

Kingswood Residents Association, March 2021

We can finally see light at the end of the tunnel with the vaccine being rolled out at significant pace. It is heartening that so many people are being vaccinated and that locally, the programme has been working well with many of our residents already having received the jab.

Despite the third lockdown, the KRA has not been idle and we are pleased to advise on some of our activities.

The KRA applied for and was successful in being awarded funding from the RBBC Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), for the purpose of planting trees. The project was under the sponsorship of Cllr Caroline Neame. The area that was identified for this project is the verge on Waterhouse Lane, starting from opposite the Village Hall and going north towards the A217 adjacent to the fields. This work was carried out in January 2021 and involved removal of 12 stumps and the planting of 12 new trees - a mixture of cherry trees and hawthorns for spring blossom, and acers for autumn colour. This area had previously been very neglected, with many hawthorn trees having fallen into the road over the past 10 years. In future years this area should once again become a tree-lined walkway and enhance the entrance into Village. The remaining live hawthorn trees will have the ivy severed in order to try to preserve them. Watering bags are to be added to provide the new trees with the best chance of survival through our dry summers. Further information will be available on the Kingswood Village website.

The KRA continues to collaborate in the Kingswood Safety Net in its valuable and generous efforts to support our community through the current lockdown. The KSN has arranged volunteers to assist with transport to vaccine appointments. Please get in contact if you require their services: kingswoodsafetynet@gmail.com and we thank all volunteers for their continuing commitment.

In August 2020, the government published a White Paper "Planning for the Future". After local consultation, the KRA submitted a critical but constructive response as the KRA believes that the White Paper would:

- Lead to over-development of new homes in areas which already exceed building targets, whilst under-providing in areas that urgently need new homes.
- Undermine local democracy by reducing the ability of residents and Councillors to influence planning decisions.
- Fail to address major and fundamental issues, such as affordable homes, mortgage funding, mobility of labour and the planning enforcement.

This White Paper has also received significant objections from **RBBC Planning**, our local MP, other MP's, and other Residents Associations. We hope that the government will reconsider in light of the feedback received. The full KRA response is available on the Kingswood Village website.

Many of you will be wondering when the works at the L&G Site will begin. The KRA is regularly in contact with IVG, who advise that the stripping out of the existing listed building should commence in March/April with the main construction work to follow in August/September. The KRA working group will continue liaising with IVG and if you have any concerns now, or when the work begins then please contact kingswoodviewsonlg@gmail.com

Please keep safe all and we look forward to meeting face to face sometime soon.

Valerie Evans
KRA (Chair)



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