



# KINGSTON NEWS

*“Looking After Your Interests”*

**Kingston Parish Council Newsletter**

**Issue 31, November 2022**

## Message from the Chairman



Dear Resident,

Welcome to our November newsletter that I hope you will find of interest.

You will find details inside about the latest consultation on the proposed **Rampion 2 Offshore Windfarm** and where to find help and advice to cope with the **Cost of Living** rises.

Plus, there is information about the parish elections taking place in May 2023. If you are interested in **becoming a parish councillor**, please do get in touch.

We will be setting our Budget (and the Precept you will pay with your Council Tax) for next year at the January meeting of Council so please do let us know of any projects to be considered for inclusion in the Budget by the end of November.

This is our last newsletter for this year so – although early – our best wishes to you for a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Cllr Geraldine Walker**  
Chairman Kingston Parish Council

## *Did you know?*

The South Downs National Park Authority offers volunteering opportunities. One group meets at Church Copse in Clapham Woods every Thursday. The primary aim is to manage the hazel coppice for wildlife and access. The Copse is an important habitat for declining woodland species such as the hazel dormouse and pearl bordered fritillary butterfly. To find out more email [volunteering@southdowns.gov.uk](mailto:volunteering@southdowns.gov.uk) or visit [www.southdowns.gov.uk/volunteering](http://www.southdowns.gov.uk/volunteering)

## *You are welcome to join our Meetings*

Full Council meets six times a year, usually combined with meetings of the Planning Committee and the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

### *Diary dates for you:*

10<sup>th</sup> November, and 19<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> March, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 2023

in

**Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall,  
Vermont Drive, East Preston.  
commencing at 7 pm.**

The Annual Parish meeting will also take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7pm prior to the start of the Council meetings.

Agenda can be viewed on our website 3 days prior to the meetings: <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

## *Remembrance Sunday*



**13 NOVEMBER 2022**

### **Information from the Royal British Legion:**

Arrangements for this year are:

10.30 am Parade leaves The Street, East Preston, and marches to St Mary's Church for a Remembrance Service

11.45 am Parade marches to the East Preston War Memorial

**12 noon** Wreath laying at East Preston War Memorial

**12.30 pm** Wreath laying at the Kingston War Memorial, Sea Lane, Kingston

All are welcome to attend but please observe social distancing recommendations where possible.

### **! ROAD CLOSURE !**

Please note that Sea Lane will be closed whilst the Kingston service is in progress and that West Kingston Residents Association have kindly agreed that the gate at the east end of Coastal Road will be opened for this period (approximately 12.15pm – 1pm)

## **ELECTIONS 2023 – Please think about becoming a Parish Councillor**

Parish Council elections are held every 4 years and the next election is in May 2023.

### **Is this for you?**

There would be a commitment to attend full Council meetings which are held every 2 months and to attend meetings of the Planning and Finance and General Purposes Committee which meet on the same evening as Council and as required between Council meetings (say a further 4 meetings a year). There would also be the opportunity to represent Council on specific issues such as planning, policing, highways, resilience planning and biodiversity and to attend occasional meetings in connection with this.

There are seven councillors for Kingston plus the Clerk who is a paid employee of the council. The Council is funded by residents of the Parish in the form of a "precept" which it determines in its annual budget and is collected by Arun District Council as part of your council tax. Whilst there is a natural focus on parish issues and needs, it is also important to look at wider issues and policies which will impact on the parish e.g. from Government, County and District Council, and the Environment agency.

If you would like to find out more about the Council, please contact the Clerk or a Parish Councillor (our contact details are on the back page) or see our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>.

**Am I eligible?** - In order to be a Parish Councillor, you must:

- be aged 18 years or over and
- be a British citizen, or an eligible Commonwealth citizen or a citizen of a member state of the European Union.

You must meet at least one of the following on the day you are nominated and on polling day:

- be a local government elector in the parish (i.e. on the electoral roll) or
- have lived in the parish or within 3 miles of it for the last twelve months or
- have been an owner or tenant of any land or premises in the parish for the last twelve months or have your principal or only place of work in the parish

You do not have to belong to a political party.

**How do I stand for election?** - From around February 2023 you will be able to obtain a nomination paper from Arun District Council: check the Arun website nearer to that time <https://www.arun.gov.uk/elections> or ask the Clerk to keep you updated.

**Disqualification** - There are some factors which disqualify you for standing from election so you will need to check the nomination information carefully. See the Electoral Commission website for more information: <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/parish-council-elections-england>

### **FINANCE - Annual Return**

Council publishes an Annual Return, which reports on Governance and Finance matters. If you would like to see the completed Annual Return and the accounts for 2021/22, please check our website <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/kingston-parish-council/finances/> or contact the Clerk.

### **SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2023**

County have advised that the application process for children to start in reception at primary and infant schools in September 2023, ends on 15 January, 2023. Children born between 1 September 2018 and 31 August 2019 are eligible to start school then and children who are currently in Year 2 at infant school will also need to apply for a place to start at junior school. The quickest way is to apply online: [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions) or for more information call 033 301 42903.

### **RAMPION 2 OFFSHORE WIND FARM**

Another public consultation has launched regarding the proposed Rampion 2 Project, that will run until the **29 November 2022**. This particular consultation is focusing on the onshore cable route alternatives that have been devised following the initial consultations in 2021. For full details visit: <https://rampion2.com/consultation-2022/have-your-say/>. If you have any questions, you can contact the Rampion 2 Project Team by telephone: 0800 2800 886 or email: [rampion2@rwe.com](mailto:rampion2@rwe.com).

Council will be considering making comment on this consultation when it meets on 10 November, 2022.

The next expected application phase is that the owners of Rampion 2 have a finalised scheme and apply for a Development Consent Order to the Planning Inspectorate. At this point there will be further formal opportunity for Council and residents to make comment on the application.

## Help with the rising Cost of Living

This is a difficult time for many households. Here is some information on finding the help that is available:

**West Sussex County Council** says it is working closely with district and borough councils and charities to support people and families who are struggling the most with the rising cost of living by using its Household Support Fund provided by the Government. Visit the County website:

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/leisure-recreation-and-community/cost-of-living/> for practical advice and information about how to apply for extra local and national support. Then follow links to

- the 'Community Hub' that continues to offer direct support to vulnerable households, providing essentials such as food and supplies, as well as grants to those who are eligible.

- 36 West Sussex libraries offering a warm welcome to all visitors with staff on hand to help and advise on a range of topics, from money management to energy saving, job seeking and benefits guidance.

Regular library events like Story Time are free for families of young children. East Preston Library is open from 1pm-5pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and from 10am to 2 pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

**Arun District Council** has a webpage with advice on: Council Tax and Benefits, Debt, Energy Bills, Broadband and phone packages, warmer homes and on accessing food banks. It includes links to organisations offering advice such as Age Uk (Phone 0800 019 1310) and Citizens Advice (Phone 01243 974063). Visit the website: <https://www.arun.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

**Please do pass this information to those that might need it** and look out for your neighbours or relatives (in person, by phone, social media etc.) to make sure they are safe, warm and well.

### Highways and Ditches

The **Community Winter Resilience Plan** applies to Kingston Lane, the only public highway in Kingston. It provides the self-help salt bins that are in three locations along Kingston Lane (junction with Peak Lane and the two bends south of the junction with Elm Avenue). If you would like to volunteer to help with spreading the salt when the weather is cold, please contact the Clerk. There is also an arrangement with County for snow clearance to be carried out along the Lane by a contractor, when County agrees it is necessary (costs are shared).

With winter approaching please be aware that blocked **ditches** can cause flooding not just to nearby roads but perhaps more critically to homes. A riparian owner is the person with watercourses on, next to or under their property and they have the responsibility for maintenance. Please do check your ditches are clear of obstruction.

Overgrown **hedges, trees and vegetation** may cause a hazard for people using the adjacent highway by obstruction visibility. So, please ensure that yours do not overhang the highway in an unsafe manner and cut them back as a courtesy to others and to keep them safe. If the hedges, trees or vegetation overhang a public highway or verge and the local authority has to cut them back you may be recharged.

### Be alert to potential Scams

Whilst there are many reputable trades people in the world it is worth keeping yourself up to date with latest scams whether they be from 'workers' cold calling at your house or phone calls allegedly from your bank or online emails or purchases or unexpected deliveries to your home or .... the list goes on!

**Trading Standards** officers are urging people to be on the alert for scams linked to the cost-of-living crisis and energy bills. They say 'If consumers receive emails or texts out of the blue, then report texts by texting 7726 (Ofcom), or forward emails to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk) and then delete the message'.

Here are some ways to receive advice/take action:  
**Neighbourhood Watch** - We encourage all residents to sign up to the local NHW email Alert Scheme: email [ramblers22oro@gmail.com](mailto:ramblers22oro@gmail.com) with your name and address to receive regular updates.

**Which** - publishes weekly information about scams and you can sign up to receive emails here: <https://act.which.co.uk/page/103781/>

**Citizens Advice** – If you are unsure about a service or product you are being offered you can call the Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133.

**Action Fraud** – If you want to report a scam contact Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or report online <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/>

### Contacting the Police

PCSO Raj Raju is the dedicated PCSO for Kingston.

**Contact details** for Sussex Police for matters not requiring an urgent response are:

Report online at <https://www.sussex.police.uk> Telephone: 101

To report anti-social driving or abandoned vehicles go to <http://www.operationcrackdown.org/>

In an **emergency** call 999.

Unauthorised Traveller Encampments	Planning
<p>You are probably well aware that during the summer there were several groups of travellers in the area that occupied a number of sites locally, including Goring Gap, Langmead's Field, the Rugby Club and Woodlands Park. There were also attempts to gain access to the Greenswards that were thwarted by the swift and decisive actions of residents, and followed up with measures taken by West Kingston Residents Association and Kingston Gorse Estate.</p> <p>The police powers to act were revised in June 2022 and they are able to intervene where unauthorised encampments are causing environmental damage or distress to the community. See:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unauthorised-encampments-guidance-for-police">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/unauthorised-encampments-guidance-for-police</a>.</p> <p>We do hope that the police make effective use of these powers to prevent a repeat of the problem next year for our parish and others in the area.</p>	<p>Council is very disappointed by recent Appeal decisions that have overridden the refusal of housing applications by District Council. Whilst not in our parish they will affect the A259 and other local infrastructure and impact on the character of the area. They are for 76 homes on land south of Littlehampton Road and east of Worthing Road (next to the junction of the A259, A280 and Old Worthing Road) and 191 homes on the Rustington Golf Centre site.</p> <p>Council objected to both of these applications and has also objected to a current application for 70 homes at Lansdowne Nursery (north side of the A259).</p> <p>For sites in Kingston and within the Strategic Gap, an application for stables and a barn was recently refused by District Council. This was on the same site as an application for a dwelling that was refused on Appeal.</p> <p>We continue to work with other parishes to support each other in objecting to unsuitable developments.</p>

**COUNCILLORS - Contact details**

Cllr Geraldine Walker (Chairman)	Rife Manor, Brookside Road BN16 1SE	01903 772043
Cllr Roger Wetherell (Vice-Chairman)	Newcote Farm, Kingston Lane BN16 1RP	01903 787205
Cllr Keith Buckenham	Wood End, Peak Lane, BN16 1RN	073 991 947 46
Cllr Karen Kenning	The Saltings, Downsview Road, BN16 1SD	01903 774931
Cllr Peter Jolly	Thatched Corners, Coastal Road, BN16 1SW	01903 786825
Cllr Valerie Masson	Windy Corner, Gorse Avenue BN16 1SQ	01903 786139
Cllr David Joyce	Orchard Cottage, Kingston Lane BN16 1RS	01903 779374

**MEETINGS of COUNCIL**

All residents are welcome to attend Council meetings when there will be an opportunity to make representation and ask questions on matters relating to Council business.

The usual meeting pattern is for Council and Committees to meet on the third Thursday in the odd months of the year with additional meetings as required. Dates of future meetings are on the front page of this newsletter.

**VENUE:**

Meetings are usually held in the hall of Our Lady Star of the Sea, Vermont Drive, East Preston, BN16 1JU, commencing at 7 pm – but please check agenda to confirm the venue dates and times.

**CONTACT the COUNCIL**

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Val Knight, 33 The Ridings, East Preston, West Sussex BN16 2TW  
**e-mail:** [clerk@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk) **Telephone:** 01903 771922 **Website:** <https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/>

Sign up to receive our information e-mails by e-mailing the Clerk.  
 See our noticeboards located in Gorse Avenue and Coastal Road.  
 Agenda for meetings can be viewed at East Preston Library 3 days prior to the meetings or on our website.