



Kingsmere Residents' Association Meeting

Date: Wednesday 20th May 2015

18:30 – 19:00 Informal networking with key stakeholders

19:00 – 20:30 Main meeting

Venue: Council Chamber at The Garth, Launton Rd, Bicester OX26 6PS

Attendees

Graham Brogden (GB) – Co-chair, Viki Heil (VH) – Co-chair, Fiona Chalk (FC) – Communications, James Hiscott (JH) – KRA Treasurer, Adrian Reeve (AR), Ayad Ahmed (AA) Mike Cornes (MC), Marcus Gilbert (MG), Andy Levis (AL), Mike Henderson (MH), Tom Burgess (TB), Mary Herbert (MH), Richard Herbert (RH), Vickie Zielinski (VZ) - Community Development Officer - Cherwell District Council, Kevin Larnar (KL) - Community Development Officer - Cherwell District Council, Richard Mould (RM) - Bicester Town Councillor, Margaret Kunzer (MK) - Head of St Edburges CoE Primary School, Jim French (JF) - Bicester Mayor, Lynn Pratt (LP) – Bicester Town Councillor, Scott Young (SY) - Countryside Properties, Tom McCulloch (TM) - Community Development Manager at Oxfordshire Rural Community Council, Mark Baines (MB) - Kingsmere Community Centre Architect, Steve Rayner (SR), S. Escott (SE), Jon Heil (JH), Jules Gough (JG), Siobhan Kimpton (SK), Joanna McKenna (JM), Phil McMillan (PM), Susannah Shier (SS), Gareth Shier (GS), Andrea Burgess (AB), Margaret Greenhill (MG), Steve Waddup (SW), Phillip Sawyer (PS), Peter Evans (PE)

1.1 Welcome and introductions

All attendees were welcomed to the meeting by KRA co-chair GB who also introduced all the guests and thanked all the residents and guests for attending.

1.2 Apologies

Apologies received from David Waters – KRA Secretary, Matt Maunder, Katherine Hay, Przem Ry

1.3 Minutes from previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting (29/01/15) have been shared on the Kingsmere Community website - <http://kingsmerecommunity.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/KRA-Meeting-Minutes-29-Jan-2015-with-additional-Countryside-responses.pdf>

These were reviewed & accuracy agreed.

1.4 Matters arising previous meeting

Updates on specific action points, were raised under specific agenda items later during the meeting.

2.0 Annual Chair Report

Viki Heil read the Chair report for 2014/15 (available as a separate document)

3.0 Annual Treasurer Report

JH read the Treasurer report for 2014/15 (available as a separate document)

4.0 Review of Constitution

The KRA Constitution has been shared on the Kingsmere Community website - <http://kingsmerecommunity.com/docs/>

No modifications were identified as required.

5.0 Election of Committee/Officers for 2015/16

Bicester Town Mayor Jim French lead the election of committee officers as all officers from 2014/15 were required to step down. Nominations were asked for the officer roles –

Co-Chairs – Viki Heil and Graham Brogden

Nominated by Fiona Chalk

Seconded by Mary Herbert

No other nominees, no objections - Viki Heil and Graham Brogden were elected as Co-Chairs.

Secretary – David Waters

Nominated by Graham Brogden

Seconded by Richard Herbert

No other nominees, no objections – David Waters was elected as Secretary

Treasurer – James Hiscott

Nominated by Fiona Chalk

Seconded by Andy Levine

No other nominees, no objections – James Hiscott was elected as Treasurer

Communications Lead – Fiona Chalk

Nominated by Viki Heil

Seconded by James Hiscott

No other nominees, no objections – Fiona Chalk was elected as Communications Lead

Councillor Lynn Pratt took this opportunity to present GB and VH with Bicester Town Council Good Citizen Awards in recognition of their hard work and commitment to the KRA. GB and VH thanked everyone and said the award was for everyone on the committee and all residents of Kingsmere.

6.0 Countryside Properties/Development Update

Scott Young (SY) provided an update on the Kingsmere development.

- The spine road/bus service running through to Brewers Fayre will open as the school opens.
- Countryside have signed the wayleaves agreement with BT/Openreach which allows Openreach to undertake the works on Countryside land for the cabinet upgrades. SY suggested this should bring forward the installation timetable, but was unable to offer a definite date.

- Works on MSR are due to start In Aug/Sep 2015 as the traffic calming and crossings have to be in place for the opening of the school.
- KM5 and KM22 land parcels are being marketed with an expected sale by Dec 2015.
- All of the play areas provided through Countryside (non-internal to individual builders sites) are expected to be opened in approximately 2 weeks. There are works being done on site to address outstanding issues including landscaping (reseeding and strimming) to ensure they are ready and safe for use, then these will be opened.

7.0 Community Centre Update

Mark Baines provided a presentation that has been compiled for the pre-planning application that will go to Cherwell District Council as part of the consultation process for the community centre and local retail area. This includes ideas from residents' feedback from the survey and from the Community Centre working group. At present the plan includes –

General

- 43 parking spaces with landscaping
- 5 retail units – 1 larger 'convenience' store and 4 smaller retail spaces
- A commercial nursery
- Recycling areas
- Public access at the front and works access/deliveries at the rear of the shops, etc.

Community centre

- The community centre will link directly to the road the school is on, with frontage to both the main spine road and the school road.
- The community centre will be over 2 floors. It will be split into 2 areas downstairs – a dedicated youth space with a variety of spaces, and a community hall area with a kitchen, office, storage, toilets and other facilities.
- Upstairs will have 2 further meeting rooms that can be used flexibly, and have their own small kitchenette area and either storage or toilet facilities.
- Internally the design avoids hard lines and creates interesting space

Questions addressed in the meeting

- The parking space numbers are limited by planning guidelines from CDC, so are unlikely to increase in number
- Cycle storage – stands are included at the front and rear of the community area, approximately 40 cycles should be stored at the front of the area
- Square footage was asked and MB will confirm this and send it back to Co-chairs
- Time scales – Aiming for formal planning to be completed by end of June, then 3 months for these to be dealt with by CDC. Realistically early 2017 is potential completion date.
- Eco-credentials – are part of planning and likely to be addressed through thermal efficient wall and photo voltaics (solar panels)
- Building materials are being reviewed and are planned to be low maintenance, predominantly brick built, possibly 2 tone with a tiled or profiles roof incorporating solar panels.

VH highlighted that there is a working group that has been set up and all residents are invited to join. There will be a separate committee set up to run the community centre in the long term, and if residents are interested in this then do contact Viki by email – viki@kingsmerecommunity.com VH thanked MB and VZ for their input and support.

ACTION: VK – to continue to liaise with MB and VK. Community Centre group to continue. Planning will be flagged when at a formal stage.

8.0 Middleton Stoney Road Update

Previously provided by SY under the Countryside Properties update. However following a question SY stated that the damaged verges near Newton Close were OCC land, and so will need to be corrected and won't be left.

9.0 Open Panel Discussion

Margaret Kunzer (MK) - Head of St Edburges CoE Primary School - provided an update -

- Building is on track for the school to open in January 2016
- Planning is beginning to move a 'live' school
- It will be opening a nursery of up to 26 morning places for 3+ year old children from January 2016
- There will be capacity for a 2nd class in each year group from September 2016 (2 form entry), but this will depend on interest from new starting attendees
- At present the capacity is for 152 students, and this will increase to 420 students plus nursery attendees from September 2016
- If residents have children who they are looking to start at St Edburges, please do contact the school, the school is also keen to have new governors

Questions -

- Concern was expressed about the crossing point to the school at Pontefract Rd being on a blind spot of Whitelands Way with particular parking issues. It was stated that it is hoped that most school attendees will walk or cycle. There will be parking for drop off as part of the local centre plan.
- RM offered to take any residents' parking issues to the Council Traffic Advisory Groups.
- GB suggested residents email in with their issues regarding the 'pinch' points of parking/traffic and the KRA would compile them and raise them with SY and the council. GB stated that trying to engage with the multiple agencies involved in roads was still a very frustrating issue.
- RM stated that the Town Council was happy to welcome the KRA meeting to the Council Chamber at The Garth, and offered the continuing use of the Chamber for future KRA meetings.
- SY stated that the MSR road works would be done in conjunction with the Park and Ride works, with the aim for completion in October 2015.
- Kempton Close (after T junction) road/pavement lack of definition was raised as an issue, as there is no difference in height to aid drivers. SY stated that this was part of the design code for the development and was as per plan and is part of the overall drainage strategy. Additionally there are no double yellow lines allowed.
- It was raised that there is an issue with parking as a result too, and people having to walk on the road as cars were covering the pavement area. It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the individual to not block pavements and park inappropriately. GB asked for specific issues with parking to be emailed to the KRA to be collated and taken forward.
- Q for SY – Tree branch fell in Foxey Leys and is an outstanding safety issue. SY stated he was aware and that there had to be an ecology assessment over a 2 week period as it was nesting season. One further assessment required, if no nesting issues this branch can then be dead wooded.
- Parking along the David Wilson/Bellway end of Whitelands Way was flagged as a significant issue, particularly for the double decker bus access required. On corners the bus is having to

mount pavements due to parked cars, and there is a high risk of damage to cars and buses. SY stated that this may be an adjustment period while residents get used to Whitelands Way being open and the bus schedules starting. SY stated that Countryside would review the use of signs stating that there was no parking on Whitelands Way, however these were unenforceable until Whitelands Way was adopted, and this was likely to be over a year. A resident stated that it was clear in their deeds (from David Wilson) no parking was allowed, and deeds would need to be reviewed by all residents to check their rights. It was agreed that SY would organise a leaflet drop to homes on Whitelands Way, and this would also be highlighted in the next Kingsmere Update by the KRA.

- Q - why has Kingsmere been moved from Chesterton Parish to Bicester Town?/Why is council tax higher? RM stated that this was due to a change, following review by the Boundary Commission. Boundaries will be reviewed regularly by the commission. As Bicester Town Council supports more facilities than Chesterton Parish Council the Council Tax rate is therefore higher.
- Q – road surface at top of Pontefract Rd joining Whitelands Way is unfinished – whose responsibility and when will it be done, as it is resulting in large puddles, and potentially damaging to vehicles? SY stated he would follow this up with David Wilson Homes as this is their responsibility.
- Q – Trees along Whitelands dying/dead – will they be replaced? SY stated that Countryside were aware and that the trees will be replaced, but they were trying to negotiate agreement for a hardier type of the same species with CDC planners. Planting season for replacements will be October onwards. SY stated that there is increased maintenance on site with monitoring, and some areas are in process are being handed over to the council.
- Q – No way to safely cross straight over WW at DWH end due to planted beds either side of road – can this be reviewed? SY said he would review this.
- Q – community woodland planned by Park and Ride no further forward – what’s happening? SY stated that this is funded through Section 106.
- Q – has council made provision for long term Kingsmere support as part of funding for the Garden City/Town City initiative? RM stated that as Kingsmere plans were in place in 2005 it is not part of the plans. The ‘Garden City’ money is a pot of money councils bid for from the government and could be used for motorway and specific projects to enhance infrastructure.
- Q – bus stop that was opposite the Bovis sales office has now gone, is this permanent as it is a long way to a bus stop? SY – yes, permanent bus stops are now in place within WW. All housing has to have a bus stop within 400 yards. However, this may include coverage by a stop on Shakespeare Drive, MSR or on the 2nd phase of the development.
- Q – any sign of a post box? – VH – this has been chased by residents and SY for a permanent or temporary provision to no effect. The KRA have also written to Royal Mail CEO with no outcome, but they are not giving up. SY stated that as an interim all of the sales offices will accept appropriately stamped post, but obviously there is no guarantee of when this would be posted.
- Q- is there still a plan for a health centre? SY – yes this land has been purchased but no plans expected for 2 years. The land will feature health related structures, but what these will be is not decided.
- Q – when will street lighting on public footpaths be done? SY stated that the lighting along main footpaths will be done this year. Any problems on WW should be reported to Countryside. Any lighting issues within individual land parcels of developers need to be reported to the individual developer. WW has not been adopted by the council and this is not expected to happen until next year at the earliest.
- Q – who can review HGVs parking on WW at DWH/Bellway end? SY will investigate this.

ACTION:

GB/VK – to compile residents’ concerns about parking and traffic ‘pinch points’ on roads and forward them to SY and RM, and highlight parking as an issue on the next Kingsmere Update

SY – To review -

- ***Parking on WW, consider leaflet drop and signage.***
- ***Pontefract/WW join and follow up with DWH.***
- ***Blockage by bedding areas crossing of WW at DWH end***
- ***HGV parking on WW at Park & Ride end***

RM – will take residents’ parking issues to the Traffic Council Advisory Group

10.0 Any Other Business

FC thanked everyone who has helped with distribution of newsletters, posters. Etc. throughout the development in the past year. Particularly Linda who helped out a lot with the survey and leaflets, and Richard and Mary who help out every time without fail. Distributors are always needed so please keep volunteering.

11.0 Date of next meeting

The next KRA meeting will be in September 2015 – date and venue TBC.

GB and VH thanked all the residents and guests for attending.

Meeting closed at 20.40

DRAFT