

KINGSWOOD PARISH PLAN

Kingswood Parish Council wished to have a plan in place to demonstrate that they had consulted with the village and fully represented the views of the village. The Parish Council believed that they would have better access to funds and grants and have greater input into the future of Kingswood if a Parish Plan was in place.

Kingswood Parish Council commissioned the plan with a small group of Village volunteers. Advice and help was sought from Stroud District Council and Gloucestershire Rural Community Council. A grant was applied for and provided from Stroud District Council to help with the cost of producing such a plan.

A working party was set up to discuss the questions to be asked. A questionnaire was devised and distributed. The Questionnaire was printed by 'Orchestra', a Kingswood printing Company, and distributed and collected by a team of volunteers.

The analysis of the data was carried out by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council.

The questionnaire was completed in Summer 2008. There were 3 questionnaires as follows an individual, a household and a business. A consultation event took place in Summer 2009. The plan was finally produce in Spring 2010.

The Parish Plan differs from the Village Appraisal which took place in 1997. The Appraisal in 1997 was a static document which recorded the views of the village at that time. The Parish Plan also records the views of the village at the time but also goes on to record action points. The Plan is adopted by the Parish Council and is reviewed on a 6 monthly basis. The Action Plan is also held by Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and is available on their web site to be viewed. Electronic copies of the plan are also issued to all relevant agencies such as Gloucestershire County Council, Stroud District Council, Highways and the Police.

It is intended that the Parish Plan will continue to evolve over time and that parts of it will need to be updated as required to keep the plan fresh and relevant.

The Parish Plan will be available electronically and hard copies will be supplied to the following locations; The Shop, Public House, Well Being Centre, Village Hall and the Library. A decision was taken by the Parish Council not to provide lots of hard copies free of charge. Hard copies will be provided at a charge of £1.00 per copy. This decision was based on the fact that the Parish Council felt that public money would be better spent on carrying out the action points raised rather than printing. Please apply to the Parish Clerk if you would like a copy of Kingswood Parish Plan. By post at New Rose Cottage Chapel lane Kingswood GL12 7RQ. Email: kingswood.parish@btconnect.com or phone 01453 844659

May we take the opportunity to thank all who have been involved in the production of the Kingswood Parish Plan.

KINGSWOOD

Kingswood is a small Parish set on the edge of Stroud District. It falls within the ward of Kingswood and in the parliamentary constituency of Cotswold.

Wotton under Edge is a mile a way and is the market town for the area. The village sits approximately 15 miles from both Gloucester and Bristol and has good motorway links, with the M4 and the M5 being easily accessible.

BREAK DOWN OF POPULATION

(2008 locally derived (unconstrained) civil parish mid year estimates) Obtained from Gloucestershire MaiDEN Statistics

AGES	Total	0-4	5-9	10-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44
NUMBER IN RANGE	1377	59	89	102	106	49	44	35	94	112
AGES	45-49	50-54	55-59	60-64	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85-89	90+
NUMBER IN RANGE	105	99	98	92	85	45	43	50	41	29

Historically and economically, its position has effected its development. It is not included in the Domesday Book of 1086; it came to notice as an early member of the rapidly growing network of Cistercian Abbeys a few years later. A daughter abbey to Tintern in 1138, it suffered from the civil war of King Stephen and Empress Maud which caused its temporary relocation to Hasledon and then Tetbury. Re-established in Kingswood, it prospered for a further 200 years and survived the plagues of the mid 14th century and gradual social, economic and political changes of the 15th century, but like most abbeys, could not withstand the dissolution of the 1530's. In spite of keen negotiations by the last Abbot, Kingswood Abbey ceased to exist in 1538. The Gatehouse, built only a few years earlier, is all that survives. The Gatehouse is now owned by English heritage and can be opened to the public upon request.

Around the Abbey had grown a somewhat dependent village. However, whilst the pulling down of buildings for construction and alteration of fine county seats of the Poyntz family at Newark Park and Acton Court symbolised the end of Kingswood as a religious centre, it was not finished economically. By the time of the dissolution, the Abbey housed no more than a dozen of the Cistercian order. The accident of Kingswood's position at the foot of the steep southern escarpment of the Cotswolds was to be its blessing.

From Medieval times Gloucestershire was the centre of England's wool spinning and weaving industry, for which the fast flowing tributaries of the Little Avon provided power for the mills in Kingswood. Mills such as Langford, Abbey, Walk, Nind and New were major undertakings. The doubling of the country's population from approximately five to eleven million in the 18th century and its growth as a mercantile nation brought strong demand for cloth. So too, did the military trial for strength with France and its allies for colonial and continental power throughout the century to 1815. Gloucestershire cloth was much sought after for uniforms. Kingswood blossomed, as can be seen from the prosperous buildings, secular and religious, erected in that period.

Kingswood like the rest of the county, did not survive the industrial revolution. Bubbling streams were no match for the coal powered steam engines of the Yorkshire mill owners. In the 19th century, Kingswood saw difficult times. Its population found employment in surrounding cities or further away.

Kingswood had been part of Wiltshire although surrounded and cut off from the rest of Wiltshire by Gloucestershire. In 1844, it reverted to Gloucestershire. In 1892, the Board

School was founded. Even in the 20th century, growth was slow. Kingswood no longer had a stable economic base. Nor was farming a substitute. From the mid 19th century the American Prairies provided wheat, Australia and New Zealand shipped wool and, with refrigeration, meat and dairy products. Somehow the village supported many shops and within living memory seven pubs! This was not so much a reflection of affluence but of the lack of it, for travel - even with the railway reaching Charfield in the 1840's – was expensive and people bought supplies locally.

In the post war years, the situation has gradually changed, with increasing pace recently. Other than Nind, the mills already mentioned still exist, providing substantial employment, especially in electronics, printing and distribution, whilst many small businesses and a substantial nursing home have flourished to provide a strong local economy. The closeness of the big regional centres (especially with Bristol's business growth to the north of the city) and the motor, rail and even air networks, have made Kingswood an attractive residential village.

Following the Chestnut Park, Weavers Close, Walk Mill Lane and Orchard Walk developments have come in the late 80s Bramley Close, Laxton Drive, Russet Court and Somerset Close. 2009 saw the addition of Tyndale View. This now brings Kingswood to in excess of 500 houses and a total population of 1377. Slow growth, perhaps over 1000 years but still growth. The popular view at the moment is that Kingswood cannot grow any more and still retain its village character.

Adapted from History and Geography in 1997 Village Appraisal by kind permission of Rod Alexander.

Questionnaire for Households

Explanatory notes to accompany data reports

1. **Survey date:** Summer 2008
2. **Survey type:** 1 questionnaire per household
3. **Response:** 356 questionnaires were completed
4. **Data counts and percentages:** Two reports are provided in questionnaire format.

The first report shows the actual numbers of households who ticked each box, i.e. the “data counts”.

The second report shows the percentages. All percentages quoted in the report are based on the total number of questionnaires (356). For example, in question A4, 127 households said their house was built before 1900. 127 divided by 356 is equal to 36%, which is the figure displayed in the percentage report.

For some questions, the data counts may be more helpful than the percentages.

5. **Question types:** There are three main types of question in the survey:
 - a) Open questions where respondents were invited to make comments.
 - b) Questions where respondents were required to tick one answer only (e.g. A1)
 - c) Questions where respondents were able to tick multiple options (e.g. B1)

Notes on the different question types:

- a) Answers to open questions are not included in the reports. In place of the comment boxes you will simply see a “0” (or 0%). These figures are generated automatically by the survey software and just indicate that the answers haven’t been processed – they don’t mean that there were no comments.
- b) For single-response questions, the answers will add to exactly 356 (100%) if all respondents have answered the question. If any respondents have left the question blank, the answers will add to less

than 100%. For example, in question A5, the results are: 0 cars: 7%; 1 car: 31%; 2 cars: 42%; 3+ cars: 18%. These figures add to 98% which means that the other 2% did not reply.

c) For multi-response questions, the answers would not be expected to add to exactly 356.

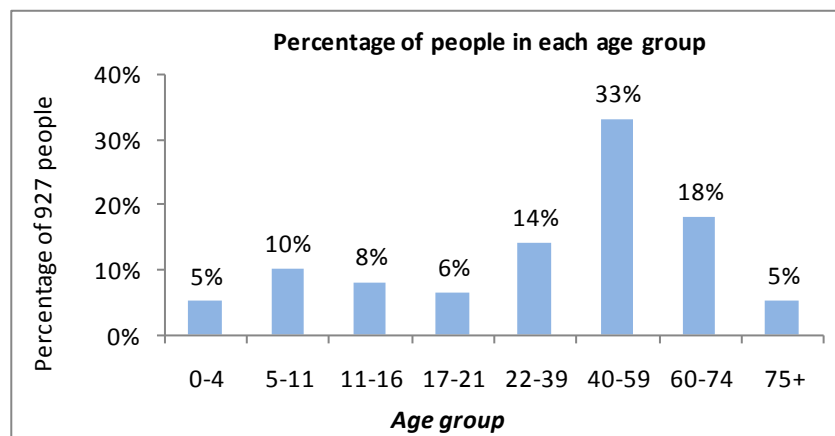
6. Gender and age groups: The results for questions A2 (age group) and A3 (gender) are not easily decipherable from the standard reports, so these have been analysed separately and are presented below.

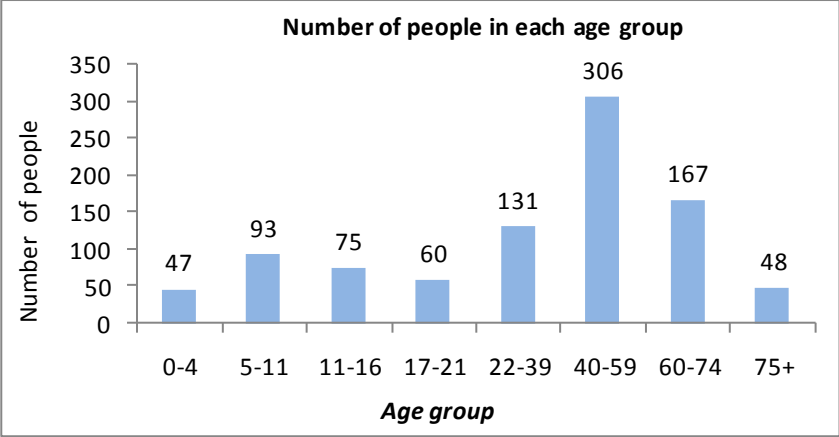
The 356 households contain a total of 931 people (an average of 2.6 people per household), of whom 52% are male and 48% female.

A breakdown by age is provided below. (The numbers add to less than 931 because one household did not provide age information.) 23% of all household members are aged 0-16 and 23% are aged 60+, with the remaining 54% aged 17-59.

Age group	Number of people	% of 927 people
0-4	47	5
5-11	93	10
11-16	75	8
17-21	60	6
22-39	131	14
40-59	306	33
60-74	167	18
75+	48	5
TOTAL	927	100

(N.B. The percentages in the table appear to add to 99% rather than 100%. This is because the percentages have been rounded to whole numbers. The unrounded figures add to exactly 100%.)





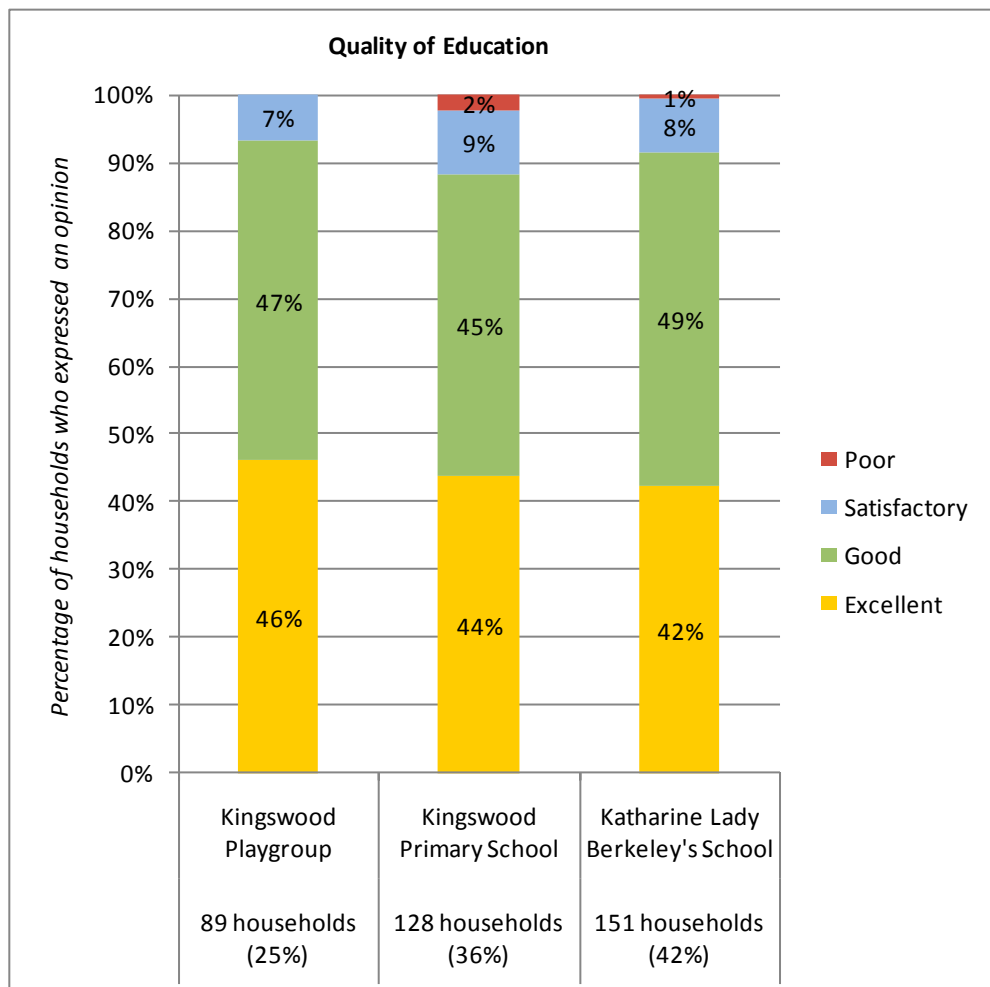
7. Section B (pre-school and school establishments)

As would be expected, many households did not answer the questions in Section B.

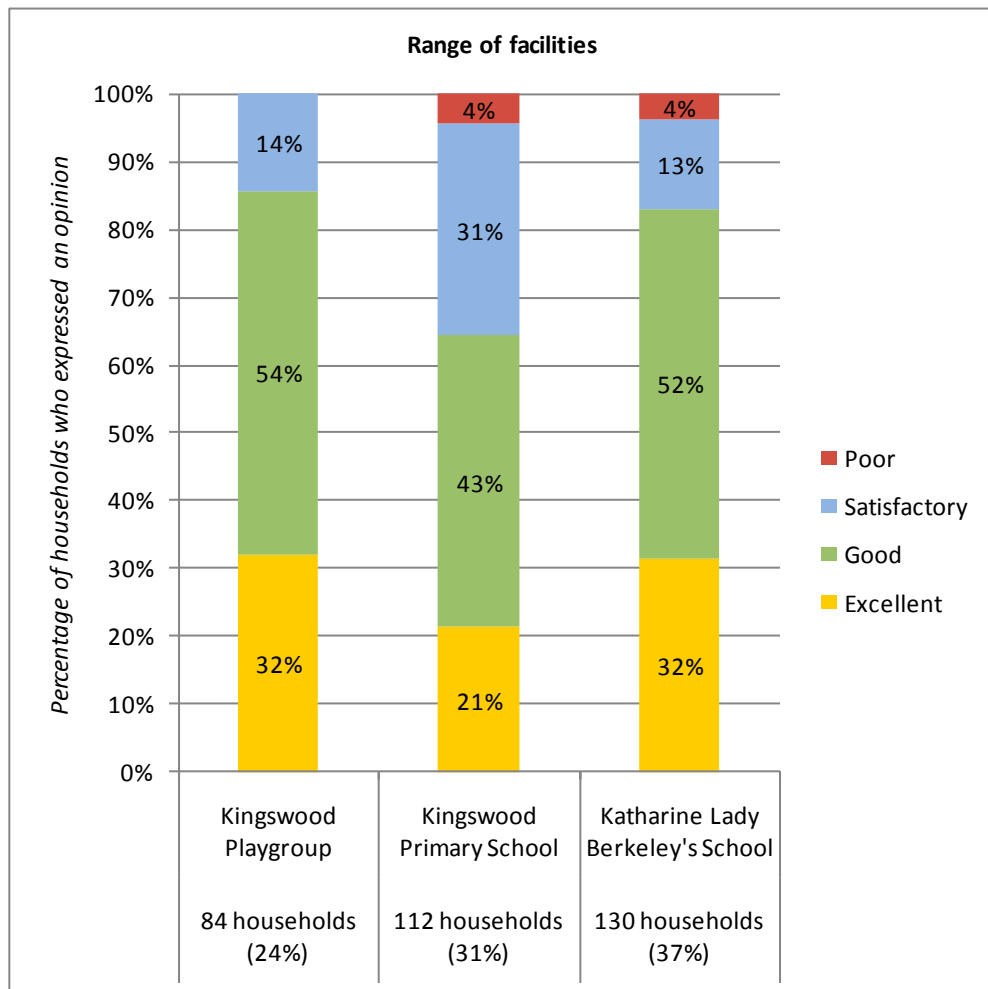
Therefore in questions B1 and B2, the raw numbers may be more helpful than the percentages.

Questions B3 and B4 were only answered by approximately half the households, and a large number of the households who answered ticked 'No opinion'. For this reason, the results have been re-analysed below, based only on those who expressed an opinion.

For example (referring to the chart below), 89 households (25% of all 356) gave an opinion on the **quality of education at Kingswood Playgroup**. Of these 89 households, 46% rated the playgroup as 'Excellent', 47% as 'Good', 7% as 'Satisfactory' and none as 'Poor'. In other words, 93% of those who expressed an opinion think that the quality of education at the playgroup is excellent or good.



Referring to the chart below, 84 households (24% of all 356) gave an opinion on the **range of facilities at Kingswood Playgroup**. Of these 84 households, 32% rated the playgroup as 'Excellent', 54% as 'Good', 14% as 'Satisfactory' and none as 'Poor'. In other words, 86% of those who expressed an opinion think that the range of facilities at the playgroup is excellent or good.



See next page for further analysis

Looking only at the responses of the 25 households with children who **currently attend Kingswood Playgroup:**

Quality of education at Kingswood Playgroup		
	No. of households	% of 25 households
Excellent	17	68
Good	4	16
Satisfactory	0	0
Poor	0	0
No opinion	0	0
No reply	4	16

Range of facilities at Kingswood Playgroup		
	No. of households	% of 25 households
Excellent	7	28
Good	12	48
Satisfactory	2	8
Poor	0	0
No opinion	0	0
No reply	4	16

Looking only at the responses of the 53 households with children who **currently attend Kingswood Primary School:**

Quality of education at Kingswood Primary School		
	No. of households	% of 53 households
Excellent	25	47
Good	23	43
Satisfactory	4	8
Poor	1	2
No opinion	0	
No reply	0	

Range of facilities at Kingswood Primary School		
	No. of households	% of 53 households
Excellent	9	17
Good	27	51
Satisfactory	13	25
Poor	2	4
No opinion	1	2
No reply	1	2

Kingswood Parish Plan: Questionnaire for Individuals

Explanatory notes to accompany data reports

8. Survey date: Summer 2008

9. Survey type: 1 questionnaire per individual aged 11 and over

10. Response: 724 questionnaires were completed

11. Data counts and percentages: Two reports are provided in questionnaire format.

The first report shows the actual numbers of respondents who ticked each box, i.e. the “data counts”.

The second report shows the percentages. **All** percentages quoted in the report are based on the total number of respondents (724). For example, in question N1, 419 respondents said they thought Kingswood should strive to become a Fairtrade Village. 419 divided by 724 is equal to 58%, which is the figure displayed in the percentage report.

For reference, 1% is approximately equal to 7 respondents. Responses given by 3 respondents or less are displayed as 0% in the percentage report because 3 divided by 724 is equal to 0.4% and the figures are rounded to whole numbers.

For some questions (e.g. J7), the data counts may be more helpful than the percentages.

12. Question types: There are three main types of question in the survey:

- d) Open questions where respondents were invited to make comments.
- e) Questions where respondents were required to tick one answer only (e.g. C3)
- f) Questions where respondents were able to tick more than one option (e.g. C2)

Notes on the different question types:

- d) Answers to open questions are not included in the reports. In place of the comment boxes you will simply see a “0” (or 0%). These figures are generated automatically by the survey software and just indicate

that the answers haven't been processed – they don't mean that there were no comments.

- e) For single-response questions, the answers will add to exactly 724 (100%) if all respondents have answered the question. If any respondents have left the question blank, the answers will add to less than 100%. For example, going back to question N1, the results are: Yes 58%, No 11%, No opinion 26%. These figures add to 95% which means that the other 5% did not reply. Despite this small proportion of non-responses, it can still be stated that “58% of the 724 individuals who took part in the survey said they thought Kingswood should strive to become a Fairtrade Village”.
- f) For multi-response questions, the answers would not be expected to add to exactly 724 except by chance. In some cases the total will be higher than 724, whilst in other cases it may be lower.

13. Special note on questions C4 and K1: These were designed as single-response questions, but a number of respondents ticked more than one option. Questions C4 and K1 therefore no longer function as single-response questions, meaning that the answers may add to more than 724. (In fact, the answers to C4 add to less than 724 because it was not applicable to all respondents, whilst the answers to K1 add to more than 724.)

Quick snapshot

a) Top 10 opinions relating to changes required or not required, or to areas of dissatisfaction:

1. Would support additional recycling options (92%)
2. Would not support a move to fortnightly rubbish collections (77%)
3. Would not be prepared to pay extra community charges for improved library facilities (76%)
4. Would like Stroud District Council to collect cardboard from home for recycling (74%)
5. Kingswood should strive to become a Fairtrade Village (58%)
6. The current traffic control measures have not made a significant improvement to road and pedestrian safety in the village (56%)
7. Would like Stroud District Council to collect garden waste from home for recycling (53%)
8. Would like the new parish room used for social events (53%)
9. Dogs should be banned from public grassed areas (52%)
10. Would use bus service more often if frequency was better (52%)

b) Lists:

- Top 5 features considered to be the most important to maintain the essential character of Kingswood:
 1. Shop (87%)
 2. Post Office (84%)
 3. Primary School (71%)
 4. Village Hall (55%)
 5. Village Events (49%)
- Top 3 features to improve:
 1. Bus services (43%)
 2. Pub (28%)
 3. Village employment (13%)
- Top 3 features to get rid of
 1. High density housing (33%)
 2. Industrial sites (13%)
 3. Movement of agricultural vehicles through the village (9%)
- Top 3 views:
 1. Ash path and stream (52%)
 2. Views to the Nibley Monument (49%)
 3. Abbey Gatehouse (44%)
- Top 3 areas on which the parish council should spend more money:
 1. Outside spaces (53%)
 2. Playing field (42%)
 3. Grants to village organisations (33%)

Explanatory notes to accompany data reports

14. Survey date: Summer 2008

15. Survey type: 1 questionnaire per individual aged 11 and over

16. Response: 724 questionnaires were completed

17. Data counts and percentages: Two reports are provided in questionnaire format.

The first report shows the actual numbers of respondents who ticked each box, i.e. the “data counts”.

The second report shows the percentages. **All** percentages quoted in the report are based on the total number of respondents (724). For example, in question N1, 419 respondents said they thought Kingswood should strive to become a Fairtrade Village. 419 divided by 724 is equal to 58%, which is the figure displayed in the percentage report.

For reference, 1% is approximately equal to 7 respondents. Responses given by 3 respondents or less are displayed as 0% in the percentage report because 3 divided by 724 is equal to 0.4% and the figures are rounded to whole numbers.

The Public Consultation

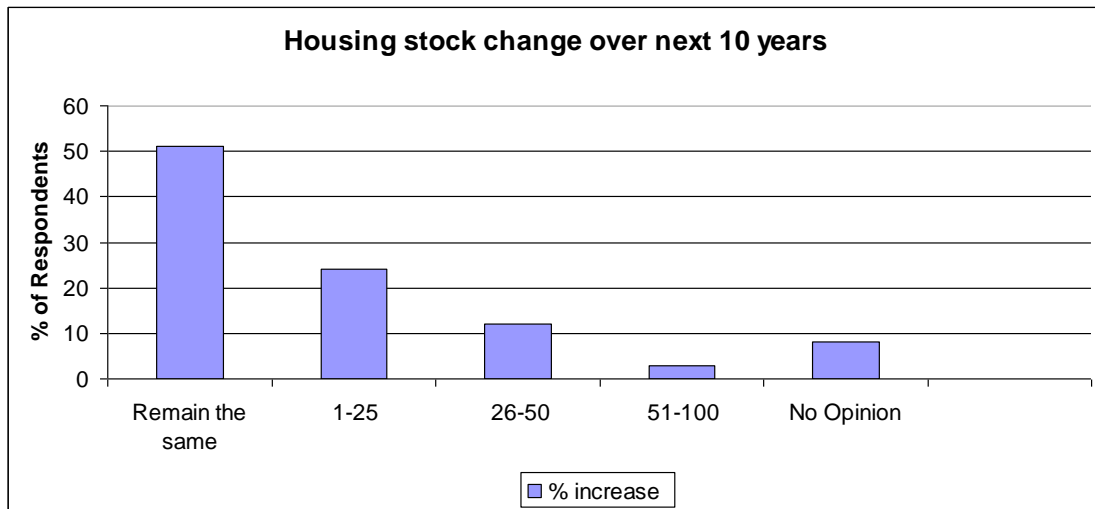
This was held as part of the Kingswood Village Summer Show Day in September 2009. The Parish Council manned a stand. On the stand there were various surveys which asked for opinions on issues that had been thrown up from the questionnaire.

At the same time an initial consultation exercise on the provision of new play equipment for the village was also carried out.

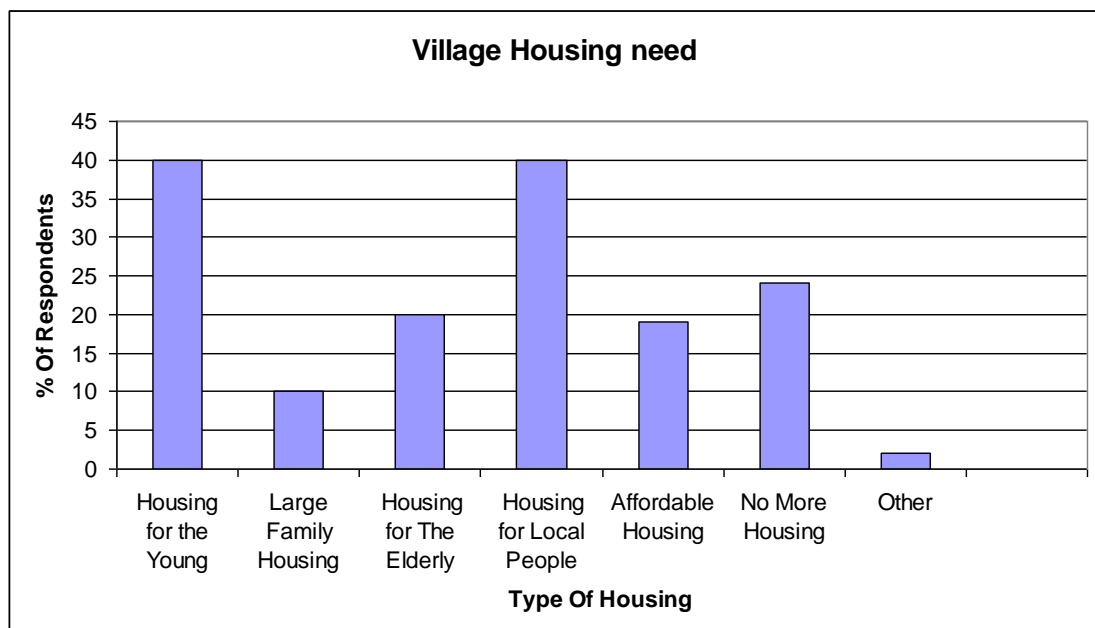
Statistics of those attending the consultation event

AGE RANGE	11-16	17-21	22-39	40-59	60-74	75+	UNKNOWN	TOTALS
MALE	1	0	7	20	6		4	38
FEMALE	6	2	15	24	10	3		60
UNKNOWN			1	1	1		2	5
TOTAL	7	2	22	45	18	3	6	103

DETAILS RELATING TO INDIVIDUAL QUESTIONNAIRES



The same question was asked in the 1997 Village Appraisal and received an almost identical response with 53% of those questioned in 1997 wanting no change to the housing stock within the Village.



However there does appear to be a clear desire for the provision of housing for local people. This will be as a direct result of recent housing developments which seem to provide housing for commuters to Bristol, Cheltenham and Gloucester. However 24% of respondents support no further housing in the village.

Kingswood Parish Council has made two action points regarding housing.

To encourage the provision of Affordable Local Housing and to liaise with GRCC Rural Housing Enabler regarding options and approaches.

To monitor all future Housing Development applications and to consult with the village on all future large scale housing applications.

EMPLOYMENT

38% of respondents commute over 10 miles to work. This does seem to support the argument that there are not enough jobs locally to support more housing in the area.

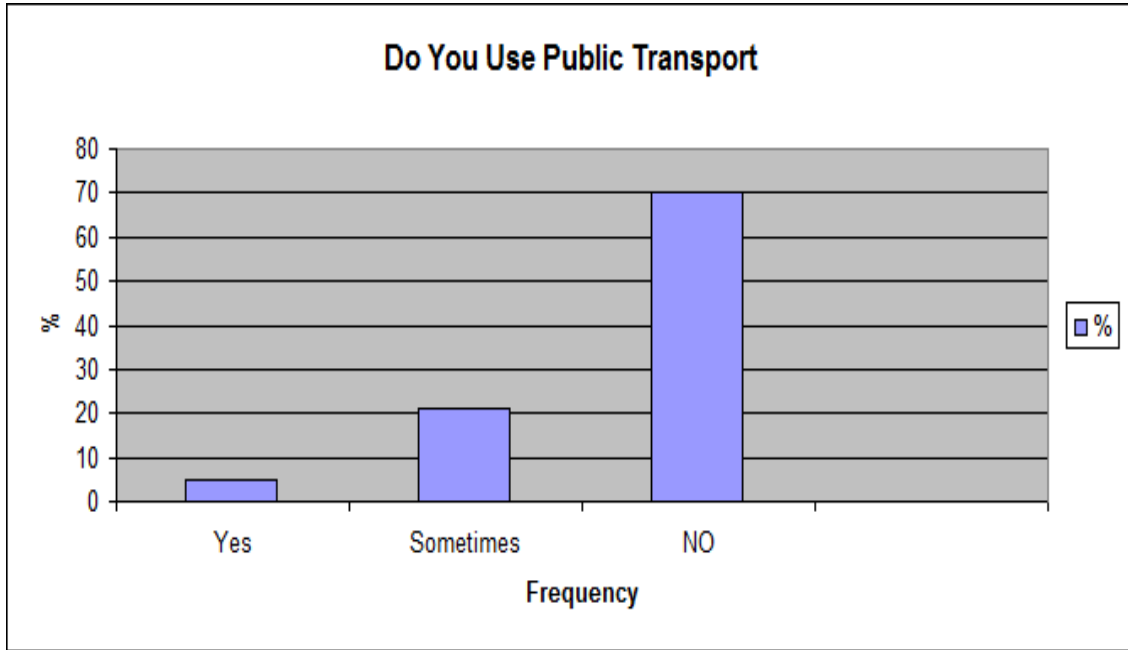


Kingswood has always been an industrial village and is proud to be a vibrant working village. 47% of villagers would like to see more jobs within the village. This could be accomplished by changes in the types of work and may be possible with more people working from home. However there would need to be an improvement in the provision of broadband as good reliable internet access would be essential. We also need to be mindful that several industrial units have been available to let for 2 years without success.

TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

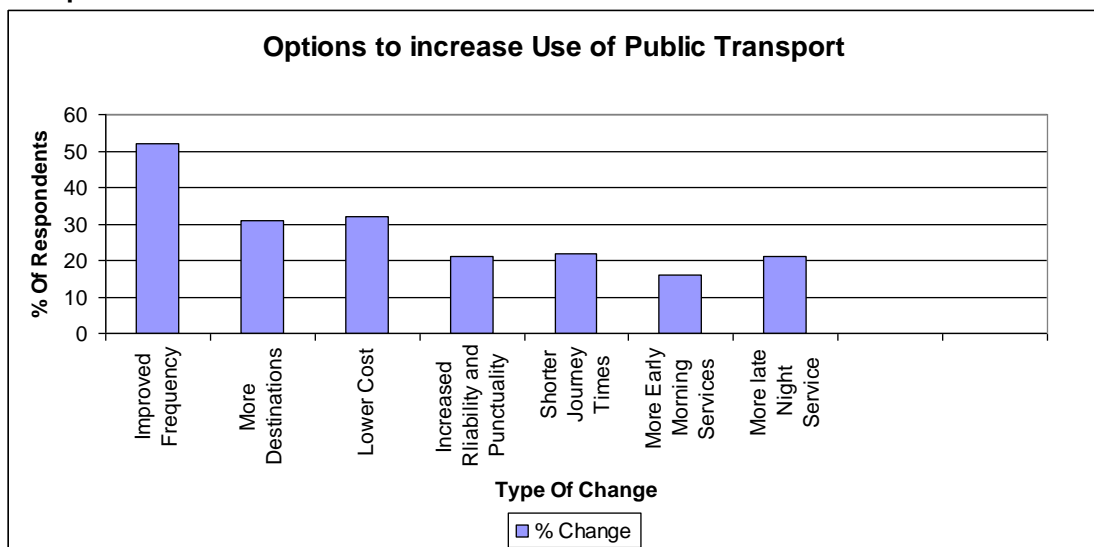
Public Transport

The Government wishes to encourage more people to use public transport. In a rural location like Kingswood this can prove very difficult as is reflected by our graph on public transport use.



70% of people in the village do not use public transport. As we have already demonstrated there are a high number of villagers commuting to get to their place of employment. Existing Public Transport is unable to support this need. Further housing developments in Kingswood would only serve to increase the number of commuters.

The following graphs shows the various options which may improve the use of public transport.



52% of villagers would wish to see an improvement in the frequency of the bus service. Currently the main bus serving the village and travelling to Bristol and Gloucester runs every two hours. The current timetable would not be sufficient to use this bus to commute to employment in these locations. The length of the journey time is over 2 hours and the times the service operates would make it difficult.

The nearest large shopping centre is at Cribbs Causeway, which cannot now be reached directly by public transport. Villagers are forced to change buses at Thornbury.

There are five hospitals serving the village as follows; Berkeley, Southmead, Frenchay, Stroud and Gloucester. Buses will only take you from the village to Southmead and Gloucester and then only during the day and not in time for evening visiting times, or on a Sunday.

Interestingly the potential opening of Charfield railway station does not significantly change our perception of how we would travel to our place of employment, 63% of villagers saying that they would only use this facility occasionally.

The car will always be an important element to living in Kingswood whilst the public transport concerns remain as reflected in our graph.

The Kingswood Parish Council has an action point concerning public transport

To monitor any changes to public transport and to look at positive ways to encourage walking and cycling within the village by trying to source safe cycle and pedestrian routes for the village. Making effective use of S.106 money to support this action.

HIGHWAYS

The Villagers of Kingswood have great concerns about the roads within the village.

With speeding being the biggest concern. This was very evident from the survey and from the comments from the visitors to the Parish Council stand at Showday 2009.

The survey however throws up some conflicting results. 56% of villagers do not believe that the current traffic control measures in Hillesley Road, Wickwar Road, Abbey Street, Charfield Road and Wotton Road have made a significant improvement to road and pedestrian safety.

70% of villagers think that the current speed limits are appropriate.

Current Speed Limits are as follows: -

ROAD	SPEED LIMIT
Abbey Street	20mph
High Street	20mph
Hillesley Road (up to Walkmill Lane)	20mph
Wotton Road	30mph
Hillesley Road	30mph
Charfield Road	30mph
Wickwar Road	30mph
Walkmill lane	30mph
Rectory Road	30mph

This demonstrates that although the speed limits are appropriate, the vehicles travelling on these roads are exceeding these limits. It is therefore the enforcement of the speed limits that is required.

Pavements are another area of concern and safe pedestrian access. 33% of respondents would like to see pavements on Hillesley Road and 35% on Charfield Road. Both of these roads have had this issue investigated in the past. It is thought that we have to accept that this is not physically possible in these areas and look at other ways of providing safe access.

49% of villagers would like to see access for cyclists/pedestrians improved.

The Parish Council is working with Gloucester Highways on the possibility of updating the footpath from Weavers Close to Crow Meadow by upgrading the surface. This would then make this footpath a real alternative to the road to take pedestrians to the centre of the village and to the school without using Hillesley Road.

Kingswood Parish Council at the suggestion of a Villager have arranged for a pedestrian walkway to be outlined in paint on The Chipping. This should make it easier for people to walk to the businesses there without walking through the parked cars.

Kingswood Parish Council has two action points on Highways

To ensure all appropriate agencies are aware of concerns of speeding within the village. To actively campaign for a solution to make Wickwar Road , Charfield Road, Wotton Road and Hillesley Road safer for all, especially for pedestrians. To make use of the key Individual Networks to take the issues forward.

The Parish Council has asked for the following action

A speed survey for Charfield Road, which should take place in the next few months (April 2010 - June 2010).

A new traffic calming system for Wickwar Road as a result of the traffic survey already carried out. A chicane has been planned.

The vehicle activated sign to be updated on Wickwar Road.

A hand held laser speed activity to be planned for Hillesley Road (Spring 2010).

LOCAL COUNTRYSIDE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Top 3 Views

View	%
Ash Path and Stream	52
Views to Nibley Monument	49
Abbey Gatehouse	44

Kingswood is very lucky to have access to 18 miles of footpath. These are monitored and maintained by two Footpath Warden volunteers. 63% of respondents find the footpaths easy to access. The Parish Council has in the past funded a footpath map which is still available giving details of walks. The Parish Council is keen to ensure that the footpath network remains easily accessible and has committed funds to enable this to happen.

Kingswood Parish Council has an action point on footpaths

Through the Footpath Wardens ensure that all of the parish Footpaths are accessible. The Parish Council seeks to improve the number and quality of stiles. To continue to receive reports from the Footpath Wardens and to actively manage the footpaths by financial contributions to support the maintenance actions generated.

A large number of dog walkers use the footpaths and this does seem to be causing a problem with dog fouling. This was the top issue raised at the consultation event in August. Surprisingly only 32% of Villagers own a dog. There are key areas in the village which have a particular problem. The most complaints are made about Squalls Lake and the Ash Path.

Kingswood Parish Council has an action point on dog fouling

To have a policy of zero tolerance on dog fouling and to decrease the incidence of fouling within the village. Publicising the need to monitor the bins and the non acceptance of fouling. Reporting structure to be in place for instances of dog fouling to enable prosecutions to take place if necessary. Negotiate with Stroud District Council for new dog bins.

Kingswood Parish Council is currently taking the following action

Requested 2 extra bins; one by the Church and one on the Nind Lane entrance to the field. The Developers should be putting in an extra bin on Charfield Road.

Top 3 Areas on which The Parish Council should spend more money

View	%
Outside Spaces	53
Playing Field	42
Grants to Village Organisations	33

Kingswood Parish Council is committed to actively maintaining the village and has action points to reflect the above.

To ensure that the Parish Council has a maintenance programme and is ensuring that the following areas are maintained: The War memorial, Public Convenience, Flower Beds, Playing Field and Cemetery. Using where possible local contractors.

To ensure that The Parish Council is actively supporting local charitable and voluntary organisations by awarding grants when necessary.

To consult with the Village on the provision of new play equipment for the playing field. To ensure the provision is suitable for all age groups.

To look at the security of the Playing Field and to investigate the provision of CCTV to help protect the Playing Field, Village Hall and users of both facilities.

Top 5 features considered to be the most important to maintain the essential character of Kingswood.

Feature	%
Shop	87
Post Office	84
Primary School	71
Village Hall	55
Village Events	49

The Village Shop and Post Office are well used with over 90% of respondents using both facilities.

The Primary School is an important part of the village.

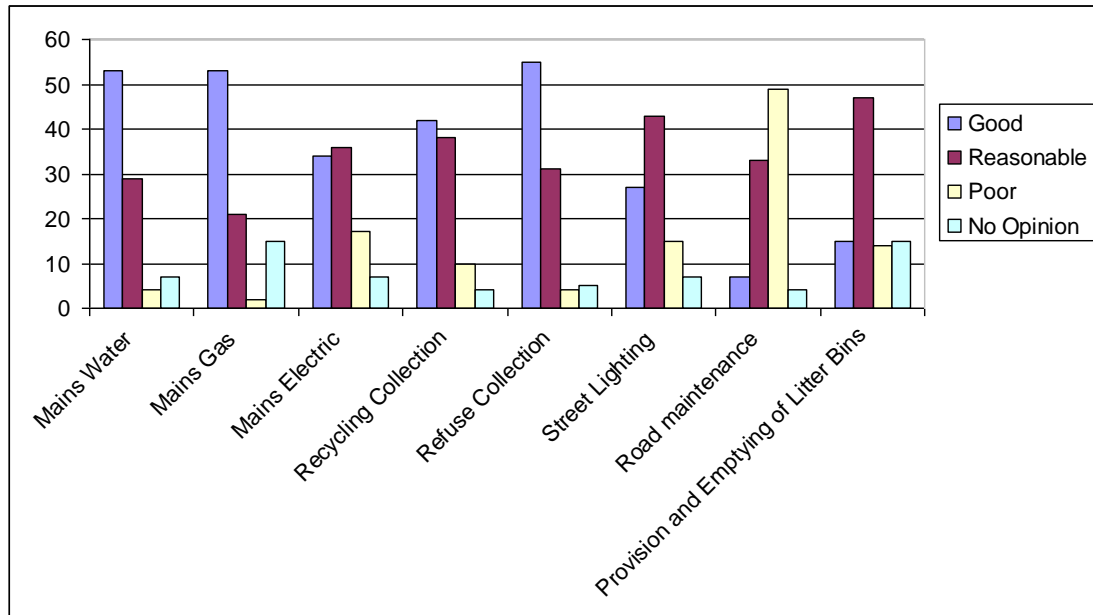
The information regarding the Village Hall is interesting. Currently the Village Hall is going through a difficult time with low bookings and consequently income. The message therefore is clear, if the Village Hall is important to you then USE IT or lose it.

Kingswood Parish Council has action points on the above

To actively support the Village Post Office to ensure that it remains within the Village. To discuss with the Post Mistress any matters relating to the Post Office and how the Parish Council can support it.

To work with the Village Hall Management Committee to ensure the future of the Village Hall.

EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER SERVICES



49% of respondents think that road maintenance is poor. This is particularly the case at the moment with the high number of pot holes and bad road surface which is a direct result of the hard winter of 2009/10.

43% of respondents think that the street lighting is only reasonable.

47% of respondents think that the provision and emptying of litters bins is only reasonable.

77% of respondents would not support a move to a fortnightly collection of refuse.

The above services are the responsibility of Gloucestershire Highways and Stroud District Council. The figures are worrying and the Parish Council will need to ensure that it is regularly highlighting concerns to ensure that these areas are given attention and the services improved.

Kingswood Parish Council has action points on the above

To monitor road maintenance and ensure timely action taken to improve the quality of the roads within the Village.

To review and monitor street lighting within the village. To ask GRCC to carry out a lighting survey and reduce the incidence of light pollution in parts of the village and to increase street lighting in other parts as necessary.

RECYCLING

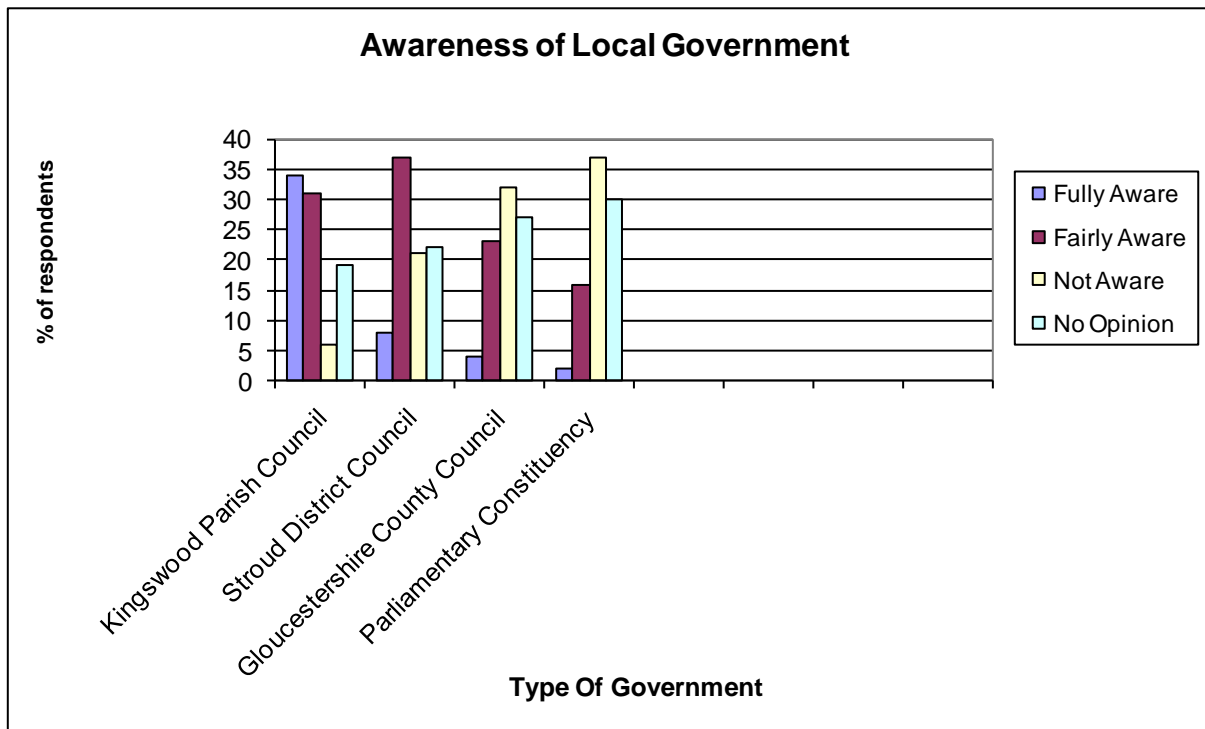
A big cause of concern for respondents to the questionnaire and a top area for concern at the consultation event was the question of a doorstep collection of cardboard and green waste. 74% of respondents would like a cardboard collection and 53% a garden waste collection. As over 64% of respondents are commuting to the recycling centre to dispose of these items this will have a major environmental impact with an increased reliance on the car.

50% of respondents produce their own food. Kingswood Parish Council is currently negotiating with a local developer for land to use for allotments. The provision of a communal composting site may well be able to be accommodated at the same location. This will be dependent on the research into this to ascertain if it would be appropriate. However it would help with the desire for recycling garden waste.

Kingswood Parish Council has action points on the above

To discuss with Stroud District Council the need for a recycling provision within the Parish. Especially for Cardboard and Garden Waste.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT



At local Government level respondents appeared to be happy with the service they received from The Parish Council and District Council. The figure drops slightly for the County Council and plummets for the Parliamentary Constituency. Currently The District Councillor for Kingswood is also a Parish Councillor so is fully involved on two levels on the issues and concerns facing Kingswood. The current County Councillor for Kingswood attends the majority of Parish Council meetings so once again is kept up to date with Kingswood issues.

Kingswood Parish Council holds its meeting on the second Monday of the month and public attendance is normally very low. The minutes are produced and displayed on the notice board, however only 3% of respondents read them regularly with 29% of respondents reading them sometimes.

EMERGENCY ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER SERVICES

The nearest Police Station to Kingswood is manned part time by a Police Constable and Community Support Officers. The mobile Police Station is a regular visitor to the village.

68% of respondents said that they felt safe in the village. Only 5% rated Police Patrols as good and 22 % thought that the Mobile Police Station was reasonable. A resounding 43% rated the Neighbourhood Watch as good. This is an organisation made up by volunteers and who are very active within the Village keeping residents notified of incidents in the local area.

FINALLY

All that remains is for Kingswood Parish Council to continue to work on achieving all of the action points and to continue to consult with the people of Kingswood and seek their views on their village

THANK YOU