

<b>Kingsmere Residents' Association (KRA) General Meeting</b>	
Date:	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 19:30
Venue:	Kingsmere Community Centre (Youth Wing) and on Zoom

KRA Committee Members Present (In person or virtually on Zoom):	
Bryan Taunton (BT)	Chair
Teresa Lamb (TL)	Secretary
Len Bellis (LB)	Green Space Ambassador
Ashley Hayden (AH) [virtual]	Green Space Ambassador
Kev Haynes (KH) [virtual]	Community and Culture Ambassador
Catherine Bottomley (CB)	

Guests:	
Tricia Jessiman [virtual]	Senior Research Associate in Qualitative Public Health, University of Bristol
Dawn Burford [virtual]	Chair, Bicester Community Resilience Group
Jamie Jessett	Bicester Litter Pickers Voluntary Group/Resident
Cllr Nick Cotter	Cherwell District Council (CDC)/Bicester Town Council
Cllr Dan Sames	Cherwell District Council (CDC)/Bicester Town Council
Cllr James Metcalfe	Bicester Town Council
Richard Emery [virtual]	Countryside

Other Attendees:	
<p>In Person: James Hiscott (resident and technical support meeting); Sundeep Singh (Candidate in forthcoming CDC elections); Ibrahim and Sandra (residents); Chris Roberts (resident); Jasmine Roberts (resident); Lukas Schmidt (resident); Frank and Denise (residents).</p> <p>On Zoom: Chris Pruden (Candidate in forthcoming CDC elections); Sam Griffiths (representative from Victoria Prentis MP's office); Richard and Mary Herbert (residents); Adrian Reeve (resident); Eleanor (resident); Ailene B (resident); Neal R (resident); Sam Sawhney (resident).</p>	

	Agenda Item	By Whom
1	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b> Bryan welcomed all to the meeting and asked for patience, as this is the first time in a hybrid format. Bryan introduced the KRA committee members present in the room and on Zoom.	BT
2	<b>Apologies</b> Apologies had been received prior to the meeting from: Dave Ford (KRA Committee Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety Ambassador),	TL



	Natasha Sahgal (KRA Committee Community and Culture Ambassador), Victoria Prentis MP (although a member of her team will be attending virtually), PC Kate Ford (on behalf of TVP Bicester Neighbourhood Policing Geographical and Problem Solving teams), Tim Davies (CDC Community Warden), Mike and Gill Cornes (residents).	
3	<p><b>Review of Minutes/Actions from Previous Meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes of the previous meeting were circulated with emails with details for this meeting and a link was added to the Facebook post that advertised the meeting details. There were also some printed copies available at the (in person) meeting. Nobody had any issues with the previous minutes to raise at this point, but TL asked for any corrections/amendments to the minutes to be raised in the next week. Nothing was received by 12<sup>th</sup> April 2022 therefore the minutes of the previous meeting have been accepted as a true representation.</p> <p><b>Actions for KRA Committee from meeting 20/10/2021:</b></p> <p>1) BT to announce new committee roles and the new Treasurer at a future KRA meeting.  <a href="#">This will be done under Agenda item 4 of this meeting.</a></p> <p>2) LB/AH to find out more from Countryside about how residents can buy additional trees to be planted around Kingsmere.  <a href="#">LB provided an update to say that when they asked about this it turned out that residents on Phase 2 had been able to purchase additional trees to be planted within their own plots and it was not currently possible for residents to buy trees to be planted on public spaces/greenways.</a></p> <p><b>Actions for Richard Emery from meeting 20/10/2021:</b></p> <p>1) Mary Herbert to forward email sent to RE about overgrown hedgerows on green corridors (hadn't been cut for 2 years) to KRA and KRA to chase RE about getting hedgerows trimmed.  <a href="#">Mary did this and the hedgerows have since been trimmed.</a></p> <p>2) Use of pockets of land as community style allotments (similar to those at Elmsbrook). DS to liaise with RE and CDC Officers to find out how to move using pockets of land as community allotments forward.  <a href="#">Countryside will support the proposal for community style allotments at Kingsmere.</a>  <a href="#">The Council will need to process this proposal as it will require a change to planning.</a>  <a href="#">There will need to be ownership of these areas by others as once all of the housebuilding and healthcare facilities are completed and the roads and landscape areas are adopted Countryside will no longer have a presence at Kingsmere.</a></p>	TL



	<p><b>Actions for Councillor Dan Sames from meeting 20/10/2021:</b></p> <p>Dan arrived during the meeting (as he had been at a Town Council meeting) therefore his actions from the last meeting were covered once he was present).</p> <p>1) Use of pockets of land as community style allotments (similar to those at Elmsbrook). DS to liaise with RE and CDC Officers to find out how to move using pockets of land as community allotments forward. (See above Action 2 for Richard Emery) – DS following up with officers to propose change to use. <b>ACTION.</b></p> <p>2) DS to feedback at next meeting the outcome of his meeting with developer of land next to Tesco. Likely to submit planning application shortly. Mix of residential and commercial use, plus substantial parkland. Due to come forward soon.</p> <p>3) DS to forward email with information from Economic Development Officer about Rail Freight Interchange to KRA. Needs to find the email exchange and will then forward to KRA. <b>ACTION.</b></p>	
4.	<p><b>Ratification of appointment to KRA Treasurer role</b></p> <p>At our AGM in October, Joe McKenna stepped down from the KRA Committee and his role as Treasurer as he was moving away from Kingsmere (and Bicester). Since that time BT has been caretaker of the Treasure position. However, also during the AGM, Catherine Bottomley was elected to join the Committee. Catherine has subsequently agreed to take over the position of Treasurer. Catherine was formally appointed as Treasurer at this meeting.</p>	BT/CB
5.	<p><b>Active Travel Research Study</b></p> <p>Introduced herself, commissioned to do research study by Oxfordshire County Council (OCC). Looking at active travel in Bicester and Witney. Particularly interested in Kingsmere. Particularly those that use cars, reasons for doing so, both people who commute to work (either fully by car or travel to train/bus by car); and also older people.</p> <p>There will be focus groups held in early May. Participants will receive a £30 voucher for taking part. If interested in taking part then please contact Tricia via email: Tricia.Jessiman@bristol.ac.uk.</p> <p>Question from BT: Are you wanting to include those commuting by car to work locally (within Bicester) as well?</p> <p>TJ: Yes! We'd particularly like to capture these journeys.</p> <p>BT: We will also share details about participation in this study on KRA Facebook page.</p>	TJ
6.	<p><b>Community Resilience Group</b></p> <p>Bicester Town Community Resilience Group. Has been going for several years, but like lots of things the pandemic caused us to hit a bit of a glitch, and so we're looking at how we can get more people involved.</p>	DB



	<p>What is it: A group of Bicester residents that meet once every quarter with the police (Dawn isn't involved with the police, just a resident), to discuss priorities for neighbourhood police team for next quarter. Dawn asked for feedback from those at the meeting about how they heard about this KRA meeting (to guide ways of advertising the Community Resilience meetings) – feedback that most in the room saw posters put up around Kingsmere.</p> <p>Comment from Sundeep Singh: Connectivity to police is important – perhaps different wards (such as Kingsmere) could present the local issues to the police.</p> <p>DB: The most successful meeting was held to date was at FLTR in Langford, so they possibly may look at moving around the different estates/areas of Bicester.</p> <p>Comment from Jasmine Roberts: Posts on social media/digital marketing means that things can get lost, perhaps a newsletter through people's door or via email would be more effective.</p> <p>Dawn thanked the group for their input and helpful feedback.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety/TVP Update</b></p> <p>Dave Ford (KRA Neighbourhood Watch/Community Safety Ambassador) was unable to attend and did not give an update</p> <p><b>Tim Davies (Cherwell Community Warden):</b>          [Tim provided a written update in advance of the meeting, which was read out by TL in his absence.]          "No new updates other than our push along with TVP for a Public Spaces Protection Order we are looking to introduce into Bicester to deal more robustly with Anti-social Behaviour.</p> <p>Details of this can be found on CDC website/Thames valley Police neighbourhood alert or our social media pages and our public consultation ends this FRIDAY 8th. We would really appreciate all members/residents contribution."</p> <p>Tim provided a QR code that will take you directly to the consultation, which the KRA will try to post and promote on our Facebook page in the next couple of days.</p> <p><b>Thames Valley Police (TVP) Update:</b>          [Written update received after the meeting therefore included in the minutes as information for residents]          TVP continue to patrol Kingsmere in an endeavour to combat the reports of drug dealing and the use of Mini Moto's. The PCSO's successfully deterred 2 riders and will issue Sec 59 warnings when</p>	TL



	<p>suspects are identified. Please be assured that the Neighbourhood Policing Team took the reports of a suspicious possibly drunk male near to the school very seriously, undertaking reassurance patrols, and possible identification of the male.</p> <p>We continue to thank the residents of Kingsmere for their continued reporting of such incidents for us to target our patrols, build our intelligence picture and ultimately make arrests and bring offenders to justice.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Community Speed Watch</b></p> <p>This has now been launched on Kingsmere. There are Community Speed Watch (CSW) signs on every entrance point to estate. All of the required signage and equipment was purchased via a grant from Councillor Les Sibley. Any location used has to fulfil certain criteria and be agreed with the police. The Kingsmere group currently have 7 locations agreed with TVP.</p> <p>There are currently 7 members of CSW in Kingsmere. Have run 2 sessions so far. Each session needs 3 people to operate, so one of the biggest challenges is coordinating dates/times that 3 people can all do. The more people that have signed up and completed the online training, the more sessions that can be run. If anyone would like to volunteer email: <a href="mailto:bryan@kingsmerecommunity.com">bryan@kingsmerecommunity.com</a></p> <p>All information recorded during the session is uploaded to the CSW system and anyone speeding will get letter from TVP. It is an education tool rather than enforcement.</p> <p>Comment from Sundeep Singh: To get more engagement he suggests posting short videos on Facebook to show what it is all about, rather than photos and text.</p> <p>Question from resident regarding if any plans for speed humps or other physical measures to help slow down traffic. There was also a general discussion on estate design, including the areas of shared space (where there is no raised/separate footpath) to be used by vehicles and pedestrians. This design has generally not been well communicated and is misunderstood by many residents. Because Whitelands Way is bus route then it is unlikely that speed humps would be introduced, as any hump would need to be wide enough (~6m) for the bus to fully on (not straddling). At a recent meeting between KRA and Countryside, the KRA asked that if a zebra crossing was installed across Whitelands Way (where Friars Walk crosses the road) then consideration was given to making this a raised crossing.</p> <p>The recent accident on Whitelands Way (where a vehicle mounted the pavement and hit a wall near the junction with Haydock Road) was</p>	BT



	<p>briefly discussed with respect to the need for reducing speeds and deterring use as a “rat run”.</p> <p>Jamie Jessett asked if mirrors could be put up at junctions (such as Ascot Way with Whitelands Way) to aid visibility and increase safety. The KRA discussed this recently with a representative of OCC highways and we were told that they would not support the installation of mirrors (problems with maintenance, vandalism etc.). Reducing the speed (to 20mph) will mean that will be less of a need to increase visibility.</p> <p>Richard Herbert stated that the shared surface is not working as cars parked on them and said that there is legislation to prevent parking on paths coming into effect. BT replied that the concept of shared surfaces (where there is no separate footpath/curb and both cars and pedestrians are both supposed/able to use the same space) has not been well communicated to residents and many don't understand them. It is a planning concept that is, in theory, meant to help reduce speeds (as vehicles should be expecting to encounter pedestrians and therefore drive more cautiously), but in practice it doesn't seem to work as well expected.</p> <p>Ibrahim and Sandra commented that on street parking was contributing to this and is not helped by garages being converted. There was a general discussion that most garages are not used for parking (whether they are converted or not) as most modern cars would struggle to fit in them. Cllr James Metcalfe (BTC) replied that objections are put in to plans to convert garages and it has to be shown that there is still the required parking provision. A resident present, who had converted his garage, confirmed the process.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Community Events</b></p> <p>Trying to offer support to events in community. Keen to hear from people that are planning community events, as think that there is a lot going on individually/in small groups and would like to try to bring awareness to wider community. KH has been talking to Kingsmere Community Centre about possible ideas and Sam Sawhney has some ideas of possible events, such as a rambling event around Kingsmere so we all get to find more about our local area.</p> <p>KH is also meeting with interfaith groups and looking at how to mark the Queen's Jubilee.</p> <p>Sam Sawhney: Sam has previous experience in using sport to tackle disadvantage. He is in discussion with Council because Whitelands Farm Sports ground in coming back under direct Council management and he</p>	KH



	<p>is looking to run a free football group for girls 8+. He is also looking at how Street Tag could be further developed.</p> <p>Jamie Jessett commented that Street Tag could link in with litter picking and if people joined his litter picking group then as move around Bicester Street Tags could be collected at the same time.</p> <p>Jasmine Roberts said that she has an event management background and would like to help with community events. KH to get in contact with Jasmine after the meeting.</p>	
10.	<p><b>Green Space Update</b></p> <p>Busy talking to Richard about planting additional trees along greenway. In September we ran a litter pick and will look to arrange another soon as it is a good way to bring community together.</p> <p>Also talking to Countryside about using small pockets of land as community allotments.</p> <p>Burnyhyll Woodland – planted 1000 trees in autumn. There have been problems with motorbikes using this area. The police have been informed, but if anyone sees them then please report to the police.</p> <p>Len regularly does regular litter picks and on a recent excursion he found 21 individual (single glass measure) wine bottles left near Bath Crescent. He believes these may have been purchased from the Co-Op and has arranged to speak to the manager later this week.</p> <p>Len has identified what he refers to as “Dead Zones” (small areas of land, often alongside a property’s boundary that are currently not being maintained by anyone) and he is continuing to chase Vistry Homes about who should be responsible for two of these plots.</p> <p>Sandra commented that the storm ditch between Middleton Stony Road and Kempton Close was full with litter. She plans to try to clear this at around 2pm on Saturday, if anyone would care to help. Jamie Jessett said he would see if he or someone from his group could make it to help.</p> <p><b>Tackling Litter - Bicester Litter Pickers Voluntary Group</b></p> <p>The aim of the group is to try to encourage everyone to take care of the environment. Anyone who wants join in can get in contact with Jamie. (There is a Bicester Litter Pickers Voluntary Group Facebook page or KRA can pass residents’ details onto Jamie.)</p> <p>One of the issues in Kingsmere is with Dominos as the boxes don’t fit in bins, so the bins overflow. Jamie spoke to manager of Dominos, but they said that once they leave shop they are not their responsibility. Will need to keep trying to get Dominos to engage and find a solution.</p>	<p>AH/LB</p> <p>JJ</p>
11.	<b>Councils Update</b>	





<p><b>Nick Cotter:</b> Bicester Town Council and Cherwell District Council Counsellor for Bicester South and Ambrosden – large area (not just Kingsmere). Independent Councillor.</p> <p><b>Speeding</b> – no fan of speeding drivers but most speeders live locally. 20mph will come onto Kingsmere, but not until roads adopted.</p> <p><b>Doctors' Surgery</b> – to be built at Graven Hill. Land allocated for health facility in Kingsmere, but it is not going to be here. There will be parking and bus services to Graven Hill site to make sure that it is accessible for all.</p> <p><b>BTC Grants</b> – £20,000, charitable groups can apply for grants that are available. Even if not a charity groups may be able to access specific grants, such as for litter picking equipment. BTC also run the Good Citizen awards.</p> <p><b>PureGym</b> – there was a lot of speculation that it was never going to open so NC contacted CEO last year and sort assurance that they still planned to open. This has now opened.</p> <p><b>Whitelands Farm Sports Area</b> – Again there has been a lot of rumour and speculation but it is not going to be sold off and it is not going to close. It will remain a sports facility. Following safety concerns that were raised by several residents BTC have secured funding to install lighting for the path that runs around the pitches. Phil Evans, who is the new BTC Town Clerk (and lives in Kingsmere) has been doing a lot of work regarding the transition from Legacy Leisure.</p> <p>AH asked for clarification of the situation regarding the Rugby Club using Whitelands Farm. NC didn't have details of what has been agreed, but the desire of BTC is for the people of Bicester to get maximum use out of it (both outside and facilities).</p> <p><b>Dan Sames:</b> Bicester Town Council and Cherwell District Council Counsellor for Bicester South and Ambrosden (Dan had just arrived from another meeting.)</p> <p><b>Garden waste collection changes</b> – These appear to be going ok, but there have been some teething issues. If anyone has a non-collection then it can be reported via Cherwell District Council website. If there are persistent non-collection or other issues then please contact Dan (<a href="mailto:daniel.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk">daniel.sames@cherwell-dc.gov.uk</a>) so he can follow it up.</p> <p>Jamie Jessett asked about how to report overflowing dog poo bins and public bins. The roads/public space in Kingsmere are not yet adopted so will need to be reported to Countryside (some bins are the responsibility of others, such as those near the shops in the village centre and retail park). Elsewhere in Bicester report to CDC/ the relevant ward councillor.</p>	
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	<p>Ashley Hayden commented that he was concerned that the grey food waste bins are quite lightweight so he is worried that they will blow everywhere.</p> <p>Eleanor asked about food waste collection from flats – she lives in flat (housing association) but residents there have not been given new food waste bins. Dan asked Eleanor to email him the details he we take up with the team. <b>ACTION</b></p> <p><b>James Metcalfe:</b> Bicester Town Council. James didn't have anything further to add.</p>	
12.	<p><b>Countryside Update</b></p> <p>Sold of all the parcels that were initially planned to be developed by housebuilders. Two parcels left are being marketed for healthcare, but no update on those yet.</p> <p>Main push for Countryside is now their exit strategy, although they will probably be here for another 2 years or so. No roads or landscaped areas have yet been adopted or legally transferred, but things are happening. Countryside have just received tenders for remedial work to North and South ends of Whitelands Way. Works to start around May time, with a view to them going into the 12 month maintenance period at end of year 2022, before formal adoption the following year.</p> <p>1650/1700 houses on phase 1 completed – aim to finish September 2022.</p> <p>200/700 on phase 2 completed – aim to finish approx. May 2024.</p> <p>Recycling area (currently behind Co-Op) to move to side of Co-Op once Bovis/Vistry have completed work in that area.</p> <p>Retail park: PureGym now open (the delay was due to the need for an extra substation).</p> <p>Bus service: Number 26. It is currently paid for by Countryside. However, the patronage is not great. Countryside are working with Stagecoach and there will be a questionnaire coming out in next couple of weeks regarding travel.</p> <p>Phase 2 new primary school site: work is likely to start in July. RE believes it is still the plan for it to open September 2023, but the timeline is tight.</p>	RE
13	<p><b>Any Other Updates</b></p> <p><b>1. Question from resident via email:</b> When will the grass by the copse in Redcar Road will be landscaped? Residents were told it would be landscaped by Persimmon but it is all rubble with</p>	



	<p>weeds now. You couldn't even mow it as it's just rocks underneath.</p> <p><b>RE: It is for Persimmon to do this work. Persimmon is being chased by Countryside and OCC regarding other works that they need to do. RE to chase Persimmon. ACTION.</b></p> <p><b>2. Question from resident via email:</b> Fakenham Street/Pioneer Way junction is incomplete, with part of Fakenham Street yet to have its final surface laid. The drainage on the corner immediately outside 28 Pioneer Way constantly floods due to a lack of road gullies with the lowest point of the road causing flooding at the crossing point. This junction is used by the school run and forces children and other pedestrians to walk out into the main carriageway away from the safety of the footpath. What is the timeline for when this junction will be made safe with the final surface laid and problems with drainage rectified?</p> <p><b>RE is aware that water does pond here. There is a difference between design. There will be 2 extra gullies installed. All agreed, first need Bovis to finish their bit and then Countryside will install the additional gullies. RE to follow up with Bovis adoptions Manager. ACTION. Similar issue on Stratford Way. (That is part of scope of tender).</b></p> <p><b>3. Mary Herbert:</b> The well-used walk way alongside the primary school between Pioneer Way and Cartmel has become a mudbath. Are there plans for this to be a proper path?</p> <p><b>RE: This area is the responsibility of Linden/Vistry. No plans for hard path. It is a "green route". There is more landscaping to be done, including trees to plant and hedge (blocking part of green route) to take out. There was also a problem with the manhole cover/drain. RE to chase again and make sure manhole cover/drain issue is fixed. ACTION.</b></p> <p><b>4. Len Bellis Questions</b></p> <p>a) Vacant shop next to Co-Op – do we know what is happening with it? <b>RE: It is being paid for by estate agents but they have not moved in. Don't know what plan is.</b></p> <p>b) Is there a timescale for the allotments by the P&amp;R? <b>RE: Tim Screen (CDC adoptions) is involved. Don't have time frame but is full intended that these will be provided. They were speaking to OCC about permission to use parking and have entrance via P&amp;R.</b></p> <p>c) There are cages of rubbish left at back of Grand Village Imperial – shouldn't there be a dedicated area for rubbish? <b>RE: Doesn't think they do have large area but will talk to</b></p>	
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	<p><b>CPG and find out where units in that block are supposed to leave their rubbish. ACTION.</b></p> <p>Jamie Jessett asked who was responsible for hedging between Wincanton Road and retail park, as there is lots of rubbish there.  <b>RE: Thinks that CPG are responsible up to footpath on Wincanton Road.</b></p> <p><b>5. Question from resident:</b> Are there any plans for a shop/ convenience store in phase 2 area of Kingsmere? <b>RE: Not currently, but it may depend on interest in assisted living facility and demand/need of residents.</b></p> <p><b>6. Welcome to the newest addition to the KRA family.</b>          Ashley and his wife recently had their first child. BT congratulated them on behalf of the entire KRA committee and presented Ashley (virtually – to be delivered to him at home after the meeting) with a KRA branded babygrow and some other gifts.</p>	
14.	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b>          Will try to get another meeting scheduled before the summer holidays</p>	BT/TL

Thanks to

The meeting closed at: 21:17