

KINGSWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (KRA) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

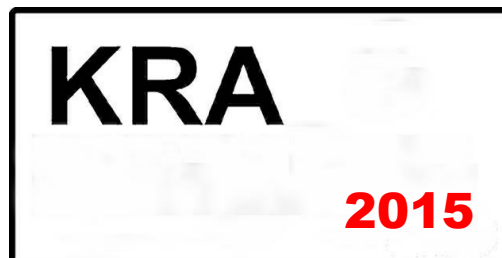
www.kingswoodvillage.org

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held in the Village Hall, Waterhouse Lane, Kingswood on Tuesday 24th March 2015, commencing at 8.00 p.m.

All Kingswood 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. Any member wishing to propose a resolution at the AGM and any nominations for any Officers, or seat on the Committee must give not less than 7 days' written notice thereof to the Hon. Secretary, address detailed below. Subscriptions may be paid to the Hon. Treasurer or Hon. Membership Secretary prior to or after the meeting. All members of the current Committee offer themselves for re-election.

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of last AGM
2. Annual Report by the Chairman
3. Guest Speakers
4. Open discussion and questions on matters of local interest and advice from our County and Local Councillors
5. Hon. Treasurer's Report
6. Election of Hon. Auditor
7. Election of Honorary Officers and Committee for 2015-2016
8. Any other business



HONORARY OFFICERS

Chair:	Desmond Camblin	833823	Vice-Chair:	Vacancy	
Treasurer:	Adrienne Light	832133	Membership Secretary:	Dave Saunders	350718
Chair of Planning Sub-Committee:	John Lang	832105	Chair of Roads & Transport Sub-Committee:	Mike Gibson	351682
Secretary:	Adrienne Light	832133			
	Litchfield, The Warren, Kingswood	KT20 6PQ			

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Tom Corrigan	Stephen Gale-Batten	Guy Kingsbury	Keith Denyer
Amanda Smith	Barry Miles	Alistair Sinclair	Carole Morris
Terry Wardle	David Moroney	Valerie Evans	Janine Connick
Richard Lewis	Chantal Cox	Michael Sutcliffe	Suzanne Palmer
David Floyd			

ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Alcocks Lane	Tom Corrigan	373253	Heather Close & Glen Close	Carole Morris	832453
Birch Grove	Amanda Smith	833041	Hamilton Place	Janine Connick	830006
Beech Drive	Terry Wardle	833059	Hill Lane & Waterhouse Lane (W)	Mike Gibson	351682
The Chase	Stephen Gale-Batten	831282	Kingswood Warren Park	Simon Parnall	830888
Copleigh Drive	Dave Saunders	350718	Lilley Drive & Gledhow Wood	Richard Lewis	832984
Doric Drive	Barry Miles	358189	St. Monica's Road	Chantal Cox	07957 810771
Eyhurst Close	David Moroney	833834	Sandy Lane	Desmond Camblin	833823
Furze Hill	Guy Kingsbury	373335	The Warren & Woodland Way	Adrienne Light	832133
The Glade	Alistair Sinclair	832762	Warren Drive	John Lang	832105
Warren Lodge Drive	Gary Whitney	830512	Waterhouse Lane (E)	Michael Sutcliffe	832532
Copt Hill Lane	David Floyd	361814	Forest Drive	Suzanne Palmer	833533
Eyhurst Park	Vacancy				

The appropriate road representative also represents the roads that branch off the above "primary" roads.

Volunteers are urgently needed to fill vacancies shown above. Please contact the Secretary so that they can be proposed at the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP

As you are probably well aware, the local environment is changing for residents in Kingswood. There are many pressures on our community to 'improve' and change things. These include planning and building issues, up-keep of roads, parking and the general well-being of our area.

There continues to be a range of activities carried out by the Kingswood Residents' Association (KRA), on behalf of all residents, to ensure these 'improvements' and changes are what we want and not what are imposed. Here are some of our successes:

- The old BBC site in the Warren where we successfully negotiated a better development with access to urban open land not previously available to the public.
- The station site, where we prepared a planning brief based on the public consultation we carried out. This prevented serious over development which would have impacted the village.
- We organise coffee mornings several times a year for residents to come and talk to local and county councillors, the police and members of the KRA committee about any concerns or issues.
- We have contributed funding, where justified, to many residents' planning appeal cases.
- We organised a huge charity event to celebrate the Queens Jubilee.
- We run an e-mail circulation service to keep members informed about anything that matters in Kingswood.

The KRA works with the Local 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 Kingswood remains a unique and special place to live.

Please consider joining the KRA. The cost of membership is just £20 for 4 years, or £5 annual standing order – for the whole household. This money mainly goes to pay for the professional advice and legal services we need from time to time, to protect all our interests.

I hope, like the existing members of the KRA, you will agree it is money well spent. Below is a slip explaining the methods of joining and paying. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards,

Dave Saunders
Membership Secretary, Kingswood Residents' Association - KRA

You can either e-mail your interest and the details listed below, to our Membership Secretary, Dave Saunders - davesaun@btinternet.com. Dave will then forward our bank details so you can either set up an annual £5 standing order or via BACS, 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.

Visit our website: www.kingswoodvillage.org

Kingswood Matters

ISSUED BY THE KINGSWOOD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Association is to be held at the Village Hall on Tuesday 24th March 2015 commencing at 8 p.m.

The formal Notice is posted on the Village Hall Notice Board and the Annual Report is published in this Newsletter. Resolutions by members to be proposed at the AGM must be given in writing to the Hon. Secretary not less than 7 days prior to the meeting.

ANNUAL REPORT

The Kingswood Residents Association (KRA) is a non-political voluntary organisation whose formally stated objectives are:

“The Objectives of the Association are the promotion of the welfare of the Community through the good governance of the district in relation to planning, environment, safety and conservation, so as to preserve and improve the amenities of the village of Kingswood”.

The KRA is separate from the Kingswood Village Community Association and the individual Private Road Frontagers Groups who have their own aims and objectives. The KRA works closely with Reigate and Banstead Borough Council (RBBC) through its local Councillors to consult and influence good planning practices. The KRA also works with our County Councillor on SCC matters.

The KRA wants to work for the community as a whole so all Kingswood Residents are welcome to come to our AGM and join in the discussions. Whilst we hope you will join the Association you do not have to be a paid up member to attend.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The New Constitution which was proposed at the AGM last year was subsequently adopted subject to a few amendments in the interests of clarification which had been raised by members. This new constitution is now in place and hopefully will provide us with a workable framework for the foreseeable future.

During the course of the year we have had several changes to our committee. Alistair Sinclair kindly agreed to represent The Glade when his wife Lynne sadly passed away. David Floyd and Janine Connick were voted onto the committee representing Copt Hill Lane and Hamilton Place respectively. Christine Humphreys representing Eyhurst Close resigned during the year for personal reasons and David Moroney has volunteered to take over Eyhurst Close and Eyhurst Spur.

Recently we have been looking into the increasing pressure on parking in the village. Residents will have noticed that over the last year particularly, that parking outside the village shops has been increasingly difficult. The County Council is aware of this situation and through the KRA, our County Councillor has asked residents to consider how they believe this problem might best be addressed and is inviting them to submit any suggestions for consideration, rather than the Council simply devising its own solutions and imposing them upon us. The KRA has been informally monitoring the parking situation in recent weeks and noting when the demands on parking spaces are at their highest to see if a particular pattern emerges to assist in addressing the problem.

A number of residents have expressed concern about security following an armed robbery at a house in the village in recent months. This is entirely understandable following such an appalling incident, but despite this it is worth remembering that according to police crime figures Kingswood remains in general a very low crime area. The Surrey Police Service will be

attending our AGM to give advice and answer any questions residents may have about security.

We continue to organise coffee mornings several times during the year, formerly known as “surgeries” in the Village Hall to provide an opportunity for residents to speak to their local Councillors, the police or members of the KRA committee about any concerns or ideas they may have or just to meet and have a coffee and these continue to be well attended.

We have continued to promote with the Council, our proposals for a Supplementary Planning Document which we hope will ultimately emerge as part of the suite of official Council documents which will together provide planning policy and guidance for the borough. The draft document prepared by the KRA was submitted to the Council last May. We have always been aware that the process would involve a two stage public consultation organised by the Council before a formal SPD could be issued as an official Council document. We have recently learned that this is a lengthier process than previously envisaged and that the mechanics involved in the consultation are dictated by central government. It is not therefore open to the Council to vary or shorten this process. This is naturally disappointing, but it is seemingly unavoidable.

The consultation process will begin in a few months’ time and we have been advised that even though still an unofficial document undergoing consultation at that point, the draft will begin to be recognised by planning inspectors as unfolding planning policy. From that time onwards therefore, it should begin to carry increasing weight up to the point when the final approved document is issued.

Obviously we hope that this proves to be the case, but as a measure of further protection, we are at the time of writing, exploring with the Council the possibility of issuing an interim document based on the SPD draft to provide additional support until the consultation has been completed and the full suite of official planning documents is issued.

In the meantime, we are aware that Cllr Parnall who is particularly involved with planning, has been working hard to ensure as far as he can that in the interim period, Kingswood is protected from inappropriate planning applications and his efforts in this regard are appreciated.

Indeed we would like to thank all our Borough Councillors Joan Spiers, Simon Parnall and Ros Mill as well as County Councillor Michael Gosling who take the time to attend our meetings and keep us updated with the Councils’ objectives and strategy.

Des Camblin
Chairman

PLANNING OVERVIEW BY JOHN LANG, CHAIR, PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

Following the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012, Reigate & Banstead Borough Council continued to develop the Local Development Framework set of documents including the Core Strategy and Development Management Plan. In July 2014 RBBC adopted the government approved Core Strategy. The Core Strategy sets out the vision for what the Borough of Reigate & Banstead will look like in 2027. It contains policies covering issues related to jobs and the economy, regeneration, housing, environmental protection, the Green Belt and infrastructure etc. The Core Strategy also sets out how much growth will take place in the next 15 years and where it will occur.

The Development Management Plan (DMP) will set out the detailed policies for managing development in line with the objectives of the Core Strategy. Issues to be covered will include design and character, nature conservation, economic development and open space. The content will be determined overall by national legislation as set out in the NPPF and will eventually replace most of the remaining saved Borough Local Plan (2005) detailed policies.

The KRA have been involved in commenting, through the Council, on draft consultations as the above documents have progressed. Collated comments have recently been given (by Barry Miles) on the Community Infrastructure Levy.

Further information on all the above can be found on the Council website by going into 'Search' where necessary. Collated KRA comments have also been given (by Mike Gibson) to Surrey County Council on their draft Transport Plan Consultation.

In connection with such matters as the SCC Draft Transport Plan Consultation, we would remind you that the KRA is a member of the Banstead and District Federation of Residents' Associations. Thus comments on the Transport Plan concerning, for example the A217, were discussed with adjoining RAs. These include Banstead, Nork, Burgh Heath, Lower Kingswood and Tadworth & Walton to name a few of the 14 Federation RAs in the north of the Borough. Other matters of common interest such as the Core Strategy, Development Management Plan, policing, fire service etc are also discussed at Federation meetings, sometimes with guest speakers.

Local Planning.

Nothing more has been heard of the 2008 proposal for a Continuing Care Retirement Home on 11 hectares of the Banstead Estate where an Environmental Impact Assessment was deemed necessary. The proposal to develop some 0.4 hectares of Kingswood Railway Station Yard has also gone quiet. Development on the old Red House School site off Bonsor Drive is ongoing. A preliminary proposal for a block of 14 flats at the ex BUPA care home site in Furze Hill has been commented on by the KRA and local residents and has now been received as an official planning application. Objections by the KRA and residents nearby have been made.

Planning applications and Appeals continue at a steady rate, some still for the larger houses, notwithstanding the threatened 'Mansion Tax'. However, the trend may be towards blocks of flats in the future. Unfortunately, as reported in the KRA Chairman's Report, our efforts to influence future applications with a Supplementary Planning Document appear delayed at the present time.

We take this opportunity to clarify some responsibilities. The upkeep, maintenance and drainage of the private roads in Kingswood is the responsibility of the appropriate Frontagers group on behalf of the road owners. Where Costains own the road, for example most roads on the Warren Estate where they also own the verges, they request that kerbs are not installed unless equipped with appropriate drainage facilities. For the adopted roads, Surrey County Council Highways is the responsible authority. Owners/developers should recognise large paved areas can cause drainage run-off. Likewise, owners/developers need to recognise and comply with covenants, particularly with regard to the defined plot site.

One area of concern to many Kingswood residents is the loss of trees by felling, especially if it happens early on a Saturday or Sunday morning. Of course, in many cases it is legitimate where trees are not covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or it may be approved cut-back or pruning. If you have any doubt, you can always contact Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. For trees on development sites or at weekends call 01737 276000 and ask for the Duty planning phone or the Building & Services Case Officer. For tree status enquiries, call the above number and ask for Customer Services who, with a little time, should be able to advise if specific trees are protected. It should also be known that any resident can request, within reason, that a TPO be placed on a specific tree or trees in the garden belonging to somebody else. Any species can be protected but no species is automatically protected. In the case of trees/hedges/shrubs overhanging and a danger to footpaths and roads, it is Surrey County Council who should be called on 03456 009009.

John Lang, KRA, Chair of the Planning Sub-Committee

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR MR SIMON PARNALL

Dear Resident,

I am now completing my third year as Borough Councillor for Kingswood with Burgh Heath, and I am doing all I can to be a responsible and trustworthy representative of this community.

Although I handle many other things too, my key role in the Council is still very much centered on the many planning applications made throughout this ward and which are handled formally by the Planning Committee and less formally by the Northern Forum. During the last year there were 220 applications for this ward, a slight decrease on the previous year, but work has not decreased as some of these have proved to be difficult and demanding cases.

On the whole, as I reported last year, appeal decisions are being made by the Planning Inspectorate in favour of the Council's position - and many of you will be aware of some of the recent high profile cases. It is however, important that the Council's planning policies are appropriate and detailed, as these shape the decisions that planning inspectors can make. Therefore, I'm pleased to be able to report that in the last year the Council has approved its Core Strategy, which sets high level planning policy, objectives and housing targets for the whole Borough for the next fifteen years. This year sees the development of the Development Management Policies, lower level documents which define specific policy features and which provide a framework by which Kingswood and every other special part of the Borough may be recognised for individual character and density. These documents will be issued in draft form at the end of the summer, which will encompass the results of hours of Councillor and Officer work and importantly include a large amount of the material submitted by various Residents Associations, including - of course - the high quality input from the KRA. These DMP documents will then go through a statutory process of two cycles of public consultation before themselves being approved by the Full Council in due course.

This last year has also seen development in the way that the Council and Police handle antisocial behaviour that might concern us in this community. Previously, given a problem, a resident might not know whether to call the Council or the Police. Now, there's a simple solution - the Joint Enforcement Team or JET. This is a combined force of Police and Council officers who work closely together and who can provide a fast and robust solution to all aspects of persistent nuisance - from abandoned vehicles and antisocial behaviour to fly tipping and dog fouling. The number for JET is 01737 276300 and you can phone at any time. If the matter is a real emergency, then always dial 999.

If I can help you in regard to any topic, or if you have specific questions or comments relating to planning, please do feel free to contact me either by email (simon.parnall@me.com) or by telephone at any reasonable time (01737 830888), and I will be only too happy to talk with you. Or perhaps you might like to drop in to one of the Village Hall 'surgeries' that are held periodically, where we can talk about matters that concern you over a cup of coffee.

With very best regards,

Simon Parnall

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. JOAN SPIERS

Dear Residents

Another year has passed and I know that we have not done everything that you wanted accomplished. I know how frustrating that is for all of you, as it is for us, your councilors. We have more projects that need attention, it never stops. The Executive is busy finding income earning projects to boost our accounts.

Reigate & Banstead continues to improve areas of the Borough. The swimming pool in Preston will be finished this year. All our other pools are well used and I sure that this one will be too. Parking in the village continues to be a severe problem. If anyone has any suggestions as to how we can improve the situation please e-mail me. The opening of the new gym has added a huge number of extra cars, and the Village Hall car park has been blocked off to serve the new flats!

I know how frustrating the developers are, and every time I see verge parking or a road blocked I telephone the Town Hall, and enforcement officers do come out.

As you may know I did not stand in the Leadership contest this year I felt that other councillors should be given the chance to learn how the council operates. I had already been Leader for 13 years, and a councilor representing Kingswood, Burgh Heath Lower Kingswood for 31 years 1984- 2015. I did stand to represent you for a four-year term last year, and I have another 3 years to continue my work.

After Christmas a number of colleagues asked me if I would stand for the Mayoralty, starting this May. I won the vote of the conservative group, and then the council. It is a great honour to have been selected. for this role. The word Mayor derives from the Latin word "Magnus" meaning great. The office of Mayor together with the Domesday book and the feudal system, where brought to this country by the Normans. Such an office had existed on the continent since the fifth century

The Mayor is the first citizen of the Borough. This means that only Her Majesty The Queen, Members of the Royal Family and the Lord Lieutenant take precedence over the Mayor at events in the Borough. This is a leadership role that I shall enjoy enormously.

Please remember that I shall still be your representative, along with Simon Parnall and Ros Mill. We work together and that will not change. Please feel free to e mail me or telephone me on 833137 joanspiers@aol.com

I shall continue to work for my charities, and my main charity for my Mayoral year will be the YMCA in this borough. I shall also have smaller charities, and if you have one, which needs help, please let me know, and I will do my best to help.

Kindest regards.

Joan Spiers

MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL GOSLING

I noticed last year that I started with the consequences of the winter and this one has been so very different. Whilst we have had less rain and very little snow that has stayed for very long, we have had a whole series of cold nights where the gritting trucks have been out on a regular basis in this part of the County. Where we live is on average the highest part. The effect of damp, gritting salt and cold weather has an effect on the road surfaces and this will need to be assessed as soon as spring arrives. In between time if you notice road issues please email me as simple as possible, problem, road and a location indicator, such as house number or name. I take it that you are not happy simply by the act of sending in a report.

We have a number of worries at a County level, the need for a continual investment in new school places, the increasing number of older people who require a service from the social services and the ongoing need for investment in the roads and the infrastructure. Put this against the continual decrease from central government in our grants and you can understand the increase in our council tax requirements. If anyone would like to understand more, then I would be quite happy to meet those interested to discuss this using the medium term financial plan to illustrate our income and expenditure. It might surprise you that Surrey County Councils total expenditure is close to £1.7 billion.

We have been operating as a County under the heading of "Project Horizon", the resurfacing of a number of roads across the whole of the area. Many roads have been attended to and more are still to be done, but we do have an issue of timing because of utility replacements that are being carried out, especially that in respect of the gas mains. I have also been paying additional attention to the street scene with the clearing of the Tadworth roundabout, cleaning of the street signs, street furniture and still to be completed, the keep left bollards. This is because the County understands the need to maintain Surrey as a nice place in which to live. This is a difficult trick when funds are tight but it is necessary to maintain a good environment, which attracts people to our area.

With the KRA I have been having a discussion about parking in the village, and this is one in which everyone should be involved. As a highway authority the question of parking and the introduction of restrictions is a responsibility that is taken seriously, but this can only take place against the background of agreement with local residents. There is no easy solution and I believe that the village traders who require our custom have a part to play. Everybody's viewpoint is important!

At the County level I have continued to be responsible for the Health and Wellbeing board and Public Health. In January this year the better care fund was approved by the Board. This fund is the first step in the integration of Health (funded by central government, free at the point of views) and social care funded by the county (means tested and funded by council tax). The fund totals £65million. This will be an interesting time in the future as the two services become closer together. The other big step was the introduction across the whole of the Surrey system, a new approach to the provision of mental health. When this issue affects an individual, if they and their carers can be treated appropriately then the whole of our society benefits.

Please contact me if you have any questions, my email address is:

michael.gosling@surreycc.gov.uk or telephone 01737 832897

Best Wishes

Michael Gosling
Surrey County Councillor
michael.gosling@surreycc.gov.uk

MESSAGE FROM COUNCILLOR MRS. ROS MILL

As you will see from the articles written by my fellow ward councillors, it has been a busy year for us, working hard to keep Kingswood a great place to live. We have many battles with building development and parking issues but are determined to do our best to solve these problems. I am also fortunate to be a member of the Executive with the Portfolio for Leisure & Wellbeing and able to support many of the community and voluntary organisations in the Borough as well as developing new and existing leisure facilities – the latest being the new leisure complex being built to replace Banstead swimming pool.

I hope you will continue to let us know about your concerns and any issues that you feel should be brought to our attention and to work with us to maintain the quality of life Kingswood has to offer.

Kindest Regards
Ros Mil