KINGSMEAD
PARISH COUNCIL

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER OF 2025!

Welcome to the PC spring newsletter. Our last Christmas event was very successful, Father Christmas and the little wee donkeys being the biggest attraction. I want to thank all the volunteers, Kingsmead Primary School, the stall holders and The Kingfisher pub who all helped to make this a success. We are organising two summer events this year on 8th May and 28th June to help commemorate the 80th anniversary of VE Day - more details will be provided nearer to the time, but save these dates in your diary! On a less happy note, we have recently seen some vandalism around the estate. The Daffodil Hill was constantly being ridden over by bikes (causing damage to some of the daffodils) and litter strewn over it. A bin was set on fire and several incidents at the shops were reported. Luckily our PCSO and the police have identified some culprits, and they have now received warnings. We have also been made aware that the use of short-cuts around the estate may be causing issues for some residents. The council is now reviewing all unofficial access routes and encroachments throughout the parish before a decision is made about whether they may be permitted.

If you have a question about who owns any land or maintains any areas on the estate, please contact our Clerk, Wendy, at: clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk.

Cllr Helen Weltman, Chair of Kingsmead Parish Council

CROWN HEDGE ROUNDABOUT

The parish council is delighted to confirm that an agreement has been reached with Cheshire West and Chester Council that enables us to maintain the crown hedge roundabout, which we will be doing with the help of Northwich Town Council. The first cut under our control was carried out w/c 24th February, which saw NTC on the roundabout for 2-days, cutting back both the crown and the box hedge around the base. We will be cutting the hedges twice per annum in the short term, whilst we work to bring the hedges back to their original size and shape, as well as cutting the grass regularly during the summer months. We will be keeping a close eye on the health of the leylandii hedge, which are often difficult to manage, so that we can determine a long-term strategy for the roundabout. KPC will receive the revenue from the advertising boards on the crown roundabout, which will partially cover the cost of the annual maintenance.



KINGSMEAD PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

E: clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk

T: 01606 533858 or 07737 334504

Information about the work of the parish council can also be found on our website:

www.kingsmeadpc.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL FINANCE

The Parish Precept.

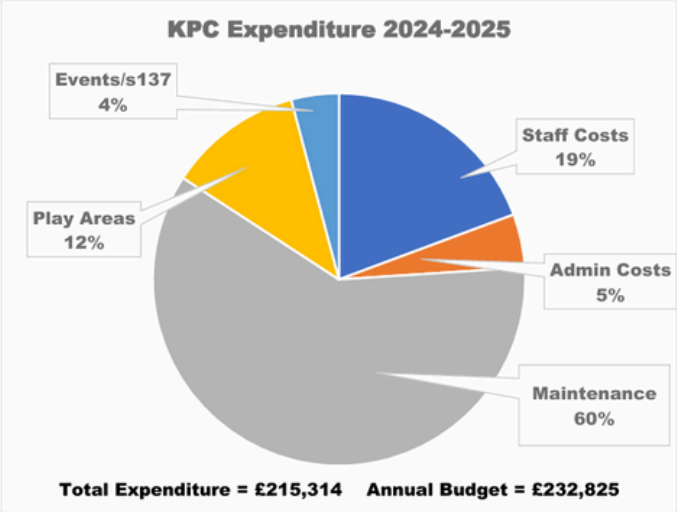
A Parish Council gets its funding by receiving a small amount of the local Council Tax; this is referred to as a Parish Precept. Each parish council forecasts the amount of funding it will require for the following year and requests this funding from its local Borough Council (Cheshire West and Chester Council). This is included within the local Council Tax, along with taxes levied by the Police and Fire Authorities.

Management of KPC's Finances

Expenditure is checked against budget by the council at its monthly meeting, when they will also review and approve any payments to be made in that period. Further scrutiny is carried out quarterly by the Finance Committee who will make recommendations about changes to the budget when appropriate. Each year the council must also undergo internal and external auditing to comply with government regulations. Finance information including the annual governance and accountability return (AGAR), approved monthly payments, YTD expenditure against budget (see below), annual budget & precept and the annual financial report are all available to view on the finance page of our website.

Full Year Expenditure 2024-2025

Category	Actual 2024-25 Spend	Annual Budget	Expenditure vs Budget by Category	% of Total Spend
Staff Costs	£41,625.00	£43,150.00	96.5%	19%
Admin Costs	£9,989.00	£17,875.00	55.9%	5%
Maintenance	£129,653.00	£134,500.00	96.4%	60%
Play Areas	£25,150.00	£27,800.00	90.5%	12%
Events/s137	£8,897.00	£9,500.00	93.7%	4%
TOTAL	£215,314.00	£232,825.00	92.5%	



FINANCE FOR 2025-2026

Most of the council's expenditure (over 70%) is to cover maintenance and service contracts such as:

- Grounds maintenance - grass cutting, hedge cutting, flower beds, bin emptying.
- Trees and woodland management
- Play area maintenance and replacement of equipment, when necessary.
- Ponds and culvert management
- Maintenance of structures such as the clock tower and cenotaph.

Costs have generally been increasing across all these areas recently and it is expected that they will do so again this year with last year's budget changes impacting staff costs for all our service providers.

After careful review of projected expenditure for the 2025-26 financial year, the council approved a budget of £256,635, and has submitted a precept request to Cheshire West and Chester Council for £223,601. This represents an average Band D charge of £116.90 pa, which is an increase of 4.9% compared to last year or an additional 45p per month.

The effect across all council tax bands can be seen in the table below.

2025/26 Precept Request (£)	223,601	Band	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
2025/26 Taxbase	1,912.8	Ratio	6/9ths	7/9ths	8/9ths	9/9ths	11/9ths	13/9ths	15/9ths	18/9ths
2025/26 Band D charge	116.90	Charge (£)	77.93	90.92	103.91	116.90	142.88	168.86	194.83	233.80
2024/25 Band D charge	111.46	Change from 2024/25 (£)	3.62	4.23	4.83	5.44	6.65	7.86	9.06	10.88
% change in charge	4.9%									
		Increased cost per month	£ 0.30	£ 0.35	£ 0.40	£ 0.45	£ 0.55	£ 0.66	£ 0.76	£ 0.91

COMMUNITY POLICING

The Parish Council works closely with your local PCSO (Lee Robertson) and we are very proud to support the Kingsmead Mini Police, who are a shining example of this initiative throughout Cheshire. Our PCSO provides a monthly newsletter of issues within the Davenham, Moulton, Kingsmead and Bostock localities, which can be viewed on our website in the “Community Policing” section. The monthly newsletters provide an update on incidents reported in the area during the previous month, as well as advice about how to stay safe. PCSO Lee also tries to attend our Full Council meetings on a regular basis, where he is available to discuss any general concerns.

All residents are reminded that non-emergency incidents (e.g. nuisance or anti-social behaviour) should be reported via 101 or the Cheshire Police website; this allows the police to recognise repeated behaviours or trends and to take appropriate action, such as increased patrols, etc.

RESIDENT’S VOICE



It is very important that you have your say on policing in your area - you can make a difference!

Send your views and concerns anonymously, as often as you want. These could be anything from burglaries to parking, speeding to anti-social behaviour.

Scan the QR code or visit the address below to give your feedback:
www.cheshire.police.uk/residentsvoice

KPC WELCOMES ITS NEWEST COUNCILLOR

At the end of 2024, a vacancy arose on the council, which we were able to fill by co-option at our February meeting.



David Herring - our new councillor

My wife (Shirley) and I relocated to Kingsmead in January 2024. Both Shirley and I are currently employed full-time, but we plan to transition to a slower pace of life within the community in the coming years.

Since moving here, we have observed that the Parish Council operates efficiently and is well-managed. I am looking forward to participating and contributing to its continued success.

We enjoy walking along the river with our cocker spaniel, Leo, and meeting people during our walks.

My professional background is primarily in IT, having worked for several blue-chip companies including the former ICI Paints, now AkzoNobel. I now work for an ERP software business based in Hungerford although I am home office based.

MINI POLICE WIN NATIONAL AWARD

Congratulations to the Kingsmead Mini Police, who recently received a National Crimebeat Award in London, in recognition of all their hard work over the last two years. After presenting to a panel of other finalists, high sheriffs, honourable judges and the deputy assistant commissioner of the Met Police, the children were presented with the Richard Walduck Award - a special award for the project to recognise the positive relationships the children have developed between the police and their community.



They thoroughly deserve the award received and their visit to London, which included a buffet lunch, an open-top bus tour of the capital along with a trip on the London Eye.

Keep an eye out for this group as they work around Kingsmead - it could be you getting a poor parking notice or visiting the Mini-Police court for speeding!

CHRISTMAS 2024



The council was delighted as always to see so many residents joining us for our annual Christmas Lights switch-on, which last year was held at the end of November. The evening included entertainment from the school band, Northwich Ukulele Band and a live DJ. Santa was as popular as ever in his grotto as were the donkey rides. But the real hit of the evening was probably PCSO Lee who gave a real-life experience of being arrested and thrown in his police van!! Thanks to The Kingfisher for providing mince pies and mulled wine and to all the stall holders who joined us. Finally, a big thank you to our residents - we raised a fantastic £670. This will be used to help fund this year's events, which this summer will also include our VE-80 Anniversary celebrations.



LITTER PICKING DAYS

The Parish Council runs regular litter picking days on the last Sunday of every month (although NOT in August and December)

30th March	27th April	25th May
29th June	27th July	28th Sept
26th Oct	30th Nov	Love where you Live

10am – 12pm

Why not come along and help make your community a nicer place to live?

All are welcome, but children under 16 must be accompanied by an adult. Litter picking equipment (gloves, bin bags and litter pickers) will be available to collect at the Parish Council noticeboard on Kingsmead Square.

If you can't join us on the day, tell us instead about the "grot spots" that need clearing.
Just contact the clerk!

Winter Maintenance - Keeping Kingsmead at its Best



Path cleaning and weeding on the spine road



Gate Maintenance



St George's Field



Orchard Pruning

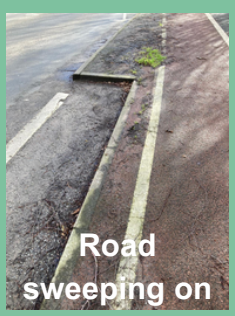


Path edging and cleaning





Play Area Maintenance and Tidying



Road sweeping on A533



Re-planting



Car park repairs





New gates at Kensington Way