AUTUMN 2025

KINGSMEAD PARISH COUNCIL

KINGSMEAD PARISH COUNCIL



WELCOME TO OUR SECOND NEWSLETTER OF 2025
from Cllr Helen Weltman - Chair of KPC

It's been another busy year for the parish council who continue to maintain Kingsmead land to the highest standard. We are currently in the process of re-tendering the contract for the grounds maintenance, which is a lengthy and time consuming process. Our main priority is ensuring we continue to deliver on the expectations of our residents, so any feedback you want to provide (both good and bad!) will be very welcome.

This year we enjoyed a summer event on St George's field for VE Day celebrations on 28th June. The event was attended by roughly 300 people who listened to The Debonaires, a 1940s swing band.

I want to thank all Councillors and volunteers who give up their own time to look after the place we live in. I especially want to say a big thank you to Laura Hoey who is standing down after 12 years serving on the parish council. Laura has made a great contribution to how our parish is run, as she has served on most of the sub committees over the years. Laura will be missed by us all.

FRIENDS OF KINGSMEAD VOLUNTEER GROUP

Kingsmead PC has welcomed the first members of the volunteer group. The aim of the group, which is made up of local residents, is to help keep Kingsmead looking at its best and to support community events to ensure they are safe and successful.

However, there is always more to do and we will always welcome additional volunteers.

The group aims to tackle jobs such as litter picks, weeding, newsletter drops and signage cleaning, in addition to stewarding at events. All of these jobs can be done individually or as a group, as and when your time allows, and the parish council will provide suitable equipment to help with such tasks.

If you're interested in keeping the estate looking its best or helping with our events, please contact Wendy, our parish council clerk (clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk), with details of how you would like to help. You'll be added to the "Friends" group and kept informed about future meetings and volunteer activities.

And if you have ideas about new ways the volunteer group can help out - let us know.

Finally, a big thank you to the current volunteers who have helped with activities over the last few months - you've really made a difference!

KINGSMEAD MINI POLICE

As previously reported, the Kingsmead Mini Police were the recipients earlier this year of a National Crimebeat award. The Parish Council wanted to mark this incredible achievement in its own way by awarding a commemorative plaque and "police lantern" for display alongside their Crimebeat certificate. The Mini Police joined the council at its Annual Meeting in May, where they stood in for the PCSO and presented his monthly newsletter. A presentation was then made by Cllr Helen Weltman. Well done again to the Mini Police!







To find out more about the Parish Council visit our website: **www.kingsmeadpc.org.uk**

To contact us, please email or telephone the Clerk using the following details:

E: **clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk**

T: **01606 533858 or 07737 334504**

SUMMER EVENTS IN 2025

The 80th anniversary of the end of World War II was celebrated by the community with a beacon and fireworks being lit on St. George's field on the evening of 8th May. This was followed with a family "Picnic in the Park" on Saturday 28th June, where people spent an afternoon listening and dancing to some 1940's swing music - nostalgia at its best! The council was also pleased to support Ellie Taylor with her fund raising activities at the picnic. Anyone who attended will have seen Ellie selling fidget toys and small figures she had made herself on a 3D printer. It proved to be a successful enterprise, with Ellie raising a fantastic £98.50 for soft.org.uk in memory of her brother Beau.

Thank you to everyone who helped make both these events so successful and who also supported Ellie's amazing initiative.





PCSO LEE ROBERTSON WINS PCSO of the YEAR AWARD



Many congratulations to Lee who won the "PCSO of the Year" award at Cheshire Constabulary's recent annual ACE (Achieving Cheshire Excellence) awards. The award recognises Lee's dedication to his role, which many of our residents will pay testament to, as well as his amazing work with the Mini Police. Following his success here in Kingsmead, Lee now also has teams in Davenham and Moulton!



RESIDENTS' VOICE

It is very important that you have your say on policing in your area. Scan the QR code to send your views and concerns. This can be done anonymously and as often as you would like.

HELP WITH KINGSMEAD BOUNDARIES AND THE IMPACT OF 'SHORTCUTS'

As part of the Parish Council's ongoing stewardship of the Kingsmead estate, we are asking residents to avoid using shortcuts across the wild areas bordering the estate and to keep to the official access points. These wooded areas were deliberately included in the original planning permission and design of the Kingsmead development, with the aim being to:

- Provide a privacy and security barrier for residents in properties along the edge of the estate.
- Provide a buffer between Kingsmead and the Poors Wood nature reserve and the River Weaver corridor.
- Provide cover for the wildlife displaced by the estate and to support biodiversity.

These strips of boundary land are now owned by Kingsmead Parish Council and, sadly, the strip of woodland between the Top Path and the estate (known as the 'Bund') is being damaged by walkers jumping the fences and forcing trails through the wooded areas. As well as breaching the principals behind the Bund this is also leading to complaints about loss of privacy from some residents living beside it. Regular use of shortcuts is adversely affecting the value of these buffer zones, reducing their effectiveness in privacy screening and undermining the original permissions given for the Kingsmead estate's design and approval.

It's worth noting that the estate is also bordered by Poors Wood; a nature reserve, local wildlife site and a Site of Biological Importance. This is owned and managed by the Cheshire Wildlife Trust and is one of the last vestiges of the ancient forest that covered this part of Cheshire. It is home to many rare woodland plant species, but it is also coming under pressure and being damaged by short cuts from Kingsmead and some fly-tipping.

So, we are asking residents to please refrain from using short-cuts through the wooded areas. The Parish Council is also grateful to those residents who have voluntarily closed off their private garden gates opening out onto the Top Path area. As part of our plan to manage these areas, we will be placing signs on some of the boundary fences to point out where we are asking people not to walk.

We look forward to your support in helping to protect and preserve these important green spaces. So, please enjoy the beautiful wild areas bordering our estate, mind how you go but please, watch where you tread.

KINGSMEAD PONDS UPDATE

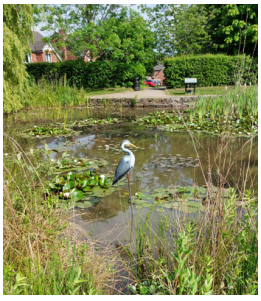


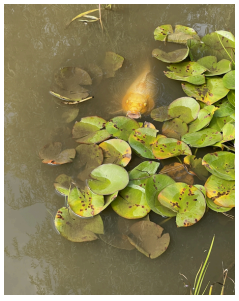
In the last issue of the Newsletter, we gave an overview of the ponds on the Kingsmead estate, their history and the Parish Council's approach to their management. Most of the ponds are seasonal and have little in the way of a continuous wildlife population. However, the pond on Coronet Avenue has proved to be quite special amongst the Kingsmead Ponds with its vibrant fish and wildlife population.

Since our last newsletter, we have had a very warm summer and there was concern that the resulting reduced water level would have a detrimental effect on the Coronet Pond fish stock. The water quality was also not helped by the large flock of ducks that took residence on the pond. They caused more pollution with their droppings and any food they are given, which if uneaten, subsequently rots down in the pond. The Parish Council (PC) heeded the concerns of residents and tasked our contractor, Caddis, with replenishing the water in the pond to restore the volume to a better level to safeguard the fish.

The PC has standing permission from the Environment Agency (EA) to extract water from the River Weaver. Surprisingly, the water quality in the Weaver is actually better than that of the pond's (although you wouldn't want to drink it!!). However, there is a different balance in the ammonia, nitrates and nitrite levels in the river's water compared with the pond's, and we were concerned about the effect this might have on the fish stock. Well, what a difference a week made! After only 5 days, our tests showed that the pond's plant life had done its work and ammonia, nitrite and nitrate levels were almost in balance.

So, for the future, we will continue to monitor the pond closely, taking similar action when needed based on this summer's successful experience and, of course, now knowing more about the risks and advantages.





REFLECTIONS OF A NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR

When I moved to Kingsmead in January 2024, I was made aware of the Parish Council as I needed a deed of variation as part of the purchase process - who knew? Having never knowingly lived in a Parish before or even understanding what one was, I was interested in finding out more. Speaking with the Clerk and visiting the Kingsmead Parish Council website, I was amazed by its role, importance and contribution to the community and all on a voluntary basis. When I noticed on the website that there was a vacancy for a councillor, I attended the next meeting as a member of the public and stayed to watch, listen and learn. I decided to apply for the position and was successful in my application after a presentation to the existing members. Since joining I have been amazed at the amount of time, effort and work undertaken by the council members.

- Making sure all parks are maintained and repaired when damaged, with regular inspections carried out as a preventative measure too.
- All trees under the control of the council are checked, pruned, removed and replaced as required.
- The ongoing safeguarding of the wildlife in our ponds, especially Coronet with all its fish.
- The VE day celebrations that included lighting the beacon and fireworks in May, followed by a successful picnic in St Georges Field in June with a live 1940s swing band. Great fun, the sun shone for us and it was free too!
- The setting up of a volunteer group for weeding the pavements etc. The clerk sourced and provided new weeding tools for this as well.

The list goes on as there are more things for the rest of the year and beyond - the refurbishment of several play areas, contracts to be agreed for the maintenance of green spaces, a Christmas event on Friday 5th December, maintaining boundary fencing and hedges as custodians of the woods and local wildlife to name just a few. Overall, it has and continues to be an interesting and varied year - the above are only the highlights! I'm very pleased I made that initial contact and joined the Parish Council as I find it very rewarding and feel a big part of the community.

Cllr David Herring



CASUAL VACANCY

The Parish Council has a vacancy for a new councillor. For more information contact: clerk@kingsmeadpc.org.uk

KINGSMEAD
PARISH COUNCIL



CHRISTMAS
Begins At
KINGSMEAD



FRIDAY 5th December 5-8PM

- Santa'sGrotto
- Tombola
- Music
- Donkey Rides
- Artisan/Fun Stalls
- School Band

Free Entry

Note: Small fee for some attractions

Card facility available

The Kingfisher



A Kingsmead Parish Council Event