

IS THE KRA AT A ?

THE LAST KRA committee meeting agreed to establish an Interim Strategy Working Group (ISWG) to recommend to the next committee meeting whether or not an in-depth review of the KRA's current operation, policies and objectives should be undertaken, in conjunction with a village-wide consultation to establish the views and wishes of the residents. The members of this ISWG have met variously as a whole group and smaller sub-sections to examine how the KRA operates as a whole but also to look at more specific areas where improvement can be made or new, more relevant, topics addressed.

The ISWG unanimously concluded that, while much of the work of the KRA and its dedicated officers is excellent, a longer-term review is needed if the association is to remain a thriving body representing the views and interests of the whole community of modern-day Kingswood. We will be asking you to vote following the committee meeting on January 11 on this resolution:

'That the committee votes in favour of establishing a longer-term Strategy Working Group (SWG) to examine the structure, role and activity of the KRA in the 2020s.'

Because of the importance of this decision and the volume of documents which have been prepared by the interim group, it was felt that committee members should have time to consider these matters in depth, reflect on feelings and opinions expressed during the debate on January 11, and to have the opportunity to discuss them further with other parties. It was also felt that all committee members should be offered a vote even if they cannot attend the meeting.

For these reasons, the following voting protocol will be in place:

Voting will take place by email after the meeting closes on January 11. Votes can be cast until 6pm on Monday, January 17. Email votes must simply state that the committee member is For or Against the motion or wishes to abstain. Committee members should also say whether they will volunteer to serve on a future SWG and, if so, the areas of discussion that would interest them. The result will be a simple majority of Yes/No votes cast. Votes should be emailed to the Secretary (Minutes and Publicity), Alistair Sinclair, at ajdsinclair@icloud.com or sent to him at Verdala, The Glade, Kingswood KT20 6JE. Only votes received by 6pm on January 17 will count. The result of the vote will be announced on Tuesday, January 18.

Please note that although the attached documents give examples of some of the areas and topics discussed by the ISWG, members are *not* being asked to debate or vote on these. The vote is simply whether members consider this should be pursued further through the formation of a longer-term Strategic Working Group.

Here is a bullet point analysis of areas the ISWG considered. Fuller briefing papers giving a flavour of the debates that went on within the ISWG on each subject are available by clicking on the link under each subject. Members may find these documents useful when considering their vote.

A reminder that the committee is not being asked to debate or vote on any of these chapter headings or the content of the briefing papers, which are merely indicative of subjects that any future SWG might consider addressing.

1. **PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES:** to seek to be a representative body for the whole village through a restructured model which addresses a broader range of issues than is currently covered, by reshaping the KRA into an organisation whose core committee is structured around specific subject topics rather than mainly geography (roads), as represented by the current system of road stewards.
2. **MEMBERSHIP, MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS:** to strengthen membership and expand this revenue source beyond the current circa £3,000 per annum ceiling through a variety of initiatives using different forms of media and communication and to examine innovative ways of restructuring the subscription model to a more bespoke system than the current one-size-fits all arrangement.
3. **FUNDING AND RESOURCES:** to consider how to raise more money and how to better tap into local resources/residents for their expertise and time so as to deliver more extensive KRA objectives. Funding is limited to very low membership fees and donations from the councils by means of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and local authority grants. Resources rely mainly on committee members and residents volunteering their time.
4. **PLANNING:** to anchor/underpin a core aspect of the KRA's reputation and community service delivery through succession planning in the team reviewing planning applications. To broaden the planning brief through agreeing a focal area for a forward-looking planning strategy team. To protect, enhance and give meaning to the Residential Area of Special Character (RASC) designation of Kingswood.
5. **ROADS, TRANSPORT AND SAFETY:** to strengthen and broaden this brief under an expanded team to include regular rail updates and safety matters such as the danger from parking congestion and speeding in the village.
6. **HERITAGE, COMMUNITY, CHARITY AND CARE:** to create a new brief in which the community team would work jointly with the KVCA to provide an overview and take actions/initiatives on behalf and for the benefit of the community of Kingswood as a whole.
7. **SECURITY:** to involve the KRA in collating and forwarding information related to security and carrying out surveys on behalf of Kingswood residents - but probably not in making decisions, instructing any works or incurring costs in relation to security.
8. **GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY:** to evaluate the KRA's current awareness of governance for meeting 'Best in Class' standards and to provide the committee and officers greater awareness and protection from personal liability for carrying out their duties. To ensure that representation on the committee is democratically achieved.
9. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES:** to engage and communicate with local government (RBBC and SCC) in support of investment in local infrastructure and services, as well as presenting timely and constructive challenges in those instances where delivery falls short of community expectations or generally-accepted standards.
10. **THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT:** to protect and enhance the essence of the village's natural beauty and a key component of its RASC designation – defined as the founders of the KRA will likely have intended it.
11. **NET ZERO AND KINGSWOOD:** the meaning of environment at the time the KRA's founding would not have explicitly included today's understanding of the impact of day-to-day village life on our emissions/carbon footprint and waste disposal/recycling needs. New environmental regulations impacting, for example, the planning and transport arenas are poorly-understood for their impact on Kingswood, and resident resources need to be mobilised in support of building a better understanding.
12. **INITIAL STRENGTHS, WEAKNESSES, OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS (SWOT) ANALYSIS BY ISWG MEMBERS.**

We look forward to seeing you all on January 11.