

Kingsclere Parish Council

Annual Parish Assembly held in the Village Club

Monday 16th May 2016, 7.30pm

Present: Cllrs Adams; Farey; N Peach; Price; F Sawyer; J Sawyer.
Clerk; 9 members of the public:

1. Welcome by The Chairman: Cllr John Sawyer

2. Apologies: B Cllr Rhatigan; C Cllr Chapman; Cllr Mussett; Cllr R Peach.

Cllr J Sawyer introduced Richard Bayley, Strategic Project Manager (Manydown) from Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council.

3. Presentation on Manydown Development:

Richard Bayley gave a presentation on the current status of the Manydown development. The project is currently working on the first phase of the development in the northern part of the site for 3400 houses. The project plan includes community areas such as shops as well as necessary local infrastructure for example schools. Following the presentation questions were invited from the audience.

i) Concern was raised about the access road onto the A339. The A339 and Roman Road junction needs improvement regardless of the proposed development particularly where Wellington Terrace joins Roman Road next to the roundabout where the A339 and Roman Road meet. The Manydown team will work with Highways on this issue which may involve a new larger junction where the current roundabout is or two new junctions, one at the existing roundabout and a second further along the A339 (between the roundabout and the Wootton St Lawrence junction). Highways need to form a solution not the developers but it is likely to be Traffic Light controlled – it will be a major junction.

ii) As the railway line runs through the development, will there be a station? When whole development is complete (8000 homes) there will still not be a requirement for a station. It would be a benefit to the development but strategically it can be difficult to implement as trains need to stop at stations for 2 minutes which are difficult to timetable. It is not such a difficulty going west but can have a major effect east at Clapham Junction and Waterloo.

iii) How will the north end of the development be connected with the later southern phases? There is a safeguard measure in the plan for a railway bridge or tunnel.

iv) Will it be possible to access the M3 at junction 7? It is possible to link the development with access to the M3 but this would require additional land owners approval as the development does not quite reach the motorway. The main connecting road through the development is unlikely to encourage additional traffic cutting through as the road will have speed restrictions and traffic calming measures. Traffic counts are now underway as they were delayed whilst the Black Dam improvements were still underway.

v) What is the provision for affordable housing? 40% will be affordable but this will be split between starter homes, shared ownership and affordable renting. There will also be some ethical equity release to allow for affordable homes for the elderly too. There will be consultation with planners at BDBC to ensure that the affordable houses are right for the needs of Basingstoke. The development is currently being managed by BDBC not developers.

4. Minutes of last Meeting: The minutes of the APM held on 14th May 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed.

5. Matters arising: None

6. Chairman's review:

Cllr John Sawyer gave a report on the work of the Parish Council over the last year, being the first year of this newly formed council. Three experienced councillors stepped down at the last election in May 2015 which was a great loss to the parish however the new councillors are making their mark. Our longstanding clerk also retired at the beginning of July last year with a new clerk starting in June.

- i. The Community Library which is now run by a large group of volunteers is running extremely efficiently. The volunteers have run some fantastic fundraising events which not only bring in the funds but also, particularly events with celebrity guests either locally or nationally, raise the profile of the Library. Congratulations to the Co-ordinators and volunteers.
- ii. The Neighbourhood Plan group continue to provide monthly updates – a project which has turned out to be far more technical than first imagined. It is intended to go out for public consultation later this summer with a referendum early next year. If we agree to the Neighbourhood Plan it will protect our village against future development. Thank you cllr Adams for leading this vital work.
- iii. The Parish Paths group continue to meet and work under the leadership of Heath. Alongside help from Hannington and the Ramblers Association a number of styles have been replaced with much friendlier gates. Thank you.
- iv. The Making a Difference awards which honour the contribution our local volunteers make to the village was a huge success again this year. Kit Malthouse MP presented the awards on his first official visit to the village. Thank you Cllr F Sawyer and Clerk for the work that went into this.
- v. The environment around the village is much improved by the display of spring and summer bulbs as well as poppies that have been organised and planted by Cllr N Peach. Thank you.
- vi. Remembrance Sunday was an exceptional event this year not only the remembrance walk and service but the whole weekend with our twinning visitors from Cormicy. The fireworks hosted by Friends of Kingsclere School were once again fantastic. The events showed what a cohesive village we live in and proof that people enjoy living here.
- vii. Anniversaries – Congratulation to the Tower production team both past and present on its 50th anniversary. The anniversary edition was very well received by residents. Also congratulations to the Film Club on reaching its 10th anniversary.
- viii. Thank you to our borough and county councillors for their work this year which is very much appreciated. At the April OM, our retiring borough councillor Cathy Osselton was presented with flowers who we particularly thank for all the work she did over the last 13 years particularly most recently saving our public conveniences.
- ix. Well done to the new Community Association Committee at the Fieldgate centre who are busy with so many activities.
- x. A review of the fire service took place this year and Hampshire Fire and Rescue representatives were invited to a council meeting to discuss the changes to the new equipment and procedures. Despite expressing our concerns the plan went ahead, so we will need to keep a close eye on things and report any concerns.
- xi. Our finances are healthy and our precept was reduced this year mainly due to saving on salaries.

At the beginning of 2016/2017 we have a lot to be grateful for, we live in a great village with a financially sound parish council but there will be challenges ahead particularly with the prospect of possibly losing our chemist/pharmacy. The minister concerned has been written to about the demands this could place on our medical centre and also the complexities for villagers who travel by bus.

The Post Office is not going to be lost altogether but we will end up with a service counter in one of the shops. This will make a difference to residents, particularly in terms of undelivered parcels which may be returned to Newbury for collection.

Kingsclere as a village is a significant distance from other facilities and does stand out on the map so we will need to protect our existing facilities.

7. Review of Village Clubs and Organisations:

The Annual report giving details of the activities of many of the Village's Clubs and Organisations over the past year is currently being compiled. The Annual Report is expected to be delivered in August/September as last year.

Representatives present gave brief reports to the meeting:-

i) Parish Paths – still meeting every month and are receiving a lot of help from the county (particularly from Emma). The team look after 23 miles of footpath around the village.

ii) Film Club – still showing monthly films except in August but do need to expand membership.

iii) Community Library – It is county policy to help volunteers that are working well and are successful. This has been a great help for the Library Co-ordinators and Volunteers.

iv) Girlguiding – There is currently a Rainbows Unit, 2 Brownie Units, and a Guide Unit in the village with a third Brownie Unit at Cheam School. Both Brownie Units have enjoyed pack holidays and the Guides took part in the Division trip to Switzerland last August. All Units joined in the Remembrance Day Parade and the Guides helped serve refreshments at the Making a Difference Awards. Three guides are due to receive the Baden Powell Award this Friday which will also be the last meeting for Sue Adams who stands down after many years. As always more volunteers need to come forward. Alan Denness thanked Sue for all her work with the guides.

The chairman acknowledged that there is much community spirit in Kingsclere but more volunteers are needed, particularly for organisations for our young people and the Parish Council will turn their minds to the that challenge.

8. Open Forum:

i) Karin Tolsen raised an issue about the postal service and items that need to be signed for. Because of Royal Mail policy that mail and parcels undelivered are returned to the Post Office organising delivery one of her letters had been returned to Newbury – it took several phone calls to Newbury and several visits to the local Kingsclere Post Office to collect a small letter that required a signature. This will no doubt be an increasing problem when our Post Office closes and we only have a counter. The 0345 number for the Post Office call centre can result in action being taken – they have proved helpful in the past. There is a letter in the Parish Office (from about 10 years ago) that confirmed that Kingsclere, Hampshire with the post code can be used. Perhaps excluding Newbury from our addresses would help.

ii) Janet Bond had been persuaded to visit the fair at the weekend and although the rides were not suitable for the elderly it was lovely to just watch all the young people enjoying themselves so much – it was fantastic for teenagers. It was acknowledged that whilst the weather had been awful for the circus both the circus and the fair had been a benefit to the community and the GP Committee will be debating what repairs need to be made at their next meeting.

iii) Heath Denness raised an issue about the size and number of posters that were displayed by these visiting groups and could the council bear this in mind for next year. Travelling entertainments such as these are not governed by the same fly poster regulations, there are exceptions in place for them because of the nature of their business so this is difficult to manage.

iv) Alan Denness has requested notice when the road sweepers are due so that residents can take measures to move vehicles and sweep pavements. The clerk has been unable to obtain a schedule but it should be every 6 weeks in curbed areas, she will keep trying for a timetable and does record in the office when the road sweepers visit the village.

v) Traffic Wardens – the question was raised as to whether or not we still have traffic wardens as there are still problems with people parking in Swan Street even where there are dropped curbs. Yes, traffic wardens are still visiting and patrolling.

vi) Borough Cllr Don Sherlock asked how things were going with our new PCSO and it was confirmed that she is working very hard and regularly seen.

9. Close: Cllr John Sawyer ended by thanking everyone for their contributions.

Meeting Closed 8:45pm

Signed:.....
Chairman

Signed:.....
Parish Clerk

Dated:.....

Dated:.....