

Village Voice - Kingswood Residents Association, July 2019



My first quarter as Chair of KRA has been very eventful, with our primary focus on the proposal to redevelop the L&G Site as a Retirement Village. During April we set up a working group of experts/residents representing KRA, KVCA and residents local to the Site. We have held regular meetings to discuss key issues including Green Belt, traffic generation during construction and in operation, parking, competition with local amenities like the Village Hall, and Change of Use from office-based employment to residential. We prepared a comprehensive report, including observations from residents, who have emailed us at kingswoodviewsonlg@gmail.com. On 12 June 2019 we presented the key concerns to the developer 'Inspired Villages Group' (IVG), who are receptive to addressing these issues. A major concession secured by KRA is agreement that the L&G open fields will be protected from future development with assured access to locals.

Many residents visited the public exhibition at L&G during 17,18 May to view the proposals first hand. To ensure that all Kingswood residents have the opportunity to express their opinion, KRA circulated a Survey to over 1200 homes in Kingswood and the results will be publicised.

IVG submitted the Town Planning Application on 26/7/19. I encourage residents to visit the Planning website to view the proposals and to submit to R&BCC your views individually - whether these are in favour of the Retirement Village or against it.

As this is the 150th edition of the Village Voice, I wanted to highlight some of the KRA achievements over recent years.

- **Queen's Diamond Jubilee**, in 2012, the KRA (with TCT and NSPCC) organised memorable celebration events, including a popular music concert in St Andrews Church, a flower festival, bell ringing demonstration, nine open gardens and a Street Party, enjoyed by over 2000.
- **Strategic Planning Document** - KRA's consultations with residents and extensive research of the area lead to us producing the SPD, which has positively influenced R&BCC's current Development Management Plan and consequently the nature of future development in Kingswood.
- **BBC Warren** - KRA successfully opposed an intensive over development of this site in favour of the Octagon conversion of the mansion into eight grand apartments and development of fourteen new large houses, all in a private parkland setting that is very much in keeping with Kingswood.
- **Station Site**, KRA's consultation with residents assisted our negotiations with the developer for an appropriate development of 18 townhouses with the additional benefit of upgrading the Station, access and parking.

Much of the KRA's activity is intended to protect the character of our Village and I would like to thank John Lang and more recently Keith Denyer for their outstanding dedication to the consistent monitoring of all planning applications in Kingswood and their efforts to oppose inappropriate schemes, both at R&BCC level and at Secretary of State level on appeal.

Valerie Evans (Chair KRA)