



**WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY
Kingswood Residents Association**

KRA Annual General Meeting - Minutes

Tuesday 14th March 2017

1. Apologies

- Margaret Boyce, Dorothy Thornhill, Keith Crout, Derek Scudder, Joyce Narroway, Sue Osborne,

2. Minutes of the previous year's AGM

- Agreed - Proposed by Betty Ashton , seconded by Julie Parsons

3. Matters arising

- None

4. Chair's Report

- John reported that it had been another busy year with many social activities. The KRA has forwarded concerns on some planning applications on the estate and these are being monitored. The state of the roads on the estate are still a concern. Councillor Derek Scudder has used £20,000 of his locality budget to have the part of Briar Road near the Junior School resurfaced but potholes still remain a concern. Security on the estate is still a worry. There have been thefts from vehicles and burglaries. The KRA are still trying to get the street lights switched back on overnight but so far are not getting anywhere with Herts County Council.
- Local Councillor, Tim Williams has been co-opted to the Officers Committee and a new role has been created and will be added to the Constitution. This will give more of a direct line of contact with the Council.
- Thanks to the Street Reps for their fantastic work. A number of Street Reps have now stood down so the KRA are appealing for new people to come forward.
- Thanks to Officers for their support over the past year.
- Thanks to Glen for stepping in as Treasurer and bringing the accounts up-to-date.
- Thanks to Mel for serving the refreshments and to Girish Metha for his donation towards the cost.
- The KRA have applied to the Police & Crime Commissioner fund for a road safety study on Greenwood Drive junction with the A405. We are pleased that the bid has now progressed to second round.

5. Vice Chair's Report

- Anthony has completed his first year as Vice Chair. Plans for a KRA Clean Up came from suggestions on the KRA Facebook page following reports that residents in some areas had got together to clean up their service road. As part of the Great British Spring Clean, the KRA has arranged an event on Sunday 19th March. Certain areas on the estate will be targeted by volunteers and it is hoped that if successful, this could be a regular clean up and the whole estate will become a better area. Thanks to our Councillors for arranging the equipment. A local scout group will be running a refreshment stand.
- It was suggested that the KRA should have 'aims and objectives' to work toward each year. It is hoped the estate will become a 20mph zone but any further suggestions would be welcomed by Anthony.

6. Secretary's Report

- Lorraine had nothing to report.

7. Treasurer's Report and Audited Accounts

- Glen circulated the accounts for the year 2016 with comparison figures for 2015. It should be remembered that the accounts end on 31/12/16 and income and expenditure so far in 2017 is not included. The accounts have been audited and signed off. Glen went through the accounts with the meeting. It was noticed that there was an increase in membership income and a large part of this was the increased membership in Lamb Close where the KRA now have a Street Rep. There was a substantial loss in advertising revenue in 2016. This was due to the previous Treasurer suffering illness and family issues and did not invoice the advertisers. Invoices have now been sent out for 2017 and are coming in again. There is a new item of Spring Trip on the accounts as the monies for this event are split over account years. The Senior Citizens Lunch and the Children's Christmas Party are subsidised quite heavily and the committee are looking into ways to reduce expenditure on both these events. Donations to good causes

continue. A computer and printer has been purchased for the new Editor to use and this is shown on the accounts as 'Computers' and are assets of the KRA. Computers also include the website hosting fee.

- The balance at the end of the year was £3991, and it was noted that despite the loss of advertising revenue, the KRA still made a profit of £432.
- There were no questions from the meeting about the accounts.

8. Social Secretary's Report

- Pat thanked everyone who helped arrange the social events and those who took part in them. Special thanks to Karen and her team for organising the senior citizens party, children's summer outing and the Xmas shopping trip; Lyn for organising the spring and autumn holidays; John and Jo for organising the children's Christmas party and also to Ken for helping Pat organise the day trips.
- The meeting were given details of the trips and events for 2017 and a programme of events will be published in the newsletter.
- Lyn is stepping down from organising the spring and autumn trips and Pat thanked her for all her hard work over the years. A replacement is needed to organise these trips, if interested, please contact the KRA.

9. Fundraising Secretary's Report

- Sam thanked the Street Reps for all their hard work over the year - without them the KRA would not exist! Due to a number of Street Reps standing down, replacements are needed for parts of Kingswood Road, Fern Way, Briar Road & Meadow Road. These areas can be split up and taken on by more than one person to make them more manageable and any offer of help would be most welcome. Special thanks to Arthur who has been a Street Rep for many years but is sadly moving away from the area. It was also noted that Street Reps may ask residents if they would be willing to pay their Lucky House Draw money for the whole year with their subs as this cuts down on the time taken for the Street Reps to do their rounds each month.

10. Editor's Report

- Jo reported that she has been the KRA Editor for a year now. She has carried on with the current layout of the newsletter but is looking to modernise it. It is also hoped that the KRA logo will be redesigned. A KRA member was concerned that some people may wish to keep the current logo. It was agreed that the current logo will be considered alongside any new design and a straw poll of residents taken before any decision is made. Jo is also working with Anthony (Vice Chair) on possible community ideas such as the Good Neighbour Scheme. Please look out for more information in future newsletters. If any residents have any suggestions or ideas, they should contact Jo via the details on the front of newsletter.

11. Planning Manager's Report

- Ken has nothing to report.

12. Website Manger's Report

- Glen reported that the company that hosts the KRA web site has been changed. The new company are much cheaper and so far the service has been reliable. The website can be visited at <http://www.krawatford.org.uk/> and nearly all newsletters are now online. The only exception is a few of the old typed ones. If anyone has any of these missing issues, please let Glen know. Glen thanked Alan, Ken and other contributors for help with this.

12. Dissolution of existing Committee/Sub-committee's and election of new Committee

- The current committee was dissolved. Tim asked if there were any new nominations for committee members but there were none. John was nominated to be the Chair by Glen Price and this was seconded by Gerard Handscombe.

13. Break for Tea and Biscuits

14. Any Other Business/Open Forum/Prize Draw

- At present, the children's and senior Christmas parties provide opportunities for both younger and older residents, however the ages in between do not currently have a special event. The KRA are looking into an additional event with entertainment, food & early evening music. A resident suggested there should be a barbeque however, with concerns about food hygiene regulations it was agreed that the food be outsourced. The meeting agreed it was a good idea and the first event will be planned for 2018.
- It has been suggested on the Facebook Page that the KRA look into the possibility of an AED/defibrillator for the estate. The suggested location would be outside Kingswood Cars as they run 24 hours a day. Mike Leslie has produced lots of information about the device and says that businesses can be approached re possible funding. Abbots Langley have several devices that are funded and maintained by the parish council. It has been suggested that the cost of the device is a few thousand pounds. It was noted that training is not needed as the machine tells you what to do. The KRA have concerns about liability, insurance, maintenance and upkeep of the devices so this was opened up to the meeting for comments.

Residents were concerned that the device may be subject to vandalism and worried how much the insurance would cost in addition to the cost of the device. They were also concerned about any litigation if the machine was not used correctly or was broken/not working when needed. Sadly, Mike has not come to the meeting so these queries were unable to be addressed. It was also noted that as funds are quite low at the moment, any purchase could not go ahead at this time.

- There has been suggestions of placing a bench outside shops. It was noted that a bench had been installed previously however it was vandalised and had to be taken away. Girish Metha, the chemist, has offered to have the bench along the wall of the chemist but the bike racks would have to be removed or relocated. The majority of the residents at the meeting agreed it was a good idea if it could be less susceptible to vandalism. The KRA will continue discussions with the Councillors about the possibility of re-installing the bench.
- The service road at the rear of the shops is still a concern. The shops have a responsibility for the upkeep of the service road but as it is now in a terrible state, Kingswood Cars and delivery vans are not using this anymore. These are now taking up parking spaces at the front of the shops which is cutting down the number of spaces for shoppers. It was noted that One Stop Shop have deliveries very early in the morning and these block most of the parking bays, however, it was noted the only other options would be deliveries to the rear of the shop and this would be very noisy for the local residents. John will speak to the shop owners to air the concerns of the meeting. It was also suggested that the grassy verge could be removed and more parking bays installed there and also the very wide pavement on the other side of North Approach could also house more parking bays.
- An issue was raised in relation to parking along North Approach. This is especially problematic with large vehicles being parked and also during school drop off and pick up times. The local school Headteachers are trying to work with their parents/carers to address problems with parking and standard of driving near the school. They have put information in their newsletter and give out information on how to report problems direct to Watford Council. They also regularly have parking wardens and the PCSO's in the area. The Headteachers will forward on the reporting process to Jo (Editor) who will put details in the newsletter. The Headteachers look forward to working with local residents to report offenders.
- The meeting welcomed PCSO Keith Sayers and Nicky Beaty to the meeting. PCSO Sayers reported that he tries to patrol the Kingswood estate where possible but due to stretched resources of the police, this is not as often as he would like. He asked residents to report any non-emergency issues to the police via the 101 system, however, if it is believed to be urgent, call 999. PCSO Sayers gave crime prevention advice to residents at the meeting and also suggested joining the Neighbourhood Watch and OWL system. He is also holding a Beat Surgery on Wednesday 22/03/17 between 10am – noon at the Leavesden Green Hub.
- Tim gave an update on the Mullany's R8 bus route. This is the only bus service serving the Kingswood estate but is due to be removed on 1st April. Tim has created a petition as this route is needed on the estate for social reasons. If anyone would like to sign the petition, please contact Tim.
- The annual membership fee has remained at £3 for many years. The Officers proposed this rise in 2018 to £4 per year, however the meeting unanimously agreed this should rise to £5 per year, from 2018.
- Bernie, Headteacher at the Nursery school informed the meeting that they have been in existence since 1942 and will be 75 years old this year. There was lots of local support for the 70th celebrations a few years ago and it is hoped this will continue for this celebration. Details will be given to Jo for the newsletter in due course and the events are due to take place in September.
- Hashim Nawrozzadeh was welcomed to the meeting. He is the chair of the Imam Hussein Foundation (IHF), which is the charity who bought the Baptist Church. He gave details of his background and why the charity wanted to purchase the building for community use. Helping the community is a very high priority and they want to get to know their neighbours. Primarily the building will be used for after school education classes, however, they also want to establish links with the local schools and community. They have offered their car park (once installed) to be used by the Infant school during the day to help with local parking issues. They are holding an Open Day on Sunday 26th March and extend a warm welcome to the local community. There will be activities and food available but it asked if residents can walk where possible as parking is currently limited. They also hope to create a 'multi-faith' room in the building where anyone from any faith can come and use for their prayers and reflection. He is also hoping to provide free medical and legal advice to the local community. A resident suggested that the IHF submit an article each month for the newsletter and it was agreed this was a very good idea.
- A resident raised a concern about the hedgerow on North Approach being overgrown again and Tim offered to report this.
- The Prize Draw took place and the three winners were Betty Ashton, Mary Temple & Mrs Speke who each received a cheque for £50.

15. Close of meeting - 9.05pm