

Joe summarised the role of the local Reachout! Project, and reported that the previous youth worker (Jess Price) has left. The role is vacant and a suitable replacement is being sought.

3. Kingsway Community Centre.

Joe summarised progress; latest completion date is Mid-August. He also mentioned that interested parties are due to tour the facilities (Community Centre & Sports Pavilion) on Friday.

4. Community Police Update.

PC Toni Merchant and her colleague gave an update on Kingsway Community Police matters: Following a spate of damage to cars (mostly wing mirrors) 5 individuals have been arrested. There is a speed check underway this week in Kingsway, to assess local driving habits. There followed a discussion about local parking issues, with arguments on both sides. There were discussions over jurisdiction (with regard to adoption), and if/when the Police could become involved. PC Merchant outlined recent local authority changes which have diminished police powers in this respect, although she also stated that the Police will be “taking a much more robust approach” to dangerous parking in the area in future. It was also confirmed that the Council will become involved in trying to solve the (recognised) parking problems in Kingsway, in the future. Residents complained about parking on the Brize Avenue corner. Clive Barton (KRA Secretary) said that he had communicated with Cllr Dave Norman and had subsequently asked (on the blog) for local residents to volunteer to meet Cllr Norman and ‘show him the problem’, but no local residents had volunteered. He asked those in attendance who were familiar with the area to give him their contact details after the meeting. (Sadly nobody did)!

5. Sports Pavilion.

Completion is due in mid-August, (for the Sports Pavilion, the BMX Track and the Car Parks). Grass on the sports pitches area is now 1 year old. It's not yet clear what pitches will be put where. The handover for the pitches will be tied in with the sports pavilion handover, (date not yet known).

6. New Shops (Stage 2).

There will be 11 units. 7 are sold/let (with 2 units being combined). It is thought that the Chinese Warehouse (currently located in unit 6a, Morelands trading estate) are taking 4, and Pizza Hut were named as another likely candidate, (although Joe mentioned that the QUVL have not confirmed this).





Kingsway

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

7. Adoptions.

Joe reported that four green areas (Daniels' Meadow, Valley Gardens to Thatcham Ave, Swale to Chatsworth Ave and Woodland by Marham Drive) are due to be handed over this week.

Linton Avenue surface: Taylor Wimpey has apparently engaged a contractor to start work in Sept'. Joe gave a list of all roads adopted so far: Kingsway, Woodvale, Thatcham Ave' (up to the green area mentioned above and Valley Gardens from the traffic lights to the green area mentioned above. There followed a lively discussion about adoption of green areas and of adoption in general.

8. Cllr Dave Norman MBE.

Cllr Norman introduced himself as our newly elected City Councillor (since 22nd May), stating that he also has a cabinet seat for "Performance & Resources" on the City Council.

He is considering holding Saturday morning surgeries at the new Kingsway Community Centre.

Dave invites local residents to contact him by email at: david.norman@gloucester.gov.uk

Dave said that – in response to complaints from residents about the early morning bus service, he has asked the council to check the situation with regard to assessing the need for a double-decker bus at that time of day. One resident said that the bus is always empty when it passes his house, whilst another resident (who said that she catches that bus on occasion), said that it always seems very full! There was mention of the buses speeding in parts of Kingsway, which Cllr Norman says is an issue that needs to be addressed to Stagecoach.

Dave reported that – as of April 1st 2014, there were 2,300 occupied houses in Kingsway (total planned houses is 3,300).

Boundary Review:

There are currently 36 councillors, but a boundary review is underway due to the size of Quedgeley. Dave reported that the Fieldcourt ward is currently 33% larger than the next biggest in the city, and that authorities are also considering reviewing the boundaries for Hempstead, Kingsholm & Wooton. Both individuals and organisations can make their recommendations to the Boundary Committee (before January 2015).

Dave said that plans for local boundary reformation in 2016 have shortened his term to 2 years, and mentioned that his County Council colleague Deb' Llewellyn (now Mayor of Gloucester) will have her term reduced to 12 months.

Q & A Session:

Local Healthcare Centre: We have a plot, but so far, no interested parties, although Cllr Norman said to "watch this space" as there may be some progress soon.

Local Secondary Schools (Capacity and Catchment): There are no plans for any further secondary schools at present. Residents were reminded that catchment areas and 'boundaries' no longer exist for secondary school selection as 'parental choice' now allows us all to apply to any school, regardless of location.

9. KRA 2014.

Joe Logan reported that the 2014 Kingsway Big Lunch event was once again a great success. Joe underlined the fact that the entire event was organised by the 7 KRA committee members and 2 volunteers, and urged local residents to please get involved – and interact with – the KRA.

Joe confirmed that we have plans for a 2014 Halloween event (as previous years).

Joe talked about the success of our first local litter picking event (April 20th 2013), and asked for volunteers to help us set up another one.

Joe reported that – in response to news that "Flutterbugs" (a local community playgroup) have had their playhouse (a "Role play outdoor cottage") stolen from their garden, the KRA has decided to donate £200.00 towards its replacement.





Kingsway

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

10. AOB.

Local County Councillor Barry Kirby called upon people to tell the County Council when they have problems, saying “if problems are reported and nothing is done, please nag us”, and adding “issues can sometimes get lost due to personnel changes”.

Cllr Kirby mentioned that he has a grant fund of £40k available to help local community groups, with an emphasis on physical activity (“getting active”), which is valid for 2 years. Barry urged local people and organisations to apply for this funding (where appropriate).

Cllr Kirby also mentioned that residents should bear in mind that some services (like grass cutting and border maintenance) are likely to become less frequent after adoption.

Joe Logan mentioned that the Council are often willing to offer ‘ownership’ of some of the small and “odd strips / patches” of land that are not being looked after, to local residents who are willing to maintain them.

Residents experiencing trouble contacting the QUVL can call 396396 and ask the City Council to contact them on your behalf.

Bus Shelters: Other than the shelter on Newhaven Road, there was no planning requirement for any more bus shelters in Kingsway. The QUVL are trying to get sponsorship (in return for advertising) to fund further shelters, and Glos’ County Council are also pursuing sponsorship avenues.

Park Maintenance: In response to questions about who maintains the parks in Kingsway, the answer (rather predictably) was that they are currently maintained by various sources (depending on adoption status). Cllr Norman mentioned that park names will be displayed on boards (signs) erected in the parks, and that the appearance of such signs would indicate that the park has been adopted and is now under Council maintenance.

Discussions followed about the possibility of getting additional play equipment in the parks in Kingsway, with a mention of play equipment for disabled children. Cllrs Kirby and Norman suggested that an application for lottery funding might be worthwhile.

Question from the floor asking “What about teenagers, where do they go”? Response was that the park at Buckingham Walk was designed for older children and that there is a youth club available in the Quedgeley Community Centre’s “Q Club”. In addition, the imminent proximity of the Kingsway Community Centre will provide an ideal place for a local Youth Club.

Cllr Graham Smith (Quedgeley Parish Council) mentioned that the QPC is an ‘additional local authority’ level, that is available to help with local issues, and suggested that the Kingsway Residents Association has not made much effort to liaise with the QPC. Joe challenged this by saying that QPC is invited to all KRA public meetings (‘though don’t often attend), and that we (the KRA) have 2 committee members (Dave Talbot and Gill White) who are also serving Quedgeley Parish Councillors.

Meeting closed by Joe at: 21:30hrs.

Resources:

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

Kingsway Village Blog: www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk

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

