

## WHAT'S WRONG WITH KINGSTON?

You might think nothing very much. Or you might think – quite a lot. Whatever you do think, we'd like to hear from you. The "we" in this context is the Steering Group, the body that brought you the Village Action Plan, the follow up, the questionnaire and much else over the years. We've now produced the summary below, called, provocatively or pretentiously, A Vision for Kingston. This was discussed at the Parish Meeting held at the Parish Hall on the evening of 29 April. Please send any comments to [stefalik@aol.com](mailto:stefalik@aol.com).

## A VISION FOR KINGSTON

*What do we want for our village in the future? And how do we then translate those aspirations into action? What follows are some first thoughts. Everyone will have their own.*

We'd all like (wouldn't we?) a village which its inhabitants enjoy living in and (perhaps) one to which others would like to move.

What makes such a place? Here are some suggestions but we hope that you'll have many others. We want our village to be:

### **SAFE; CLEAN; NEIGHBOURLY; STIMULATING; BEAUTIFUL; IN TOUCH; APPRECIATIVE OF ITS HERITAGE; and SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE**

*If we can agree on some headings – these or others - and their meanings, we can then compare the current situation with the ideal. The difference between the two should suggest some targets. These can then be categorised into short- and longer term goals. What does each heading imply?*

#### **SAFE – in our homes and on the streets; meaning:**

- *Slower – and less heavy - traffic.*
- *Safer crossings – e.g. at the foot of Ashcombe Lane and to the garden centre*
- *Reviving Neighbourhood Watch?*
- *Making more use of our Community Policyperson?*

#### **CLEAN AND WELL-MAINTAINED**

- *Thanks mainly to the efforts of volunteers, much of the village is relatively clean, but how can we better control litter generated from outside the village e.g. by the burger bar, and MacDonalds at Newhaven and – on the Downs – the Iford Estate (endless empty bags of food for game chicks)? Would more rubbish bins help? If so, where should they go?*
- *Dog poo is still a problem, though not a major one on St Pancras Green, where there is a bin. There are no bins elsewhere. They are (relatively) expensive to empty but would this be a price worth paying for a cleaner, safer village?*
- *What can be done about poorly maintained roads?*
- *Do we have to put up with the repeated flooding in Well Green Lane and Ashcombe Lane?*
- *How can we stop muddy water flooding upper Church Lane and The Avenue?*
- *Can we do anything about the ugly dumping ground at the top of The Street?*

#### **NEIGHBOURLY**

- *Results from the survey of residents for The Good Neighbour Scheme will be available before the Parish Meeting*

- *What about all newcomers to the village receiving information about the school, church, Parish Council, Kingston News etc.?*
- *How can we support and expand the very active but small group of volunteers?*

### **STIMULATING**

- *The village already has many clubs and societies but does it cater adequately for all age groups? If not, what more might be done?*
- *Can we make more use of our village greens – or of space in the church?*

### **BEAUTIFUL**

- *What do people see as beautiful? More trees – and if so where? What about a new hedge along the west side of St Pancras Green? More spring bulbs? More wildflowers in the verges?*
- *How can we protect the verges in Well Green Lane from ruination?*
- *If the Parish owned the small woodland on St Pancras Green, what could be done here?*
- *Does the grass have to cut so frequently (and expensively?) on St Pancras Green? Less frequent cutting would mean more wildflowers and even some butterflies.*

### **IN TOUCH: we want**

- *The best public transport we can expect, given the current constraints; and better bus shelters (?)*
- *Well-maintained and well signposted rights of way; (definite room for improvement here!)*
- *Universal access to fast Broadband;*
- *Speedy access to village information (e.g. on Planning Applications affecting large numbers of people; roadworks and closures). We have the e-mail cascade system but it is nothing like as well-used as it might be.*
- *More and better information on the various village websites. Can they not all be linked?*
- *To keep The Kingston News flourishing.*

### **APPRECIATIVE OF ITS HERITAGE (can someone please think of a less clumsy way to say this?)**

- *What makes Kingston special – its history, cultural associations, legends, wildlife etc.?*
- *How can we best conserve its special features – and raise awareness of them?*
- *Can we make past publications (e.g. A Walk on The Street and A History of Kingston near Lewes available on line?*
- *Might we have a “heritage information board”; and a blue plaque scheme?*
- *Should we extend the existing scheme to replace the dying apple trees in The Avenue with old Sussex apple varieties?*
- *Is there a generous landowner out there who’d donate an acre or so for a community woodland or orchard?*

### **SOCIALLY INCLUSIVE**

- *Are we happy for all new houses in Kingston to be exclusively for the very rich or would we like to see at least some “affordable” houses?*