

## **Minutes of the Action Group Meeting Held on 30 October 2018**

**Present:** Vicki Scott, Tim Ambrose, Steve Berry, Barrie Lambert, Tony Wheeler.

**Apologies:** Will Dorman, John Bewick.

**The minutes of the previous meeting** held on 18 September 2018 were agreed.

### **1 Matters arising**

#### **1.1 Membership of the Group**

No further suggestions had been made.

#### **1.2 Kingston History and Heritage Group**

The Action Group's Constitution offered no impediment to it applying for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund in pursuit of the KHHG's plan for a website. The KHHG would now seek the support of the KPC at their meeting early in November.

#### **1.3 Logs**

Two Snednore residents had asked for the help of the Action Group in placing logs along Wellgreen Lane to protect verges.

### **2 Finance**

2.1 The first £3000 from the Tesco Bags of Help grant scheme had been credited to the Action Group's bank account on 17 September. Steve had since been paid the sum of £292.76, owing to him for more than a year and also a total of £944.48 for the first tranche of expenditure on crocus bulbs, primrose plugs and weed control fabric. A second payment – for £1084.46 (more crocus and more primrose plugs) – was made at the meeting as well as a cheque for £16 to Barrie who had bought fixing pegs for the fabric

2.2 The sum of £151.29, earmarked earlier for later purchases of plants, was still available. Some of this was to be spent on plants for the school grounds, following discussions with the Head Teacher. This left an uncommitted balance of £346.14.

### **3 Environmental update**

#### **3.1` Footpaths**

3.1.1 Steve had received a reply from the Rights of Way Officer at ESCC in response to the letter asking for the restoration of the physical barrier at the Kingston end of this footpath on safety grounds. In this, [REDACTED] had expressed interest in the suggestion of horses using an alternative route from Swanborough to Wellgreen Lane which would avoid the necessity of using the footpath. This would involve crossing land signposted as Flints Farm. Steve would try to establish who owned this land before drafting a response to [REDACTED].

3.1.2 The Ramblers Association were evidently not going to pursue their interest in restoring an allegedly lost footpath said to have run from some point in the field with the windmill, to Audiburn, having passed around Castelmer Fruit Farm. This followed a survey which had failed to find any historical evidence of the existence of this path.

3.1.3 The extension to the cycle path running parallel with the Kingston Road from a point opposite Spring Barn Farm and then progressing behind Wyevale to the Swanborough fishing lakes had apparently been completed. However, the surface was rough and unstable and negotiable with difficulty even on an off-road bike. Steve would write to the Iford Estate to ask whether any more work on this path was proposed.

3.1.4 Steve had taken no further action on the issue of getting two footpaths on Kingston Hill registered as public rights of way.

## **3.2 Litter**

Given that most of the litter collected by Volunteers from the Action Group was generated by the burger bar, it was agreed that the owner of the car park which served users of the burger bar might be open to an approach from the KPC with a view to getting the litter more regularly cleared. Lewes District Council could do nothing about litter here since it was on private land. Tony would raise this issue at the next KPC meeting.

## **4. Tesco “Bags of Help” scheme**

4.1 For details of expenditure to date and the current state of the Group’s finances, see paragraph 2 above.

4.2 The first purchases had been of primrose plugs and crocus bulbs, Steve having found a bulb supplier which guaranteed that its bulbs had not been treated with neonicotinoids: the chemical associated with harming beneficial insect pollinators including bees. About a dozen people had volunteered already to nurse the plug plants until they were ready to be planted out in 2019.

4.3 Steve had now obtained the permission of the organisers of the grant scheme (Groundwork – operating on behalf of Tesco) to certain minor changes to the project plan originally submitted in January 2018. The effect of these changes would be to introduce a little more diversity into the plants and seeds purchased.

## **5 Traffic**

5.1 The long awaited traffic survey by ESCC had been conducted for a week between 15 and 22 October. This had measured both the volume and speed of vehicles travelling towards the school from the direction of the A27 along Ashcombe and Wellgreen Lanes after The Avenue. More than one third (34%) of vehicles exceeded the speed limit and one car had been shown to be travelling at 50 mph.

**5.2** This evidence supported the KPC's case for employing its newly purchased portable speed sensor to measure both the speed and volume of all vehicles passing through the village.

5.3 Given the considerable public attention given to the issue of air pollution by vehicles and the particular concern expressed about the effect of emissions from vehicles in the vicinity of schools, Tony was planning to suggest to the KPC the purchase of a device which measured - at intervals of 80 seconds - the level of atmospheric particulates generated by vehicles. Members of the Group were unanimous in supporting this initiative. The (American) device cost around \$250.

## **6 Kingston News Archive**

6.1 It had emerged that the archive of The Kingston News was no longer being maintained. Tim would ask Katie, the Editor, for pdfs of those editions which had not been archived to date so that these could, in time, be added to the projected KHHG website.

## **7. Planning**

7.1 KPC was considering its response to a planning application for a new house at the junction of Church Lane and Kingstonridge.

7.2 There had been two applications for development at Audiburn – one for a single house and a separate one for five houses. The area concerned was outside the Planning Boundary. The KPC was likely to object to both.

7.3 No reply had been received from the solicitors in respect of the proposed development at Saxondown Farm for more than 18 months.

7.4 The KPC had submitted comments to the South Downs National Park setting out the reasons why - in its view - the NP had failed to follow the proper consultative process. Other Parish Councils had made similar objections.

## **8 Next meeting**

This would be held at 4.45 pm on Tuesday 8 January 2019 in the Pavilion.

