

DAZZLE FOR CHRISTMAS 2018

At Christmas, we know many residents go the extra mile with their outdoor Christmas illuminations and we see new displays every year. So this Christmas, Kingsmead Parish Council are planning to celebrate Christmas with a festive decoration competition!

With Christmas being just 9 months away, start planning your lights, dust off your inflatable Santa and get your reindeers in line! There will be different categories so watch out for further details later in the year.



Volunteering

The majority of events that happen (Xmas Fair, litter pick, bulb planting) in Kingsmead are resourced by the Councillors with the usual small number of volunteers—thank you to those new folks who turned up to the February litter pick!

It would be fantastic if more residents could volunteer a small amount of their time and help, as every extra pair of hands is a brilliant addition. We are all really motivated to make the Parish a great place to live, and we know you are too. Please look out for opportunities to be involved.

WHAT IS A PARISH 'PRECEPT'?



Parish Councils get their funding by receiving a small amount of the local Council Tax. This is referred to as a the Parish Precept. Kingsmead Parish Council forecasts the amount of funding it will require for the following year, and requests this funding from Cheshire West and Chester Council in the form of a precept tax that is included within the local Council Tax. The Council Tax base is calculated equating to the number of Band D equivalent properties in each Parish. The Tax Base for Kingsmead is 1,837.8 Band D properties.

Kingsmead Parish Council is delighted to announce that our precept request will be increased by only 0.42% for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. This represents an average Band D charge of £74.34 per year per property. The precept has been set at £137,570 for the period 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019. This made up of precept request of £136,634 and Cheshire West and Chester Council Tax Reduction Scheme Grant of £936.

If you require any further information, please contact Jo O'Donoghue (Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer).

CONTACT US

Clerk: Jo O'Donoghue
231 Hartford Road
Davenham
Northwich
Cheshire, CW9 8JT

Phone: 01606 41862
Email: clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk



WELCOME TO THE SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

By now, you will have received next years Council Tax request and although this has increased, the Parish Council precept has only increased by 0.42%. This is to cover increases in current contracts and projects. The Committee decided that given the pressure on household budgets, we would not start any new projects or work that was not already budgeted for and keep the precept as low as possible.

An unplanned expense this year was having to repair damage to Parish Council property. This has ranged from the graffiti around Kensington Park, to replanting and legal costs associated with damage to woodland caused by residents. Please report all incidents of vandalism to the Police on 101, then the Parish Clerk, before posting on the residents Facebook page.

This year, we shall again be running the 'Best Kept Garden' competition so get out there, start gardening and look out for details of how to enter by 31st May 2018. More importantly, we will also be looking to support an inspirational young person again —see inside for details.



Busy, busy, busy...

Christmas Market

The Christmas Market and Christmas Tree light switch on have been running for the last 3 years and have been quite successful. This year, some stall holders gave us feedback that the market works until the point in the evening when potential customers retire to the warmth of the pub. But, we recognised that when the Barnton Silver Band performed, people, mainly children, returned and sat and sang along to the seasonal tunes, obviously enjoying the entertainment.

In January's PC meeting we discussed the event and what changes could be made to keep the crowd interested. We decided to invite more local musical groups, Leftwich Band, SJD Orchestra and Choir, Kingsmead School and Barnton Silver Band, to keep the seasonal atmosphere going. We hope to have some of these groups in attendance. We also considered catering for the crowds with items such as a hog roast, and things for the children such as candy floss and popcorn. If you have any suggestions as to how to develop this event, please let the Clerk know – The Chair suggested a snow machine to make it really look like a winter wonderland!

Woof!

On another note, after the success of a charity dog show on St. Georges field, we realised what an excellent but under used (except by dog owners) facility we have. Send your ideas to the Parish Clerk if you would like to organise an event.

A Vision for the Biodiversity of Kingsmead Parish

Kingsmead Parish Council cares for the environment through its own practices and by encouraging others. The Council will try to be as conscientious as possible about recycling, efficiency, biodiversity, conservation, and the use of resources and recycling.



Our vision is for a Parish rich in wildlife that people can enjoy. We aim to raise the profile of biodiversity and make it a natural and integral part of policy and decision making. We will, where possible, involve the community in biodiversity projects on its land including for example tree planting, wild flower meadows, birdbox making. The Parish Council will communicate information and raise awareness of biodiversity through its website and newsletters.

Young Citizen 2018

Last year we donated funds to a young Kingsmead parishioner carrying out charitable work through the Girlguiding in the Gambia. We are looking for another young person to support in 2018 who is doing similarly great work. Are you helping to change the

lives of others? Do you volunteer or raise funds for good causes? Get in touch with the Parish Clerk and we will tell you how to apply.

20 mph?

As you know, Monarch Drive, St Georges Way, Moor Park Way and all roads off are 20 mph zones. It remains the case that the 20 mph limit is not observed by many people.

How can you help? Think. If you stay in 2nd gear, you are more likely to observe the speed limit. No one would ever want to be involved in an accident involving a child, pedestrian or cyclist.

We need more Community Speedwatch volunteers to look at St George's Way and Moor Park Way. If you are able to help, please contact the Parish Clerk.

Useful Council County Contacts

Most of the communal land on Kingsmead is owned and maintained by the Parish Council; please check with the Parish Clerk in the first instance. However, some of the grassed areas along the main road, the roads, pavements, streetlights and some bins are owned by Cheshire West and Chester Council. To report faults or concerns with these, please contact them in any of the following ways:

Via the "Your Streets Portal"

<http://westcheshireyourstreets.co.uk/>, once on home page click the relevant button (Streetcare Pledge or Roadcare Pledge)

Via e-mail - customer services

enquiries@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk

Via phone - 0300 123 8123