

KINGSWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2011

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Village Hall, Waterhouse Lane, Kingswood on TUESDAY 5th April 2011, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of last AGM
2. Chairman's Report
3. Hon. Treasurer's Report
4. Election of Hon. Auditor
5. Election of Chairman, Officers and Committee for 2011-12
6. Open discussion and questions on matters of local interest and advice from our County and Local Councillors
7. Any other business

All residents are invited to attend the meeting and join in the discussions, but please note we ask that only members of the Association vote on formal Association business. Notice of any resolution to be moved at the AGM shall be given in writing to the Association Chairman not less than seven days beforehand. Subscriptions may be paid to the Hon. Treasurer or Hon. Membership Secretary prior to or at the meeting.

Nominations for any Officers, or a seat on the Committee, must be in the hands of the Association Chairman not less than seven days before the meeting.

COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS AT 27th February 2011

President: Mr. Gary Whitney	830512	Hon. Treasurer: Mrs. Adrienne Light	832133
Assoc. Chair: Mr. Simon Parnall (simon.parnall@me.com)	830888	Hon. Membership Sec: Mr. Dave Saunders	350718
Planning Sub-Cttee Chair: Mr. John Lang	832105	Roads & Transport Sub-Cttee Chair: Vacancy	
Communications Secretary: Mrs. Estelle Bibby	354829	Federation representatives: Mr. Gary Whitney and Mr. Barry Miles	830512 358189
Hon. Secretary: Vacancy			

Committee/ Road Stewards

<p>Birch Grove Mrs. Amanda Smith 833630</p> <p>Copt Hill Lane Vacancy</p> <p>The Chase Mr. Stephen Gale-Batten 831282</p> <p>Forest Drive Mr. Peter Skelton 832157</p> <p>St. Monica's Road Mrs. Mary Staples 216345</p> <p>Sandy Lane Mr. Des Camblin 833823</p> <p>The Warren Mrs. Adrienne Light 832133</p> <p>Warren Lodge Drive Mr. Gary Whitney 830512</p> <p>Beech Drive Mr. Simon Parnall 830888</p> <p>Hamilton Place Mrs. Ruth Hirst 830144</p> <p>Copleigh Drive Mr. David Saunders 350718</p> <p>Eyhurst Park Vacancy</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Waterhouse Lane</p> <p>(E) Mr. Michael Sutcliffe 832532</p> <p>The Glade Mrs. Lynne Sinclair 832762</p> <p>Furze Hill Mr. Guy Kingsbury 373335</p> <p>Warren Drive Mr. John Lang 832105</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Waterhouse Lane</p> <p>(W) Mr. Mike Gibson 351682</p> <p>Doric Drive Mr. Barry Miles 358189</p> <p>Lilley Drive Mr. Richard Lewis 832984</p> <p>Alcocks Lane Vacancy</p> <p>Woodland Way (N) Mr. Peter Allen 832123</p> <p>Woodland Way (S) Mrs. Adrienne Light 832133</p> <p>Eyhurst Close Mrs. Christine Humphreys 831218</p> <p>Heather Close Mrs. Carole Morris 832453</p>
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The appropriate road steward also represents the roads that branch off the above "primary" roads.

Vacancies exist for Secretary, Chair of Roads and Transport sub-committee and Committee Members. Volunteers are urgently needed and should please contact the Association Chairman so that they can be proposed at the meeting.

ISSUED BY THE KINGSWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association is to be held at the Village Hall on TUESDAY 5th April 2011, commencing at 8.00pm. The formal notice is posted on the Village Hall Notice Board and the Annual Report is published in this Newsletter. Resolutions to be proposed at the AGM must be given in writing to the Association Chairman not less than 7 days prior to the meeting. The 2010 audited Accounts will be made available at the meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Kingswood Residents' Association (KRA) is a non-political voluntary organisation whose stated objectives are: "...the promotion of the welfare of the Community through the good government of the district in relation to planning, environment, safety and conservation, so as to preserve and improve the amenities of the village of Kingswood".

We work closely with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (RBBC) through our local Councillors to consult and influence good planning practices. We also work with our County Councillor on Surrey County Council matters. The support of our local Councillors is invaluable and is key to the work of the Association.

The KRA works for this community as a whole and all Kingswood Residents are welcome to come to our Annual General Meeting and join our discussions. If you aren't already a member then you are still most welcome to attend and we hope that you might consider joining the Association to give us your support.

During the last year the KRA has worked hard to press for the community's needs: we have had a surprisingly large stream of planning applications, a substantial involvement in the successful appeal for the old BBC site at Kingswood Warren, involvement with the Council's winter plans, and we have worked together with other local residents' associations in the Banstead Federation to fight for key items in the Council's Core Strategy, to press for retention of our local swimming pool and to oppose the move to route the water pipeline across the Heath.

More details on a number of the issues above may be found in the various reports that follow this, but please be assured that we will continue to work on these and other matters until satisfactory conclusions are reached. Of immediate concern to you will be the water pipeline that Sutton and East Surrey Water intends to run - now no longer across the Heath, but they probably still intend to run the pipe near to the centre of our village. We will work closely with our County and Borough Councillors to lobby for the best interests of this community.

We have improved our membership systems and communications - introducing a reliable new service that allows us to send emails to residents without any fear that a resident's email address will be disclosed to others. This has proved invaluable in the winter months. However, we don't have email addresses for all members and if you would like this service and have not been receiving periodic emails to date - then please do contact our membership secretary to ensure that we have the correct information for you. I promise that we will not abuse this information in any way.

Finally, if I may, I'd like to plead again for people to help the KRA with its work. We need more road representatives and committee members. You can see the vacancies on the front page. The work is not onerous, the company is very pleasant and I can assure you that there is a considerable sense of pride in the realisation that together we can achieve much for this area. Please do consider whether you could help us out - if you'd like to have a chat about it, or would like to come to a meeting to see how we function, then please do get in touch with me.

Simon Parnall (01737 830888), simon.parnall@me.com

PLANNING

Last year at this time we stated that the cascading new planning legislation and drafts would go into some turmoil with a change of government, and indeed, that is what has happened. The South East Regional Plan, produced by the now defunct SE Regional Assembly, is in the process of being revoked. Also Planning Policy Statement 3 (PPS 3) has been amended such that a) private residential gardens are no longer considered previously developed land (brownfield) and b) the indicative minimum density of 30 dwellings per hectare is deleted. This is good news but comes too late for some sites.

These events have also slowed the Council drafting of the Local Development Framework which will form the new statutory planning system replacing the current Borough Local Plan 2005. This is now all under the umbrella of the new Localism Bill.

Despite our efforts, regrettably the demolition and rebuilding of houses continues apace changing the character of Kingswood in some instances and no end appears in sight. Hopefully however, the prospect of developments on Green Belt has diminished in the short term.

John Lang (01737 832105)

THE BANSTEAD AND DISTRICT FEDERATION OF RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS

The objective of the Federation is to support the local residents associations in the North of the Borough by focussing on important wider issues that affect the area. Currently the Federation has 14 RA's as members and represents several thousand residents through the Federation Committee. R.A's are represented by Chairmen and other committee members of each local Association. The KRA has two representatives on the Federation Committee Gary Whitney (KRA President) and Barry Miles (committee member).

In 2010 there were several key issues where the Federation took a very active part.

Following the new Planning Act in 2008 the former Government continued the process of major changes to the Planning system. Following a long period of consultation (in which the Federation played a major role) our local Council finalised the Core Strategy, which is a key part of the Local Development Framework (LDF). This process was intended to replace the Local Plan and become the fundamental basis for long term town and country planning in the Borough. The Federation fought very hard including attendance to Inspectors' Hearings to try to preserve as much as possible of the local character of our communities and in particular protect our Green Belt land. Developers strongly opposed this and the Inspector finally rejected the Council's Core Strategy because of concerns over the Council's ability to meet the housing targets imposed by the Regional Planning Authority.

With a change of government there have been significant changes to planning regulations and a new Localism Bill which will return power to Local Authorities to decide among other things local planning issues in close consultation with local neighbourhoods. New Housing is still a priority but our Council will now consult local communities and be able to best decide timing, numbers and types of new homes, the preferred locations and take account of the character of the different areas. This move away from the more prescriptive central planning should bring benefits to Kingswood and further local consultation to this end has recently taken place.

Another critical issue in which the Federation became involved concerned the Banstead Sports Centre located in Preston Ward. The Council had promised as part of a regeneration project to build a new and better Sports Centre to serve residents in the North of the Borough but due to the financial crisis proposed to change the plan to provide only a dry side facility without any swimming pool. The Federation RA members around the Banstead area joined with other groups and supported a campaign and presented a petition to ask the Council to reconsider the decision and keep the swimming facilities either by examining the alternative of refurbishing the existing facilities or looking into ways to fund the new centre to include the pool. The Council have agreed to go back and re-examine the whole scheme and we are awaiting a final decision.

Another major issue concerned the plans of Sutton & East Surrey Water to install a new pipeline using a preferred route which cut across the Banstead Heath. It would require a roughly 70 ft wide stretch cleared

of trees running right through the Heath and other areas to allow maintenance access. The Conservators were opposed to this development but were looking for support from local residents. To facilitate this the Federation arranged meetings between the Conservators, local RA's and our local Councillors with a view to opposing the proposed pipeline route over the heath. The Local Planning Authority were also advised of the opposition to the proposed route and were requested to ensure that the Water Company's planning consultants submit a full planning application to include a Full Environmental Impact Assessment. The latest news is that at a meeting between the Council and the SEWC the water company has decided that they no longer propose to run the pipeline across the Heath and will not be submitting any Environmental Assessment and will be suggesting an alternative route. We do not yet know what this alternative route will be but it could involve the A217 road and a dog leg down Bonsor Drive, across the fields and up Waterhouse Lane which will affect Kingswood. The KRA and the Federation will continue to work closely with our local Councillors and our County Councillor as the alternative route is revealed.

Other ongoing Federation matters include keeping an eye on the plans for changes to local health services, impact of Borough and County Council expenditure cuts and the eventual implementation of the Localism Act when this comes into force.

Gary Whitney and Barry Miles

Joint KRA representatives to the Banstead and District Federation of Residents Associations

A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR Mrs. JOAN SPIERS

This time last year I was battling with the fall out from a poor refuse service during the snowy winter. We started planning for 2010 right then, and I hope you are pleased with the result. The depot certainly came up trumps this year, all their own idea. They volunteered to work bank holidays, and worked five days each week for the three weeks of the holiday period. Despite the snow the refuse was cleared each week. Our work force really tried, and I am proud of them.

This has been a challenging year. Less money, 24% less from the central pot, more people needing more help. This past year we made savings of £1.8m by re-engineering our systems, and not replacing any but essential members of staff.

There will therefore be no council tax increase from Reigate & Banstead for another year. Last year for the first time ever there was no increase levied. Once again there have been no staff pay rises and no increase in councillors allowances for the second year.

Our new chief executive John Jory has settled down well and is a great asset. He has got to know all of the councillors and has visited every ward in the borough with them. The staff are happy and we have tried to reassure them that nothing will happen to them without proper consultation and involvement. We shall have to make some staff redundant, but hope that most will go through natural wastage. We are working with a number of other authorities to reduce expenditure and shall carry on looking for new ways to cut costs.

We are determined to see that no cuts in core services will occur. Our day centres which are a non statutory service will continue, our help shops which have proved to be very useful for residents who do not have internet access will remain open. Our refuse collection service, which unlike many authorities is not outsourced, is among the best in Surrey. Our parks have been improved and the Priory Park is still winning acclaim. We have continued with the Pavilion replacement program, and finished the Lady Neville Park in Banstead this summer.

The regeneration projects are continuing in Horley, Merstham, Redhill and Preston. We hope in the very near future to have astro football pitches in Preston, because that is what the young people have told us they want. A new play area is being constructed

Our grants to CAB, YMCA and other charities are will continue for as long as we can.

However we can not do everything, and will never be able to meet everyone's expectations

Our Corporate Plan, has changed very little this year. The Preston pool is at present not included in our work program, but the Waste Blue Print for recycling is for the first time in the plan. We consulted on the Preston Pool, and as a result are going to repeat the inspections and reports that we last had done in 2004. The consultants will look at the viability of refurbishing the Leisure centre as opposed to building a new dry side facility. The current gym, dance studio etc are too small and we can do that piece of work very quickly as we have the finances to start and complete it without borrowing. There are several options, and we are commissioning the work. The reports will be back by June, and then the councillors will have to make up their minds. If only the Icelandic Banks returned to us the money they have taken, we could do so much more for residents.

During this past year we have started a scheme to help young people to gain work experience. These people who are NEETS not in employment, education or training have been working in our parks and depot. We took on 15 and 9 stayed the course. Of those two found themselves a job outside and the rest are still working in the council.

This coming year we are going to take on some others who will work inside the council shadowing officers and learning how it feels to work. Even graduates have found it impossible to find work in these difficult times and this will give them experience, dignity and help their feeling of self worth. Each one we help, is one less to spend their lives on benefits, and I think that is so worthwhile. We have a young peoples Czar, a young man who was on the Apprentice and was in the final His name is Chris Bates and he lives in Kingswood. I am sure that he will be a super role model for other young people who do not know how to succeed, or how to begin a life's work.

We are also going to start volunteer's bureaux so that all the skills that exist here can be used for the benefit of others.

In the coming year we shall continue to consult you, involve you, and welcome you to events at the Town Hall.

I hope you are proud of this Borough, and will help us make it better.

Cllr. Mrs Joan Spiers is our member for Kingswood with Burgh Heath and Leader of the Council. She may be contacted by e-mail at cllr.spiers@reigate-bansted.gov.uk or Joanspiers@aol.com

A MESSAGE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL GOSLING

I welcome this opportunity to brief the Kingswood residents on the current position of Surrey County Council.

The Government settlement for Surrey indicates a loss of £207 million over 4 years. This is slightly higher than the £180 million that we had estimated some 18 months ago but is containable within our business planning. We have spent the last year working on the premise that whatever the result of the Election, our loss of revenue would be a substantial figure and we should prepare ourselves by further concentration on eliminating cost and reconfiguring services. This has proved itself. Last year showed we had already eliminated some £60 million gross. This allows for pressures. The total budget for 2011/12 is £709 million with a total spend of £1.580 million. The difference being ring fenced (Education etc.) and charges. The route is by more reliance on IT systems, concentrating our services in future in buildings that are freehold and not using, where appropriate, expensive leased facilities. The list is long but I hope this will give you an idea. The result is that there will be no council tax increase by the County this year.

With this it is possible for us to put more money into the roads in the coming financial year. This will enable us to prevent further deterioration of the road surface. Coupled to this we have a new roads contract which should be 25% more productive than in the past. This comes into operation on April 28. We have listened to the comments regarding the previous contract partners and we believe we have resolved the issues that were raised by residents. We are still working on further contractual arrangements and finance regarding the long-term condition of the highways structure.

Locally we have an issue with the Sutton & East Surrey Water Board. They might have announced their plans not to cut across Banstead Heath but at the time of writing they announced that they will go up the A217 from Mogodor into Bonsor Drive, across the fields, up Waterhouse Lane, across the A217 before going up to the lights at Burgh Heath. They still have not engaged with Surrey County Council who are the Highway Authority.

The plan is fraught with difficulty, probably solvable, but we do, I feel, need to be sure that any disruption is minimal and the reinstatement of our local roads is of a high and acceptable standard. I need your help in making your views known in this matter.

You should be aware that we have an obligation to the Olympic delivering authority for the condition of the A217, by the spring of next year, for it to be clear as it will be an Olympic priority road. Also, as you no doubt know, the cycle event will come very close to our borders.

Apart from handling local matters as your County Councillor I am responsible for Adult Social Care where we have completely reconfigured the Department and its service delivery and improved our ratings under the inspection of the Care Quality Commission. The same statement is also true of our Children's Services. A new responsibility that I have is in respect of the Health and Social Care Bill now before Parliament. Public Health will move to Surrey and the coordination of health delivery will be via a new Health & Well-being Board which will be in place in shadow form by early summer.

By the time you read this you will no doubt be aware that we wish to make some changes in the library services and possibly the addition of parking charges. If you have not already done so but would like to be part of the consultation please find this area on the Surrey website or contact myself.

If you have read this far I would like to thank you for your time. Surrey is responsible for many areas that touch our daily lives and if I have missed any item that concerns you please contact me.

C. Cllr. Michael Gosling is our member for Banstead South and is the Cabinet Member responsible for Adult Social Care in Surrey. He may be contacted by e-mail at michael.gosling@surreycc.gov.uk
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POLICING AND THE NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SCHEME IN KINGSWOOD

The Police will be joining us at the AGM. This is a great opportunity to meet our local police officers/PCSOs, to get their insight into security and crime in the area and to raise any issues that you might wish to bring up.

KRA COMMUNICATIONS

The KRA now uses a new tool that allows us to send email messages to all members without any possibility of your email address being disclosed to others. We do not yet have email addresses for all KRA members, and we would ask if you have an email address and have not received messages from us (particularly over the winter period) that you write to Dave Saunders, our membership secretary, (dave@ambertrain.com) so that your address may be added to our distribution list.

MEMBERSHIP

Being a member of any organisation means you are interested in what that organisation does. In particular, the KRA helps to protect our collective interests by working with the Borough Council and County Council to monitor, and – where appropriate - comment on planning applications, press for our needs and concerns in respect of roads and public transport and, in every way that we can, ensure that Kingswood remains a unique and special place to live.

To be meaningfully acknowledged and listened to we need strength in numbers. Currently the KRA membership is only 50% of homes in Kingswood. We need to raise this percentage so our voice is even 'louder' and we can present our views more strongly.

The good news is that all the work of the KRA is carried out by unpaid volunteers and the cost of membership works out at just £5 a year – for the whole household. This money mainly goes to pay for the professional advice and legal services we need to use to protect all our interests.

Becoming a member is very easy and costs only £20 for 4 years' membership. Below, you will find the form to complete and details of where to send it, and the option to join electronically. I will also be available at the AGM to take and process membership applications at the time.

You can either e-mail your interest and the details listed below, to our Membership Secretary, Dave Saunders - dave@ambertrain.com. Dave will then return your membership details plus our bank details so you can electronically transfer your £20 subscription fee.

or

Complete the form and return with your cheque (for £20 made payable to 'KRA') to
The Membership Secretary,
Mr. Dave Saunders, 3 Oakdene, off Copleigh Drive, Kingswood, KT20 6BN.

Name:.....

Address:.....

Postcode:.....

Tel:.....

Email:.....

Signature:

Information provided in any format will be for the sole use of the KRA and will not be divulged to third parties.

I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM and hope some who are currently not members will join an excellent Association that continues to strongly represent all our views.

Dave Saunders
Membership Secretary