

## Chairman's Foreword

### Welcome to the autumn edition of the Kingsmead Parish Council newsletter.

As usual, you wonder where the time has gone and recently what has happened to those few warm days of summer. We were lucky to escape any of the floods, although the culvert alongside Monarch Drive did fill up more than usual due to the amount of debris that the volume of water pushed down into a pipe which then held back the flow. Luckily no damage was done this time but we will need to investigate how to prevent this recurring in future.

Sarah, our new Clerk, has settled in well and is bringing a fresh viewpoint to both the Council and the Parish. The end of financial year reports were completed with our new financial planning software to the satisfaction of the auditors, and we can now easily make VAT refund requests — it's much quicker than the old manual system. As part of the ongoing move to introduce better planning and management tools, we have recently invested in a GIS system which allows us to map the whole Parish including all property boundaries and assets such as the play areas, litter bins, ponds, etc.

We continue to be involved in issues with residents who have chosen to ignore the boundaries onto Parish land and remove and dump hedge lines so they can progress their own building work. We appeal to all residents to contact the Parish Clerk to discuss access in advance so that we do not end up wasting time and public money on repairs and legal proceedings.

We are also being regularly being informed by our maintenance contractors that people are cutting their hedges and bushes and then dumping these cuttings on Parish land. Unfortunately, this is deemed fly tipping and will be dealt with as such. Clearing this up entails unbudgeted expense which means planned work has to be reduced. Treat Parish land as you would your neighbours, and have the courtesy to get in touch and respect your surroundings.

An important note for all those considering building work— it has recently come to light that the whole of the Parish is not covered by Permitted Development Rights so please check with CWaC planning to see if you are permitted, or not, to build without planning permission—see over for contact details.

Have a good Christmas and New Year and please continue to support your Parish Council.

*Chris Reed, Chairman*

## Our History

For residents who are relatively new to Kingsmead, this is an overview of the history of the Parish Council, which was formed in 2011.

When Kingsmead was first built, the communal land, including parks, ponds, grassed areas, fences, trees, etc, were all managed by a private management company, which collected a fee each month from every property. This went towards the maintenance of those areas.

However, the management company often failed to collect all of the fees, which left a shortfall in the monies, and gradually led to a lack of maintenance, with the village beginning to look run-down.

As well as the maintenance fee, residents also paid a precept to either Davenham Parish Council or Northwich Town Council. However, neither Council could spend their contributions on Kingsmead due to the private management arrangements. The resident's association asked the then Vale Royal Borough Council if they could form a new Parish, while at the same time asking the developers to gift the land and a sum of money to the new Parish Council and therefore abolish the running of the estate by a private management company.

Since 2011, your Parish Council has been responsible for maintaining this area and 100% of your precept contribution is invested in the Parish.



# Planning Permission

If you are thinking of extending your property, you may need to contact Cheshire West and Chester Council for planning advice.

Some properties in Kingsmead require full planning permission while others only need Permitted Development Rights. This is due to different parts of the estate being built at different stages, which required separate planning permissions.

Please contact the local authority by phone 0300 123 7027 or online [Cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://Cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



## Litter

There has been talk on social media recently about the amount of litter that is being found around the Parish and the need to tidy it up. The Parish Council has 22 litter bins and 12 dog bins across the Parish which are emptied as part of the maintenance contract every Friday. There are also other bins which are the responsibility of CWaC to empty. If we have bins emptied more than once a week it costs us £35 per bin, so quite an increase in unbudgeted spend if needed.

We have asked the college to ask their students to respect the area they are using the facilities of as well as asking the various food outlets to consider collecting some their packaging. The larger bins along the path behind the shops are designed to take pizza boxes and are a significant improvement based on previous years.

As a Parish Council, we do run occasional community litter picking sessions and supply all the bags and equipment needed for a couple of hours tidy up. We desperately need more people to show an interest. It would be great to have more volunteers and not to be wholly reliant on the same people. Have a social media break! Help keep the village tidy :-)

## Kingsmead Village Hall

Kingsmead is a great place to live with its lovely riverside walks and ponds, however Kingsmead Parish Council felt that the area could benefit from the addition of a village hall that could potentially serve as a focal point for the whole community.

Before we were able to progress this further, we wanted to seek your views and asked for your feedback via our online and paper-based questionnaire. We would now like to share the consolidated feedback with you.

We had a total of 329 completed questionnaires, which is representative of circa 18% of the households of Kingsmead. Of this number, 296 supported the proposal, which equates to almost 90%. The favoured uses of the hall included keep-fit, private parties, arts and crafts and youth activities. We would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to those who took the time to complete the survey.

We will now discuss the findings in more detail as there is a lot to work through and further consultations to make, however, we will keep you posted on any progress.



## Getting ready for Christmas... We are!

Following on from last years success, Kingsmead Parish Council are again putting on a very festive community Christmas event.

This years festivities will be held at Busy Bees nursery instead of the usual location, the Kingfisher pub. The change of venue is due to the Parish Council being unable to fund the whole event, especially the cost of the 2 Christmas trees, as has happened previous years.

Christmas 2019 will see a special Santa's grotto alongside Kingsmead school choir, food and drink stalls and lots more. So please come along and support your free Parish Council event on **Friday Dec 6<sup>th</sup> from 16.30**. Happy Christmas!

If you need to contact the Parish Council, or have feedback regarding this newsletter, please contact our Clerk, Sarah Morgan using [clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk)