

Kingston Action Group Report August 2020

Ref: KPC Meeting 9 September 2020 Appendix 1

Kingston Action Group – report to KPC August 2020

Community Allotment

This subject is covered in detail in the separate information paper to the Council but we have now been invited to sign a tenancy agreement with Lewes District Council. We are appealing for help with clearing the site in a piece which will appear in the September issue of The Kingston News. LDC have offered to trim the area at no charge.

The Green

The new mowing regime is already showing positive results in the form of the appearance on the uncut sections of a range of wildflowers including Common Mallow, Ox-eye daisy, Achillea, Ragwort and some form of hawkbit. These make a pleasant contrast to the monotony of the rye-grass which dominates elsewhere. All these were evidently present in the ground as seeds ready to take advantage of the first opportunity to germinate and grow. Early in the autumn, the Group may supplement these early colonists with other flowers, probably as seeds gathered locally. By the summer of 2021, the area should be looking very attractive, as well as supporting a range of butterflies, bees, crickets, grasshoppers and other insects.

Volunteers

Our group of volunteers has been active recently in various parts of the village. We have:

- Removed weeds from the area around The Pavilion
- Cleared litter from Ashcombe Lane - and from the cycle path
- Cut back dead and dying hollyhocks along The Street
- Removed a mass of dead ivy from St Pancras Green
- Cut back brambles along the cycle path

We are very pleased to report what appear to be two significant breakthroughs in the continuing battle against the litter generated by the burger bar near the foot of Ashcombe Lane. Lewes District Council is now regularly clearing rubbish from the road itself while – following many representations from the Group - the owner of the burger bar is employing someone to clear up litter twice a week from the immediate area around the bar itself. He is also, less successfully, making efforts to persuade his customers to use the car park rather than park dangerously on Ashcombe Lane or – illegally – in the area set aside for the bus stop.

In Bloom

The Group submitted a very comprehensive entry to this year's competition, this time supported by some photographs highlighting some of the bulb planting and stressing the importance of community involvement and environmental responsibility.

Environment Policy

The KPC will be up to date with recent correspondence. We do not believe that further consideration of this subject should be deferred any longer.

Footway above Ashcombe Lane

We are aware of - and appreciate - the efforts which have been made by the KPC to determine which authority is properly responsible for the upkeep of this footway but understand that these have been unsuccessful. Given that and given also that the path is used almost exclusively by villagers or those travelling to or from the village, we think that the KPC should itself now obtain quotations for repairing the surface of the footway, for improving the signage at the top of the pathway and installing a sign at the foot of it, where none at all exists. As far as the surface goes, there are only a few short sections which are in need of repair and the cost of fixing these could therefore be quite modest. We are of course aware that most of the pathway lies outside the parish boundary but within the adjoining parish (St Anne Without) which is so small as not to have a Parish Council.