



Kingsway

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

KRA (Public) Meeting Minutes: 26th July '17

St James' Church, Quedgeley

Father John (Rector) said that the parish of Quedgeley/Kingsway is the largest (by population) in Gloucester, and that he has been working to make the church a part of the community – regardless of faith – for the 6 years that he has been the Rector at St. James' Church. He would like to have an ordained person living in Kingsway. He said the St. James' Church is over 800 years old and the site is more than 1,000 years old and there is a restoration project underway for the church spire (estimated cost £150k).

Their Tuesday morning 'chatterbox sessions' have been running for 3 years and are often full, (visitors offer a 'donation' of £2 per session), so he is thinking of removing some pews to make space for more.

On Thursdays they have 'Chit Chat' for the elderly which is also very popular. These sessions run from 10am to 12am and are run on a 'donations only' basis (no fees).

Adoptions News

Dave Talbot reported that there have been no updates from the QUVL and he has no updates on adoption of local bus routes.

Richard Cook spoke about delays (and the part lawyers play in them) and also that the QUVL have been very difficult to pin down and bring to meetings in recent months and Cllr Dave Norman agreed, adding that they have done everything they can to get action from the QUVL on adoptions.

Dave Talbot said we (the KRA) will ask them to attend a meeting to give us updates/details and we will get a list of questions ready to put to them; he also invited residents to get in touch with questions/problems in this regard.

Speeding

Richard Cook has speed camera equipment and is looking for volunteers to do 30-60 minute sessions checking speed of local drivers. Speeders are reported to the Police but there is no enforcement, (just a warning letter), but he maintained that the speed-group is a deterrent.

A resident reported issues with speeding on the Brize Avenue bend (corner).

Police

PCSO Kevin Lee reported on the crime stat's for this area over the past 3 months, saying there had been a 'significant reduction' in the numbers of reported crimes and ASB.

2 new officers have been appointed (1 PC, 1 PCSO) and are in training to police this area.

When asked about parking on the pavements/footpaths, Kevin said that parking issues are the biggest issue in the area, and that offenders will only get a ticket for pavement obstruction if 'a single buggy' cannot get past. A resident asked if they could change their approach and give a ticket for driving on the footpath, but Kevin explained that this has been done and successfully contested in the past; so (unless there is a witness to their actually driving on the footpath), this would not be a viable approach.





Kingsway

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Kevin said they do give 'advisory tickets' to warn people about parking issues, but that a fixed penalty notice can only be given with a complainant.

Jennie Watkins said that Matson (Robinswood Primary) are trialing a 'Community Rangers Program' (backed by the local PCSO's) to monitor parking in the school area.

Kingsway Wildlife & Sustainability Group

Sarah Ottaway from the KWSG presented at the KRA meeting in July 2016 and returned this year to give an update on their plans/progress. She now has the support of Nicola Simpson, the Urban Wildlife Team Leader for the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust.

Their aim is to encourage people to cater for wildlife in their gardens and green spaces and they are initially looking at 3 'green corridors' traversing Kingsway and carrying out a survey of all wildlife in the area. They are also currently looking at funding options to allow them to build up the group.

Sarah said there is a healthy local population of hedgehogs, butterflies, dragonflies, etc and that participation in the group is also a good way to get people to spend time outside.

A resident asked about encouraging local developers to add 'bird bricks' to all communal and new buildings.

One of the group's aspirations is to make sure that once the Wildlife Trust has finished helping set the group up, she would like to work towards becoming an 'Urban Nature Reserve'.

Funding will be key, as well as volunteers giving time and effort.

Sarah also mentioned the group's facebook page and invited people to message her with ideas at kingswaywsg@gmail.com.

The group's next meeting is on August 8th, 7:30pm at the Barn Owl.

A resident asked how to encourage birds to enter her garden. She has bird feeders, ponds and plants and she did have blue-tits, robins, etc, but they have left. A discussion followed with advice and ideas and Sarah said that once the group is 'up and running', she will visit their garden and try to help.

Sarah was advised to approach the council for help and possible funding.

Graham Smith (QTC Cllr) asked about hedgehogs and a discussion followed.

Sarah spoke about carrying out a 'Bio-Blitz' in the area, to ascertain the levels of local wildlife and mentioned that she was keen to get the local schools involved.

Dave Talbot invited her to send details in to Quedgeley News for an article.

Dave also mentioned local issues with dog mess and said the KRA and City Council will be starting another campaign (posters, social media etc) to deter it.

Residents mentioned that the dual purpose bins fill up too quickly; were advised to call (396396) and they will be emptied very quickly, but it was generally agreed that this is often used as an excuse by people when confronted about dumping dog waste.





Kingsway

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Sarah mentioned that she had read a study (somewhere 'up North') where dogs had to be registered to be allowed to walk in public spaces and were told that DNA (recovered from waste) would be used to identify offenders. Although this was not true, it did deter people from leaving dog waste behind.

It was pointed out that free dog bags are available at the Kingsway Community Centre every Tuesday (from the QTC) and every day at the QTC offices in Quedgeley.

Big Lunch 2017

Dave Talbot reported on a very successful event (despite the weather), which we will be doing again in 2018. As always, he is looking for input, suggestions and help.

Future Events

We will be holding our regular annual 'Trick or Treat' event on Halloween (Tuesday 31/10) at the local centre. We will also be holding a 'Christmas Tree Lighting/Carol Service' on Saturday December 8th (same place).

Any Other Business

Richard Cook relayed the latest news on the Doctors Surgery: Contractor selection is in progress; work is expected to start in late summer and will take around 12 months to complete.

A discussion followed about the details of the project and the history of the Kingsway Doctor's Facility and reasons for the delays.

Cllr Dave Norman said that councillor contact details are all available on their website and invited residents to keep them informed regularly; Cllr Graham Smith also suggested they can contact the QTC (or it's councilors) in the same way.

Regarding litter, Richard Cook would like 'restorative justice' (make offenders take part in litter picks).

Q: What is being done to stop travellers from using the sports field?

A (Graham Smith): A bollard is being put in place in the centre of the pathway.

Next Meeting

The next public meeting will be the AGM on November 22nd at 7:30pm.

Resources:

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

Kingsway Wildlife & Sustainability Group (facebook): <https://www.facebook.com/KingswayWSG/>

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

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

Kingsway Villagers Website: www.kingsway-villagers.co.uk

