



KINGS LANGLEY & DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting – Chairman’s Report – April 2019

Welcome to the KL&DRA AGM 2019. My name is Gary Ansell and I am Chair of the Association and I have lived in Kings Langley for over twenty five years.

As you may recall the Association was roused out of a prolonged hibernation in order to raise awareness and fight the four proposed development sites, all in the Green Belt, that were included in Dacorum Borough Council’s Draft Local Plan back in late 2017. Then, we just had that Plan to worry about, which of course has not gone away as we await the publication of the pre-submission draft later this year.

What a year we’ve had since then. Now, the threat against the survival of Kings Langley as a village has never been greater. Over the last year we have worked hard to keep everyone in Kings Langley up to speed with the many development threats we face. You will find these included in your handout along with some details of the tasks we have carried out to ensure the word gets around.

I’d like to focus on four major issues we face:

The most immediate is the MOTO Motorway services area proposal just the other side of J20. Our recent communications distributed to all houses in Kings Langley explain the detail and the reasons why we do not believe this is the right place for an MSA, particularly when another is soon to be subject to a planning application just a little way down the motorway between Junctions 16 & 17.

The second is Rectory Farm. Whilst we have to accept that the brownfield area will be developed, we want to ensure that the development is appropriate in scale and in character and importantly, is not used as a ‘starter for 10’ for developing the rest of the green field area of the site.

The third is Three Rivers Local Plan. Unfortunately our village is split by the boundary between DBC & TRDC and there are many potential sites in Three Rivers that are right on our doorstep. When we had a meeting with Sir Mike

Penning up on the hillside at Wayside Farm and showed him our map which shows both Three Rivers sites and DBC's sites, it was clear that the potential impact on Kings Langley was a bit of a shock to him. The next stage of their plan is expected late summer/early autumn.

Lastly, as I mentioned earlier, DBC's Local Plan has not gone away and we will be ready to respond when the next draft confirms which sites will be kept in the plan. This is also expected late summer/early autumn.

Whilst we continue to fight on these individual fronts, by far the most difficult issue and the key overriding factor is the Governments housing targets and the ways in which the Government force them on local councillors. We have met with local MPs Sir Mike Penning and David Gauke over in Rickmansworth and have asked them directly if the Government will reduce the numbers. I suppose the best we can say is we got some sympathetic words but not much hope of reducing the numbers. That said, we won't give up fighting to keep Kings Langley a village!

I have a number of people to thank who without their efforts, none of what we achieved would have been possible:

Thanks to our Comms sub group, Annie Martin, Eric Martin, Mark Rogers and Ann Johnson for pulling our communications strategy together and particularly to Annie who also looks after getting information to our non-computer users as well as spending many an exciting morning and evening monitoring Google Maps for traffic hold ups through the village. Also to Mark who went into London and attended meetings by the London Green Belt Council

Also in the area of communications a big thank you to Jeremy Wilkins who has provided us with free printing of our newsletters and to Lisa Moore who looks after our social media communications.

Those newsletters wouldn't get anywhere without Val Lee and her dedicated team of distributors so a big thank you to Val and her team

Thanks also to Cheryl Hall on KLM for re-posting and sharing and all that clever stuff that helps get our messages out to a wider audience.

Thank you to David Zerny for producing our emails communications to all our email subscribers. If you're not a subscriber, sign up on greenbeltmatters.com

Thank you also to our Parish Council liaisons, Alan Johnson & Mark Rogers

And also thanks to our Committee - our old members and newer ones – for all their help with ideas, expertise, researching and generally sharing the load – Lydia and Russ Berman, Cheryl Hall, John Ingleby, Vall Lee, James Markham, Annie Martin, Stewart Mitchell, Lawrence Parnell, Chris Pichon, Charlie Wray and David Zerny

I'd also like to thank Eric Martin, our Treasurer for looking after our finances

And last but not least a very big thank you to our secretary Ann Johnson, without whom I would I probably give up and go home. How this lady has coped with the amount of emails, texts, WhatsApp's, Facebook posts and telephone calls and on top of that cover Agenda's Minutes and remind me constantly of all the stuff I should rightly have remembered myself, is beyond me. A massive thank you Ann for everything you've done.

If anyone else would like to help or has skills we could use please speak to one of us after the meeting.

Finally, none of what the Association has achieved would have been possible without the generous donations of our supporters and members. Our thanks to all of you here and many who are not for their support.

Our Treasurer Eric has more detail on the Association's finances in his report.

I think that just about covers everything. If anyone has any questions I will be happy to take them now or under any other business.

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