

Residents' Association Committee meeting – May 2012

A Meeting of the Committee took place on Tuesday, 8th May 2012. In addition to Committee members, Councillor Michael Gosling was in attendance along with Gary Whitney (of Kingswood Residents' Association).

In addition to formal matters –

The Chairman explained that Mr Whitney had been invited to the meeting specifically to provide an overview of 'Localism'.

- Mr Whitney explained that the legislation was being enacted in various stages and had arisen out of the Government's intention to devolve certain activities from Local Government to the local communities - with those communities being represented by a forum. Other Residents' Associations in the north of the Borough (excluding Banstead) had already indicated their willingness to join such a forum (i.e. Burgh Heath, Kingswood and Tadworth & Walton) and he was hopeful of securing the support of Lower Kingswood.
- Although some initial outlay may be necessary to set up the forum, Mr Whitney indicated that it should be possible to secure a "share" of the funding made available to the Borough Council in respect of the devolved activities. Mr Whitney also provided an outline of the way forward.
- The Chairman summarised the discussions and indicated that, whilst the Committee members present were broadly supportive in joining with the other local villages in such a forum, he wanted to defer final confirmation to the next Committee meeting which would allow for a full discussion. Mr Whitney then left the meeting.

Although no Police representatives had been able to attend the meeting, they had provided the Secretary with a written report, which was presented to the meeting:

- There had been a couple of local instances of criminal activity (a burglary and a car break-in) and they urged local residents to keep a close eye on any suspicious activities in or around the village.
- There had been a number of thefts from motor vehicles in other areas; as usual the advice is not to keep valuables on view and/or in vehicles.
- There had been a number of reports of "cold calling" in the area asking residents if they had items for sale (e.g. jewellery); again if residents have suspicions about such "visitors" they should contact the Police on the 101 number.

Councillor Gosling reported on:

- The apparent "clash" of dates with other local Residents' Associations AGM and that for Lower Kingswood meant that he would only be able to attend for some of the scheduled time.
- On-going improvement works to local roads, replacement of street lighting and on issues regarding trees/hedges overgrowing pathways etc.
- His disappointment at the reinstatement works following the laying of the water pipeline. He added that he was in contact with Sutton & East Surrey Water Company regarding the necessity of remedial works both to the A217 road surfaces and the central reservation area. He was also advised of ongoing flooding issues at the Chipstead Lane roundabout.
- Traffic issues regarding Smithy Lane and indicated that he did not want to propose a solution for one area of Lower Kingswood, which would merely serve to move the problems elsewhere in the village.