

Village Voice - Kingswood Residents Association, Sept 2020

KRA update on IVG Retirement Village

As I write this, it is nearly 6 months since the Corvid-19 lockdown in March, and I am sure many of us are delighted to see the restrictive protection measures easing now with the re-opening of shops, pubs, restaurants, parks and more importantly, the opportunity to meet with friends and family again after a long separation for some. We are reassured that the numbers of cases are reducing weekly, however, we would advise residents not to put themselves at unnecessary risk. The national drive to extend free flu vaccines to over 50's, commencing in September should help relieve the pressure on the NHS over the winter months and provide more capacity to deal with any upturn in Corvid-19 cases.

The Kingswood Safety Net (KSN) has been a focus for both the KRA and KVCA since March, albeit that the demand for volunteer services has reduced substantially over the past weeks. Having set up the volunteer service, which has run very effectively for the past months, it remains in place to re-engage for any future local lockdown that may occur. I would like to thank all volunteers for their willingness to support local residents in need through the KSN initiative.

Whilst the KRA AGM has been postponed until March 2021, the KRA felt that it was important keep residents informed of intentions of IVG for the Retirement Village, which was granted Planning Approval in April. To this end we hosted via Zoom a 'virtual' Presentation by IVG. We were pleased with the high level of interest in attending the Presentation, and so we recorded the Presentation and uploaded it to the Kingswood Village website for all residents to view. We recommend that residents watch this and if you have any further comments regarding the development please email us at kingswoodviewsonlg@gmail.com

In the Presentation IVG covered their approach to the Retirement Village. They discussed their programme, advising their intension to commence enabling works in August 2020, with Phase 1 conversion and refurbishment of the Grade II listed L&G House starting in March 2021. They provided a very detailed explanation, through plans and mood images of the content of the development including; L&G House with 1/2 bed units, new 2/3 storey apartments, new 2/3 bed villas, conversion of St Monica's House to residential, the health & wellness centre, the restaurants, bars, theatre and shops and finally the landscaping, which will enhance the site with significant tree planting and numerous focus planting areas like courtyards.

As previously mentioned, IVG has agreed to protect "in perpetuity" the L&G open space land through a Covenant and have now provided the KRA with a copy of the proposed legal document for review and acceptance. This open space land offers access to all Kingswood residents for recreation, dog walking etc, both throughout construction and when the development is complete.

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

Valerie Evans

KRA, Chair

