

Village Voice - Kingswood Residents Association, March 2020

With the start of a new year the focus of the KRA has continued to finalise our position relative to the IVG proposed development of a Retirement Village at the L&G Site.

The KRA has been actively pursuing the legal agreement (Covenant) with IVG and L&G to prevent any further development “in perpetuity” of the L&G open space land. Once this is in place, it will provide significant advantages both to Kingswood residents and the IVG Retirement Village both now and into the future. This open space offers access to all for recreation, dog walking, nature conservation and ecology, with proposals for landscaping, tree planting, creating ponds to encourage wildlife and aquatic flora and fauna. A wonderful environment to promote well-being in residents and great for ‘the planet’.

The protection of this land by legal agreement will also benefit the wider Greenbelt protection as this is a key site between Kingswood and Burgh Heath, which if developed, could set a precedent for possible greenbelt development of the open fields between the two villages. The KRA considers that the protection of the L&G open land will significantly benefit Kingswood greenbelt and beyond.

IVG’s Planning Applications (19/01548 and 19/01549) submitted in July 2019, may have been determined by R&BBC by the time of this publication. R&BBC commissioned GL Hearne to complete a “viability assessment” to determine whether the extent of the proposed development is appropriate to offset the cost the refurbishment of the Listed L&G Office building. The result of this assessment has confirmed that the proposed number of new units is appropriate.

We have invited IVG to the KRA AGM on 24th March 2020 to present their plans for Kingswood so we would encourage you to attend to ask questions.

IVG has addressed the concerns raised by KRA on behalf of residents (KRA survey/direct approach) by revising their applications. Provided the legal agreement proposal for the Open Space Land is accepted by KRA, we will support the development due to the significant benefits it will deliver to residents and the area.

KRA afternoon Tea held at the Village Hall on 9th November was a great success and many residents spoke with members of the KRA Committee and our Councillors, Simon Parnall, Caroline Neame, Tim Archer and Jeff Harris. We plan to hold more of these during 2020 for residents to have their say.

Traffic Lights at the Waterhouse Lane railway bridge crossing have continued to work effectively over the winter and creating traffic calming. The KRA will carry out a survey to establish whether residents would support this being more permanent feature.

Finally, we would like to thank Guy Kingsbury for 21 years of sterling support of the KRA as a committee member and road representative. His commitment to the village over this time has contributed greatly.

I look forward to meeting with you at the AGM on 24th March 2020.

Valerie Evans

KRA Chair

