

Village Voice - Kingswood Residents Association, October 2019

Whilst the primary focus of the KRA and its working group continues to be the proposed IVG Retirement Village development at the L&G Site, I would like to first refer to other items that may be of interest to Residents.

After the success of the KRA Coffee Morning held on 29 June 2019, arranged a follow-up Coffee “afternoon” for 9th November at 15:00 in the Village Hall. Residents were invited to attend to meet with KRA Committee members, together with our local Councillors, Simon Parnall, Caroline Neame, Tim Archer and Jeff Harris, who were there to answer your questions.

There have been concerns regarding the installation of traffic lights at the Waterhouse Lane railway bridge crossing. The purpose of this is to permit single lane only instead of two-way traffic, to safeguard the weakened bridge-structure. Having been in operation for some weeks, feedback has largely been positive with Residents generally pleasantly surprised by the smoothness of operation. Many have observed that the lights act as a traffic calming measure making it safer both for pedestrians and vehicles. The KRA would welcome your views on whether this should be considered as a more permanent feature. *One piece of advice from our Traffic Representative, Mike Gibson, is that, when the light is red, drivers should pull right up to the white line as this will “trigger” the quick change to green.*

Given that the clocks have been set back, we are now in the winter season with less daylight hours and colder weather. It would therefore be good idea to be extra vigilant from both a safety and security aspect, particularly with regards to our neighbour’s wellbeing, as well as our own. Also, worth a note is that “flu jabs” are now readily available from health centres and local pharmacies.

Much has happened since our last update on the proposed IVG development of a Retirement Village at the L&G Site, with the formal submission of their Planning Applications (19/01548 and 19/01549) on 26 July 2019. The KRA working group has met a number of times to review the application (over 2500 pages) and discuss the Residents Questionnaire results, so as to prepare the KRA response to Reigate & Banstead Borough Council. After much consideration, the KRA letter was submitted on 10 September and is based on the following:

- The R&BBC Planners will address through due process the Greenbelt and Employment issues
- The Residents Questionnaire directed our response – the “view of the people”
- The support of KRA to IVG’s Planning Application is “conditional” to IVG addressing satisfactorily the matters raised by residents and the working group as documented in the KRA letter
- There will be a legally binding agreement endorsed by L&G that prevents any further development of the open land in perpetuity.

KRA L&G Site Working Group will continue to engage with IVG over the next months to represent residents’ concerns and the issues raised in the KRA letter. IVG has been proactive in trying to address such issues and have made some amendments to their plans to improve the position for Residents.

Valerie Evans

KRA Chair

