

**Kingswood Residents Association  
Minutes of Annual General Meeting  
Village Hall - 14<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

**General Election.**

In view of the upcoming general election in May 2005, the three candidates standing for election from each of the major parties were invited to make a short presentation to the audience prior to the start of the AGM. The Chairman introduced Mr. Crispin Blunt (Conservative) Ms Jane Kulka (Lib Dem) and Mr. Samuel Townend (Labour).

These presentations were duly given wherein the candidates introduced themselves and outlined their views on local issues on which they would support the local residents.

This was followed by open questions from the audience, which each candidate answered in turn. The KRA chairman, Gary Whitney, then thanked all 3 candidates for coming to the meeting and they left the meeting.

*Note: This part of the meeting was not minuted as it did not form part of the formal Association AGM.*

**The AGM was then commenced.**

The KRA President Mr. Roy Willcox, opened the meeting and announced his intention to stand down as President at the end of 2005.

**Apologies for Absence** were received from Mr. Robin Phipps, Operations Director of L&G, the BBC, Councillors Stan Gates, Philip Circus and Gaenor Circus, Mr. Michael Sutcliffe, Mr. Guy Kingsbury, and Mrs. Valerie Smith.

**1. Approval of AGM 2004 Minutes:** This was proposed by Colin East, Seconded by Simon Parnall, and carried by the meeting.

**2. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman's report had been published and circulated to all households in "Kingswood Matters" and was duly noted and received. There were no matters arising.

The Chairman then gave a brief introduction to the concept of the Village Plan, and an outline of the planning process, with particular reference to the interaction between Regional, County and Borough authorities. The Chairman also stated that the key planning themes that the KRA will need to focus on for the future of Kingswood are:

1. The local landscape setting
2. Character and local distinctiveness
3. The Natural and Build Environment comprising low density, Arcadian surroundings and preservation of trees.

### **3. The Village Plan**

Mike Gibson asked that PPG-2, which concerns planning policy for the Green Belt, be invoked more often by the KRA in relation to oppose inappropriate planning applications.

**Resolved: The KRA committee will consider more emphasis on PPG-2 in the Village Plan in relation to future planning applications.**

Several members felt that the local councillors' support seems to have taken a 180-degree turn on the question of flatted developments. In particular residents had been concerned about a flatted development in St Monica's, which had been actively supported by local councillors in the Planning Committee even though some 40 local residents had submitted many objections in addition to the KRA who had opposed the application. This particular development had also involved a local Councillor who had an interest in the development.

Councillor Joan Spiers replied that councillors have the right to make planning applications in their own right, but they have no right to special treatment in the planning process and would not be permitted to vote at the Planning Meeting.

A discussion on the Broxholm and High Beeches planning application ensued which involves a high density mixed development of flats and houses on a site at the northern end of Furze Hill adjacent to the Green Belt. Councillor Joan Spiers confirmed that the council is firmly opposed to this proposed development. A 2<sup>nd</sup> application has now been received which is almost identical to the 1<sup>st</sup>. This second application will also be opposed by the council.

There was a request from the members in general for the Association to write to the councillors concerned expressing the residents' disappointment at the strong support for planning permissions to build flats in St. Monica's Road.

Dickie Day thanked Peter Hawkins for the planning sub-committee's work on the proposed development in St. Monica's road.

In view of the high level of interest, the Chairman felt the need to open discussion on the issue of flatted development and set out the arguments for and against flatted development and requested the meeting to indicate their views by a show of hands. The persons attending meeting were unanimous in the view that further flatted development was harmful to the Kingwood village setting and distinctive character of the area.

The meeting also expressed the view that there were sufficient flats in Kingswood to meet current and future needs and that there was no particular pressing demand for this type of dwelling.

**Resolved: The Chairman undertook to take this message to all local councillors.**

The Chairman had received a note on the issue of wildlife in the area from Mrs. Julie Pitkethly who felt that this subject should be featured in the context of the Village Plan.

**Resolved: The KRA committee will consider whether the Village Plan should be strengthened with regard to the preservation of wild life.**

Mike Gibson raised the issue of a new planning application for mobile stables. The Chairman advised that the Planning Sub-committee would look into this issue.

#### **4. Hon Treasurer's Report**

The accounts were distributed to members at the meeting. Funds of the Association stood at £8,249 inclusive of subscriptions in advance of £1,796 as at the year-end. The most significant items of expenditure were grants made towards the Harcroft appeal and the War Memorial totalling £594.

#### **5. Adoption of the accounts and election of the Honorary Auditor**

Proposal to adopt the accounts and reappoint Derek Wall as auditor was made by Mike Gibson, seconded by Simon Parnall and carried by the meeting.

#### **6. Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee**

The existing committee members and officers as set out in the Agenda paper offered themselves for re-election for 2005.

The nominations were proposed by Geoff Hearn, seconded by Colin East and carried by the meeting.

The Chairman reminded the meeting that road representatives are urgently required for The Warren, Lilley Drive and Eyhurst Close and also a person to act as the Honorary Secretary was urgently needed.

#### **7. Policing and Neighbourhood Watch**

It was noted that if anyone has any questions or queries regarding Neighbourhood Watch, they should please contact John Hughes or Peter Allen immediately after the meeting.

#### **8. Open Discussion and Questions.**

Mary Staples raised a question about the relevance of sustainability issues such as water shortages infrastructure; roads etc. and what impact could these have on future plans for housing?

County Councillor Diana Bowes reported that SCC has responded to the South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA) on the importance of these sustainability and infrastructure issues when deciding on the new housing targets.

Rosemary Akerman asked about the Village Plan plot sizes vs. planning applications. The Chairman responded that all KRA objections are consistent with the Village Plan. However Government policy is for higher densities in urban areas and Kingswood is designated an urban area in the Local Plan.

Colin East asked about re-surfacing in Waterhouse Lane. County Councillor Diana Bowes advised that it is on the SCC list for repair, but she had not been successful to date in getting the work scheduled.

A.O.B.

There being no other business the President thanked the audience and the County and Borough Councillors for attending, and closed the meeting at 10:20 p.m.