



KRA

Kingsmere Residents' Association

Kingsmere Residents' Association Annual General Meeting	
Date:	Wednesday 4 th October 2017 19:00
Venue:	St Edburg's Primary School, Kingsmere

Guests:-	
Steve Price (SP)	Regional Director of Planning - Countryside
Richard Emery (RE)	Senior Project Manager - Countryside
Richard Burton (RB)	Countryside
Margaret Kunzer (MK)	Head Teacher St Edburg's School
Blast Films	

Attendees:-
Graham Brogden (GB) Co-Chair, Viki Heil (VH) Co-Chair, Bryan Taunton (BT), Ibrahiem Abo El Nour (IA), Sandra Abo El Nour (SA), Diana Mbangwa (DM), Tusa Mbangwa (TM), Martin Harvey (MH), Wendy Wleharles Toh (WW), Rosie Phillips (RP), Joe McKenna (JM), Deb Walk Sanders (DW), Ayad Ahmad (AA), Jackie Newbury (JN), John Bentley (JB), Mike Cornes (MC), Nic Gallear (NG), Ian Gallear (IG), Beata Shaheen (BS), Ania Sokojowska (AS), Preyek Rybra (PR), Teresa Lamb (TL), Raj Panigter (RP), Aje Paul (AP), Adrian Reeve (AR), Eleanor Wilson (EW), Alison Pearce (AP), M Mappol (MM), Nigel Pearce (NP), Phil McMillan (PM)

Apologies:
James Hiscott (JH) Treasurer
Richard & Mary Herbert

Before the meeting started GB reminded everyone that Blast Films were present recording for potential inclusion in the documentary they are making for BBC2

Item #	Actions	By Whom	By When
1	Welcome & Introductions All attendees were welcomed to the 4 th AGM by co-chair GB.	GB	✓
1.2	Apologies Apologies noted from James Hiscott (Treasurer) Richard & Mary Herbert	GB	✓
1.3	Review of Minutes from previous meeting Minutes from previous AGM 03/05/16 were reviewed and agreed.	BT	✓
1.4	Matters arising from previous minutes None	GB	✓
2	Annual Co-Chairs report GB presented the annual Co-Chairs report (see appendix 1)	GB	✓



3	<p>Annual Treasurers Report VH presented the annual Treasurers report on behalf of JH including a breakdown of current Association finances (see appendix 2)</p>	VH	✓
4	<p>Election of Association committee members MK oversaw the election of new Association committee members. The following residents were voted into Association committee roles: Graham Brogden – Co-Chair Viki Heil – Co-chair</p> <p>The following residents were keen to join the committee, and roles would be decided upon and formally ratified on at a future meeting. Bryan Taunton (BT) Teresa Lamb (TL) Debs Hiscott (DH) Joe McKenna (JM) John Bentley (JB)</p>	MK GB/VH	✓ Next meeting
5	<p>Kingsmere Phase 2 presentation SP gave an overview of the plans for phase 2 which include a second primary school, one small convenience store, parks and play areas. There are also plans for a country park on the opposite side of Vendee Drive.</p>	SP	✓
6	<p>Open panel discussion / Q&A's A number of questions were raised by attendees, for ease questions relating to phase 2 have been grouped together.</p> <p>Phase 2 questions</p> <p>Vendee Drive Will there be any crossing on Vendee Drive in-light of the country park? There will be a traffic light controlled crossing where the existing right of way exists across Vendee Drive. Street lights? Not as far as countryside are aware but this would be decided by highways.</p> <p>Will there be parking for the convenience store and school drop off? The plans include better parking in the side streets to help with parking.</p>	GB, VH, SP, RE SP SP SP	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓



<p>Will there be a post box on phase 2? Not in the plans.</p> <p>Footpath leading to/by Whiteland Farm, will it be finished? Yes but access has to be restricted while construction takes place and can only re-open when it is safe to do so. There will be another period of closure as the Bellway development also comes close to this path. In the long term the path will be joined up as part of phase 2.</p>	SP	✓
	SP	✓
<p>Other questions.</p> <p>Can anything be done about contractor/lorry parking on Whitelands Way (WW) & Pioneer Way (PW)? Countryside have a meeting with the Council to discuss this and explore the options available</p>	SP	✓
<p>When will roads be adopted? WW & PW are owned by Countryside until they are adopted. Road adoption depends on a percentage frontage which has nearly been achieved. Individual developers will deal with county council for road adoptions on their developments.</p>	SP/RE	✓
<p>When can we expect the retail units? LSB are the developer for the retail units this should be starting soon.</p>	SP	✓
<p>When will the Bicester Gateway development start? There are various legal agreements which are currently being agreed including what works will need to be done to the A41. Likely sometime (Spring) next year but don't hold SP/Countryside to this.</p>	SP	✓
<p>When is the Secondary School due? The land will be handed over to County Council by the end of the year. There is a consultation by the developer Kier Construction at St Edburg's School on Tuesday 10th October 4pm – 7pm. Due to open Sept '19 but the date is not set in stone.</p>	SP	✓
<p>Is there provision for maintenance of the roads and pathways e.g. weeds etc. This lies with the developer for each site.</p>	SP/RE	✓
<p>There are weeds growing up through the tarmac around Whitelands Farm Play area</p>	RE	Next Meeting



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	<p>Are their maintenance contracts for shared courtyard areas? RE is only aware for one existing.</p>	RE	✓
	<p>Will there be lighting on the running track? SP will follow this up.</p>	RP	Next Meeting
	<p>Chesterton still appearing on some mailing addresses. This only appears to be an issue with the royal mail. MP Victoria Prentis (VP) Has taken this issue up along with the post box. This is not to be confused with the Government Constituency split which would see Kingsmere split between North Oxfordshire and Henley. This was due to relevant people not knowing Kingsmere existed (Working on plans where Kingsmere was still just a field).</p>	GB	Next Meeting
	<p>Plans for land between Persimmon & Community Centre? This is where the retail units will be.</p>	SP	✓
	<p>Do we know what is happening with the Office Park next to Tesco? There is currently no info on this.</p>	SP/ GB	✓
	<p>How long can developers close paths/roads? E.g. Bellway Saxon Meadows site facing WW. Bellway have kept the hording up for as long as they can. They need to put the services into the properties, unfortunately there has been an issue which has led to this taking longer than expected. Countryside set the time scale but this has been extended due to the issues encountered.</p>	RE	✓
	<p>Countryside had some aerial photographs showing the development of Kingsmere on display. It was asked what would happen to them, could they be put up in the Community Centre? Countryside will be happy to donate these to the community centre.</p>	TL	✓
	<p>Progress is being made. A design has been drawn, not as detailed as expected. Consultation notice is expected in the Bicester Advertiser next Thursday (12th October). The consultation will end 10th November. Consultation will be on-line, posted to households and an on street notice. We will let everyone know how they can comment and would encourage all to leave comments to support the installation</p>	BT	Update next meeting

Appendix 1 Co-Chairs Report

My co-chair, Viki, and I, welcome you all to the fourth AGM of the Kingsmere Residents Association. It is important we take a moment to recognise all the time, effort and energy **everyone** has given voluntarily to make the KRA what it is today.

In particular we would like to thank St Edburg's Primary School Headteacher, Margaret for kindly hosting the KRA meetings throughout the year and especially to her and the pupils for playing such a proactive part in campaigning for the two crossings to be installed on the Middleton Stoney Road.

We would also like to thank Bryan, John and Mandy for their incredible hard work in developing a real sense of community through the churches group and their tenacious support of various Kingsmere issues.

Thanks to Richard and Steve at Countryside for doing their very best to support us and address residents issues and concerns. And, whatever colour your politics, we would like to thank our MP, Victoria for her support of various issues such as the community centre, MSR crossing and the post box which we are assured is on its way!

We must also thank you and every resident of Kingsmere and Bicester that have got involved in a campaign, liked or shared a Facebook post and generally spread the word about how great Kingsmere and Bicester is.

Yes, there are some issues but none of them are insurmountable and together we will address them and reach a solution. To do that, we need your continued support and input.

It has been another interesting, busy and fun year. We have continued to make some great new friends and neighbours and moved forward with and kept a watching brief on a few key issues.

We attended the St Edburg's Walk retail park open evening and look forward to seeing how that evolves for the betterment of retail across the town and region. We have shared our support and concerns of the impact of this development and the Bicester Gateway scheme with Town and District Councillors and officials in various meetings.

We understand St Edburg's Walk plans are moving forward well and as you all know the Bicester Gateway scheme that is expected to be home to the towns first ever Next and Marks and Spencer has been granted planning permission. We also look forward to the opening of the extension of Bicester Village in two weeks and the creation of some 450 new jobs.

We continue to campaign for two controlled crossings to be installed on the Middleton Stoney Road. The road has a 30mph speed limit but vehicles of all kinds frequently far exceed that and we are all very concerned that a serious accident will happen again. In collaboration with the school and churches group we organised an MSR crossing event as part of the Healthy Bicester Day.

Aimed at drawing attention to the issue and encouraging residents to walk, be healthy and help them cross the road, the event attracted significant media attention and was attended by Victoria Prentis. We understand that traffic monitoring scheduled for that particular day was postponed and the firm advised that the Healthy Bicester Day had been cancelled. This was clearly not the case.

We are pleased that further negotiation and engagement with Oxfordshire County Council Highways Department has led to plans being drawn up to install a controlled crossing near Newton Close and an assisted crossing near Loddon Close. We are very grateful to Countryside for their generous offer of financial support and to Bryan for keeping in close contact with the Council. Bryan will give an update shortly.

We are also very grateful to pupils of St Edburg's school who have wholeheartedly supported the campaign for better crossings. When youngsters say they are too frightened to cross the road something needs to be done.

They designed the MSR crossing campaign logo, were interviewed for local media sharing their views on the importance of the crossing and participated in the action day. We are also very grateful to all the Kingsmere residents and neighbours across the MSR for taking part in the action day.

We are also in discussion with Countryside, Highways and the emergency services about how to address the issue of speeding, parking and accessibility along and around Whitelands Way. We hope to hear soon how Highways plan to address this issue.

You will have seen how rapidly the Community Centre is taking shape. We look forward to seeing this great facility open at the start of March next year. Whilst no one is in any doubt that the Centre will be a great asset for Kingsmere and Bicester we continue to voice concern at the highest levels about the management and governance structure.

The £2.4million centre, funded entirely by Countryside, will be passed to Cherwell District Council on completion. The Council are very keen for residents to then take on full responsibility for the day to day running, managing, marketing and upkeep of the centre.

The KRA has been asking the council for its business plan and financial forecasts for the centre for several years so that residents can make an informed decision about taking on the running of such a large scale operation. Sadly, despite numerous meetings and promises these plans are still not forthcoming.

Setting up a centre from scratch with no core funding or council subsidy is not an easy task and we encourage any resident considering getting involved to fully research the proposition and their individual liability. Currently, whilst supportive of the facility, the KRA will not be taking on the running of the Centre because of the lack of any substantive information from the Council to be able to make an informed decision.

You will also have seen the Sports Pavilion opened at the weekend. These great facilities are available to hire and there is also a coffee shop and bar that is open all day and evening to anyone wishing to pop in for a drink. If you are hiring the function space you can also take advantage of a late licence that allows alcohol to be served till 1.00am on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

The centre will be managed by Legacy Leisure. This is a firm that runs several leisure centres and it will benefit from a council subsidy of £62,000 for the upkeep of the landscaping, not the pitches, and a £53,000 general subsidy for five years. That is almost £600,000 of council tax funds over five years. This is not something the community centre will benefit from and the KRA are already investigating why this is the case.

Viki, John, Bryan and I along with Mike from Highways and Gary, the Bicester Fire Station Commander recently reviewed the plans for phase two of Kingsmere. The plans look most impressive and we were delighted to see that everyone involved has listened to feedback from residents over the years. Steve Price from Countryside will present phase two to us all shortly and we all hope you will agree that it looks great.

Unfortunately, and despite a letter from Royal Mail at the end of July saying the post box will be installed by mid-August, we are still waiting to see and celebrate its arrival. Victoria continues to follow this up on our behalf and we understand this will now be installed on Tuesday 17 October. There will be a Post Box Party!

We have also tried to help as many residents as possible address some specific or localised issues that have included ensuring builders stick to the agreed working hours laid down by the Council and identifying a rather terrifying looking scorpion like insect!

It is also pleasing to see an ever growing community on our Facebook page. If you haven't already, please search for Kingsmere Residents Association and 'like' the page to keep up to date with everything that's going on.

General meetings have seen a steady increase in attendance with lively debate and informative presentations. There have also been countless emails and other meetings behind the scenes with Councillors, Planners, Police, Developers, Countryside, Bicester Village, the Churches Welcome Group, the leaders of Oxfordshire County and Bicester Town Council and our MP, Victoria Prentis who is very supportive of the KRA.

Throughout all this, and from the very start, we have had steadfast support and guidance from our Cherwell District Council Community Development Officer, Vickie Zielinski who recently retired and we would like to record our thanks to her.

There are simply too many others to thank or else we would be here all night!

Needless to say there is still work to be done to secure a postbox, develop the community centre governance and management and continue to engage and develop relationships with key stakeholders and local influencers and we would encourage you to get involved. As there are a few key projects on the cusp of completion or making significant progress Viki and I, with your support, would be happy to continue as co-chairs for one more year.

That said, it really will be one more year as Viki and I really do believe in 'new blood' taking things forward. We need to work together to develop a succession plan to ensure the good work of the KRA continues into the future to help safeguard all of our interests.

It just remains to thank you all for your interest, input and support and for me to personally thank my resident rock and Co-Chair Viki without whom this wouldn't have been half as much fun!

Graham Brogden & Viki Heil, Co-Chair's, Kingsmere Residents Association AGM 4.10.17



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Appendix 2
Accounts

Kingsmere Residents' Association Accounts 2016 - 2017		
Opening Balance (1 May 16)		£1,054.43
Income		
Total Income		£0.00
Expenditure		
AGM - May16	£122.77	
Donation to school - May16	£200.00	
Printing	£13.77	
Website Hosting	£27.36	
Wyevale Drinks	£16.80	
Total Expenditure		£380.70
Profit in year		-£380.70
Closing Balance (1 May 2017)		£673.73
Outstanding Expenses		
Prizes	£40.00	
Printing	£121.89	
Website hosting (2017/18)	£33.55	
July Committee Meeting	£14.52	
Total		£209.96
Balance with additional expenses as at 1 October		£463.77