

Village Voice - Kingswood Residents Association, July 2020

IVG Retirement Village - Planning Permission Granted

Since the January edition, who could ever have imagined a scenario in which the world would have gone into lockdown due to the Corvid-19 virus. Indeed, as I write this, we are still being encouraged to 'stay at home' and practice social distancing, whilst measures are easing a little now as we have achieved the 5-point government stated conditions.

The Kingswood Safety Net has been a key focus for both the KRA and KVCA over the past 3 months and efforts to maintain this continue. KSN is a collaborative initiative to provide local residents with support for food shopping, pharmacy runs or just a phone chat. You will have seen initially a leaflet and then a number of KSN bulletins by email and on the Kingswood Village website informing residents of what help is available. Please refer also to the dedicated KSN article to learn about the great community work amongst our volunteers.

It was with disappointment that I made the difficult decision to postpone the KRA AGM, due to take place on 24 March. However, this decision was validated by the Government imposition of lockdown on 23 March. The KRA committee participated in a 5-Option survey to re-convene the AGM. The result confirmed that a face-to-face AGM in the Village Hall next March was the preference. In the meantime, please see the KRA Annual Report 2020 on the Kingswood Village website.

Regarding the L&G Site, I am delighted to report that Reigate & Banstead Borough Council granted full Planning Approval on 15 April to both Planning Applications (19/01548, 19/01549) submitted by IVG back in July 2019. The proposals were significantly influenced by the KRA's efforts to represent the concerns of residents through close collaboration with IVG. All issues were satisfactorily addressed by IVG in the revised application drawings and the Section 106 Agreement.

Our negotiations with IVG were successful in protecting "in perpetuity" the L&G open space land through a Covenant, with around 100 properties in the vicinity being beneficiaries. This open space land offers access to all Kingswood residents for recreation, dog walking, nature conservation and ecology, with proposals for landscaping, tree planting, creating ponds to encourage wildlife and aquatic flora and fauna. The KRA is currently finalising the legal agreement with IVG/L&G.

IVG propose to commence enabling works on Site in August 2020. Whilst there is likely to be some disruption during construction, we have attempted to minimise this through our requirements in their Management Plan; for example, staged deliveries with queuing in Tadworth to prevent congestion on local roads and a one-way circulation to and from the site. The significant benefits and amenities the Retirement Village has to offer the residents of Kingswood will, we hope, be well worth the temporary disruption.

The KRA has invited IVG to deliver a virtual presentation in July (by zoom software) and residents will be notified of the date, time and online joining instructions shortly.

On behalf of Kingswood residents, the KRA will continue to liaise with IVG throughout the construction period so, if you wish to raise any relevant matter, please contact us.

Valerie Evans

KRA, Chair

