



KRA

Kingsmere Residents' Association

Kingsmere Residents' Association (KRA) General Meeting	
Date:	Wednesday 14 th July 2021 19:30
Venue:	Zoom Virtual Meeting

KRA Committee Members Present:	
Bryan Taunton (BT)	Chair
Teresa Lamb (TL)	Secretary
Joe McKenna (JM)	Treasurer
Natasha Sahgal (NS)	Community and Culture Ambassador
Kev Haynes (KH)	Community and Culture Ambassador
Len Bellis (LB)	Green Space Ambassador

Guests:	
Rosie Rowe (RR)	Cherwell District Council (CDC)/Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)
Richard Emery (RE)	Senior Project Manager, Countryside Properties PLC
Councillor Dan Sames (DS)	Cherwell District Council (CDC) and Bicester Town Council (BTC)
Katey Humphris (KaH)	Cherwell Community Safety Team
Eleanor Smith (ES)	Graven Hill Residents' Association

Attendees:	
Ally Pearce; Richard Herbert; Mary Herbert; Sam Griffiths; Tracey Webb; Jackie Newbury; Sam Sawhney; Adrian Reeve; Laura Butterworth; Catherine Bottomley; Mark Tyrrell; Robin.	

	Agenda Item	By Whom
1	Welcome & Introductions	BT
2	Apologies Apologies had been received prior to the meeting from: Ashley Hayden (KRA, Green Space Ambassador); Dave Ford (KRA Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety Ambassador); Adrian Cush (Principal, Whitelands Academy); Victoria Prentis MP (although a member of her office is attending on her behalf); Councillor Nick Cotter (CDC/BTC); Councillor Les Sibley (OCC); Councillor Lucinda Wing; Mike and Gill Cornes (Residents)	TL
3	Review of Actions/Minutes from Previous Meeting Minutes of the previous meeting (or a link to them) were circulated with the Zoom login details for this meeting. TL asked for any corrections/amendments to the minutes to be raised in the next week.	TL



	<p>(Nothing was received by 22nd July 2021 therefore the minutes of the previous meeting have been accepted as a true representation.)</p> <p>Actions for Councillor Dan Sames from meeting 20/04/2021:</p> <p>1. To find out if there could be provision for other sports (including tennis and athletics) at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground. DS talked to the relevant CDC officer. It will require a more long-term effort to get other sports on site. It is feasible but has to get into long term plan for sports provision in Bicester.</p> <p>2. To seek clarification from the relevant officers at CDC regarding public use of grass pitches at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground and take forward residents' concerns regarding restricting use. The former manager of the sports pavilion has now moved on and it is hoped that this may itself have resolved this issue. However, DS was also told that the management were trying to minimise damage to pitches. If there is still an issue then please contact Dan with the specific details (date, time, who was trying to use the pitch and for what purpose etc.) so he can follow up.</p> <p>Actions for Richard Emery from meeting 20/04/2021:</p> <p>1. Continue to press Bovis/Vistry to level site entrance road (adjacent to Co-Op) to stop water pooling there when it rains. Bovis/Vistry have added some tarmac to their site entrance road (adjacent to Co-Op) – this has helped but some ponding still occurs. Countryside have tidied this area today, but Bovis are due to start service connections in this area soon.</p> <p>2. To find out when Persimmon will finish and remove their compound from Redcar Road. Persimmon are saying September, they have some snagging to do. They have reduced the size of their compound in the meantime though.</p> <p>3. To ask is space reserved for GP/healthcare facility can be used in short-term as green space. They have had to fence the area to mark boundary and ownership as it continues to be marketed for healthcare use in agreement with the approved plans.</p>	TL
4.	<p>“School Streets” Pilot Scheme Feedback</p> <p>Pilot scheme has been completed. Feedback was received from parents, residents, children and the school. This was by survey and direct feedback. Decision to end the pilot and not extend. There was some positive feedback of having more space/better space to make journey to school more pleasant. However, the scheme made minimal impact on change in transport use to school. There were also negative impacts of displaced parking/obstructing junctions/parking on yellow lines, making those areas less safe. Ultimately the scheme is only viable long-term if</p>	RR



	<p>there are sufficient volunteers and the pilot showed that there were difficulties in attracting sufficient volunteers. They are continuing to learn from the pilot and other ways to make improvements. Suggestions include 20mph zone. Parking enforcement – moving to civil enforcement that may make more enforceable.</p> <p>Other comments around design, including width of pavements and crossing points.</p> <p>DS: 20mph limit will come into effect when roads are adopted. Civil parking enforcement (within DS's CDC portfolio) – looking to have 3 parking enforcement officers in district, will be one for Bicester, if identify problem areas can add to task list.</p> <p>KH: Is there a date/time when roads will be adopted? DS: 18-24months. RE: Start this year, had planned to do in sections but it looks like it will condense and may end up being completed together.</p> <p>TL (comment received from Councillor Les Sibley via email prior to meeting): Cllr Les Sibley attended the virtual meetings regarding the School Streets Pilot project, including the Review meeting held on 29th June. Cllr Sibley would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who volunteered their time to be stewards for the pilot project. RR added her thanks to volunteers.</p>	
5.	<p>Questions/Suggestions/Issues Raised by Residents</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Managed areas research (Graven Hill RA – Eleanor Smith) – fact finding with neighbouring estates to find out how getting on with management agency. Only one person on call had a managed area and was able to answer ES's questions. If there are other residents who would like to share their experience with management companies then they can get in contact with her via email (ghvmcmembers@hotmail.com)2. Mary Herbert – Feedback to RE to follow up on join between Sandown and footpath, which Mary previously raised as an issue. This has still not been done. RE: Two joins to footpath will be done in tarmac. Still working in the area. RE to make sure it is done. ACTION: RE to make sure these connections are put in before Vistry contractors finish.3. JM – thank you to RE for organising for bushes near Middleton Stoney Road Roundabout to be cut. This was causing an issue for families that cross here to get to Kings Meadow School. The problem was rectified very quickly after it was reported.	



	<p>RE: Ask residents to share issues and Countryside will try to address them, they don't always see everything and if they are not aware then they cannot fix.</p> <p>4. NS – In balancing pond areas grass is very long. Hasn't been mowed very often. Was a thin strip cut short, not sure why? RE: CDC would like more areas to be left long for wild flower meadows. It is now landscaped to the planning approved drawings. Long sections have two cuts a year. Kept short on either side of path.</p> <p>5. Resident of Redcar Road asks (via email) "When will the stream (that runs down the Middleton Stoney Road side of Kingsmere, near the two balancing ponds) be cleared/dredged? It has flooded three times and has affected the resident's property. It has been nearly two years since it was last dredged. RE: Countryside will keep an eye on it. It will be flailed before winter, but if it continues to be a problem it might be that the bank of the stream will need to be raised slightly where it is being breached. ACTION: RE to ensure that stream is flailed and monitor if flooding still occurs.</p> <p>6. A similar question was also asked by another resident (via email) – "recent lack of landscaping on the estate. Some of the grass has turned into an overgrown field which is causing people to cut through play areas and private gardens as the grass is so high to walk through. Just curious why the sudden change from well kept lawns to overgrown fields that are impractical. The height of the grass also makes it difficult to see where the water streams are, if the grass is to remain high should there to be signs to show there's a dip into water?" RE: There was a ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) inspection last year and their advice was to have long grass around water areas. They do not need signs, unless there is a significant drop from height.</p> <p>7. Adrian Reeve – (in response to the above discussion) wild flower zones are probably a cost reduction initiative on the side of the council. Started as a well-manicured area but now left wild to save council money. DS: this is a contentious issue, some that think it is messy, but also have other residents that want to encourage wildlife etc. DS can ask CDC ground maintenance team to look into it, if people want to provide specific areas of concern (so he can ask them to look at the correct area). NS: commented that the area between Plumpton/Ripon and sports field has been left "wild" with only a walkway cut through for several years, but there was no indication that the area around the balancing ponds near Middleton Stony Road was also going to be left, so it has taken residents by surprise. Both DS and RE commented that it takes several years (and needs</p>	
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<p>appropriate management) to establish wild flower areas so whilst it may look a mess currently it should improve in future.</p> <p>ACTION: Residents to contact Cllr Dan Sames (email: daniel.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk) and/or KRA (info@kingsmerecommunity.com) with precise location details of areas where there is concern regarding the landscaping and grass being left long. DS will then ask the CDC ground maintenance team to assess.</p> <p>8. Mark Tyrrell – what is the cost to mow all areas and does it affect council tax budget? RE: As it was planned to be left long then would presume it would not be in the budget currently. DS: It would be part of overall management costs.</p> <p>9. Ally Pearce – Garden waste bins: are we going to have to pay and is there risk of increased fly-tipping? DS: This wasn't something that Cherwell District Council wanted to bring in, but will now have to collect food waste weekly and cannot charge for that service. Garden waste collections is a discretionary service and so the decision was reluctantly made. Cherwell is the only area of Oxfordshire that doesn't already do this already. If adopt early there will be a reduced rate. First bin £36 (which increases to £40 after the early adoption period), £30 for 2nd bin. (Planned to go to £40/year in subsequent years but will depend on uptake etc.) DS will do all he can to try to keep charges as low as possible. In another area that has already made this change there has been no significant increase in fly-tipping etc.</p> <p>Ally Pearce – Would one be charged for taking garden waste to Ardley tip? DS: Thinks that there isn't a charge for taking a "reasonable amount" of garden waste, but he would need to check to be sure. Ally Pearce – Are we only area that doesn't take glass from doorstep collections? DS: There is a cost implication, by separating glass get better quality of glass recycling which attracts higher payment, but there are a variety of initiatives coming online from central government, such as deposit scheme on glass bottles that could impact usage of bottle banks. Watch this space.....</p> <p>Adrian Reeve (via chat) – When is £36 for Brown bin collection starting? Nothing on Cherwell DC site relating to it? Can we provide a link in the minutes please? DS: There should be link. Will also be a leaflet/bin hangers issued. New food waste containers going out from autumn so all should have by Christmas.</p> <p>There is now further information on the CDC website: https://www.cherwell.gov.uk/info/10/rubbish-and-recycling/821/food-and-garden-waste-collections</p>	
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<p>10. JM (on behalf on James Hiscott) - What's happening with all the markings on the pavements in different colours at different times? RE: Marked up during initial inspection with OCC, marked up last year for tendering, now going to look to do whole thing. Different colours are just because RE ran out of spray!</p> <p>11. Issues raised by AH (submitted by email in advance of meeting)</p> <p>a) Police: request for an update on actions taken since last meeting, in particular to address drug dealing and general anti-social behaviour (e-scooters)</p> <p>KaH: can't go into specifics, but would like to reassure residents that there is ongoing work and patrols as often as possible. Intel passed to police and evidence being gathered and hope that action can be taken soon. Keep reporting via 999 if in progress, or after event by 101. Information can be taken by Community safety team via email/phone. Might not take reactionary measures but it is helpful.</p> <p>KH: What can be done to tackle underlying social issues and what can community do, youth facilities etc ?</p> <p>KaH: Community United in Banbury is pilot project that her team is involved with. Learning from that will be able to applied to other areas. Will also now be able to do more with schools etc. as covid restrictions ease.</p> <p>BT: Neighbourhood watch – currently only 10 members for one for whole of Kingsmere. There are some others for specific areas but would recommend joining one that covers whole of Kingsmere.</p> <p>Ally Pearce (via chat): Who is the contact for neighbourhood watch? BT: https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/ (to join search for the scheme “Kingsmere Bicester”) can also email coordinator Dave on Dave@kingsmerecommunity.com</p> <p>b) Speeding: becoming a “rat run”. Accident at end of June involving a van due to speed. Mounted curb. Not aware of any casualties, but only a matter of time. Need to take action to reduce speeds. Traffic calming measures?</p> <p>DS: speeding has been concern in other areas, if undertake traffic survey it tends to be average speed is below the level. Once 20mph comes in, get Community speed watch and campaign for safer speeds to encourage all to observe.</p> <p>BT: Community speedwatch moved into Thames Valley and we are on the list to join this initiative once it is open to us.</p> <p>c) Green space – pockets of land for use as community style allotments (like Elmsbrook?). Possible use for area currently reserved for health provision on phase one? Funding and management?</p> <p>RE: Countryside would support and thinks that the Primary School would also like to be involved with this. However, it would need agreement from CDC.</p> <p>DS would also be happy to support.</p>	
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	<p>ACTION: RE to write to DS to formally request council's support with moving this forward.</p> <p>d) Whitelands Farm Sports Ground grass pitches – understand that they are not fit for purpose (ground too hard?) – what is being done to address this? DS: currently looking to get the rugby club to use the pitches and they are bringing groundsman from RFU to advise CDC. They weren't installed to the appropriate standard but CDC are taking steps to rectify this.</p> <p>e) Parking on grass verge on Vendee Drive – continues to be a problem but is being monitored. No parking signs have been put up by OCC – is there any more that can be done to deter parking here? DS: suggests knee high rails or bollards. CDC are trying to encourage users of Whitelands to park in correct locations and will continue to monitor.</p> <p>f) Are there any updates on plans/timescales for developments in/around Bicester including: Oxfordshire Strategic Rail Freight Interchange Great Wolf Resort Development (Chesterton) – DS: don't know when will start, have just won their appeal. DS will try to find out from planning consultant for Great Wolf. Apartments (c450) and offices by Tesco's – DS: finalising section 106 – DS to try to get an update. David Lloyds and associated works off Vendee Roundabout – DS: work ongoing and will soon be road closure to facilitate some of the necessary road layout changes. Howes Lane proposals – DS not sure, as out of his area.</p> <p>ACTION: DS to get updates on local planned developments and feedback.</p> <p>12. Mary Herbert – What is coming to the end unit under gym? BT: Didn't get an update from the retail park management company for this meeting, but will try to find out. RE: The substation has gone in so Pure Gym that should be able to open soon. Will Boots have an NHS dispensary? JM: Asked one of the pharmacists in there and the dispensary area is currently not big enough. There are also the maximum number of dispensing pharmacies in area as Boots kept Town Centre branch with dispensary.</p>	
6.	<p>Any Other Updates</p> <p>1. KRA Litter Pick Saturday 18/09/2021 – to coincide with "Great Big Green Week" DS: If contact CDC officers can arrange to lend equipment and may be able collect the rubbish (although not 100% sure if the area being unadopted will impact this?).</p>	



	2. KRA: We are in the process of redesigning and updating our website so it is likely to go off-line shortly while the changes are made.	
7.	Date of Next Meeting 20th October and will be the AGM – this will include election of committee members - new members are encouraged to get involved.	BT/TL

The meeting closed at: 21:05

Appendix: Transcript of zoom meeting chat

20:02:29 From Eleanor Smith to Everyone : If you'd like to get in touch with me to discuss managed areas for collaboration amongst the villages, please email:

ghvmcmembers@hotmail.com

20:23:25 From Mark Tyrrell to Everyone : How much extra does it cost to cut all the areas? Does this affect the council tax budget in a significant way?

20:35:31 From Adrian Reeve to Everyone : When is £36 for Brown bin collection starting? Nothing on Cherwell DC site relating to it? Can we provide a link in the minutes please.

20:42:44 From Ally Pearce to Everyone : who is the contact for neighbourhood watch?

20:43:18 From Kingsmere Residents Association to Everyone :

<https://www.ourwatch.org.uk/>

20:43:49 From Ally Pearce to Everyone : thank you

20:44:45 From Kingsmere Residents Association to Everyone : or Dave on Dave@kingsmerecommunity.com

20:53:02 From Ally Pearce to Everyone : who do we report to?

20:56:52 From Sam Sawhney to Everyone : To echo Kev's comments a pleasure to be part of this group - living on Fontwell Road as of the past year! I've spent most of my career working with schools and creating community provision to prevent young people making negative lifestyle choices, but also to work with gang based activity too. Happy to bring my experiences from London and abroad on this.

20:59:20 From Katey Humphris to Everyone : Contact details for the community safety team - community.safety@cherwell-dc.gov.uk and 01295 221824