

# NEWSLETTER



The latest news from Kingsthorpe Parish Council

ISSUE 4 • SPRING 2024



## WELCOME!

Eagle-eyed residents and visitors soon spotted the smart, new personalised 'Welcome Signs' which we installed at five gateway locations around the Parish. Another huge improvement giving Kingsthorpe its own unique identity and sense of place.



## BRIGHTENING UP KINGSTHORPE FRONT

Well, judging by all the positive comments we received, the floral planters certainly made a great addition to the Parish, and we were so incredibly pleased that our residents and visitors enjoyed them.

We would also like to thank Hugh and Ginette from the Northamptonshire Association for the Blind. Their help and advice were invaluable ensuring the planned locations were safe and a positive addition for all.



This summer we plan to expand the number of planters, just part of a larger commitment to making Kingsthorpe a more wonderful, and greener place to live.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

We want to hear what's going on in the community so please let us know your news. Email us at [clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)

We started this year in wet and windy conditions, but the bulbs are now blooming, the sun is shining, and we are gradually springing into Spring.



It has been a privilege to be elected by my colleagues as the Chair and I would like to use this opportunity to thank them and the Council staff members, including the new Library manager, for all their dedication, commitment, and hard work.

It has indeed been an incredible year in which our Council activities have grown in leaps and bounds. We have executed a number of exciting projects, and we are also at the verge of reopening the Library. I implore you to please bear with us and very soon we will all start enjoying our community library services.

I hope this newsletter provides insight into how your precepts are being reinvested into our community. Our budget for 2024-25 financial year is out and despite an incredibly challenging economic climate, I am pleased to say that you do not see an increase but rather a decrease -2.8% in the Parish Council's portion of your Council Tax.

Finally, I would like to thank the residents that have been attending our meetings. Your opinion matters to us, and you are always welcome at our full Council and Committee meetings.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual Open Meeting on Wednesday 15th May, 6pm, which will take place at the Kingsthorpe Baptist Church Hall on the High Street.

Thank you.

*Titus*  
Cllr Titus Ajayi  
Chair

## TRIBUTE TO THE LATE QUEEN ELIZABETH II IN RECOGNISING 70 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Parish Council have commissioned five new memorial benches to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of the late Queen Elizabeth II. We are delighted these have now been installed in each ward and hope they will be enjoyed by many and enhance our open space.



## KINGSTHORPE COMMUNITY LIBRARY - YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### Is the Library going to reopen?

Yes. We have a plan in place and are working hard to get the doors open again soon. I cannot give you a date yet, but I have set up our Facebook page, "Kingsthorpe Community Library," so please like and follow us to see the latest updates.

### Why is it taking so long?

This is a major financial commitment for the Parish, and we need to make sure we spend your money wisely. There is still work that our landlord needs to do for us before we can finalise the lease, then we can redecorate and make the library ready to open.

### How will it work?

This is a partnership between Kingsthorpe Parish Council, who will be responsible for the building and staff, and West Northamptonshire Library Service, who will provide the books and IT services. We will open for 35 hours a week, including Saturday and one late evening.

### Are you going to ask for more money this year to pay for the Library?

No. This financial year, we have already budgeted to refurbish and run the Library.

### What activities can we look forward to when the Library reopens?

There will be Rhymetime for children as well as favourites like Knit and Natter, book clubs and craft activities. We will also support the Welcoming Spaces initiative providing a safe and warm environment for all. What would you like to see taking place in your library?

### Will there be other jobs available in the Library?

Yes. While the Library will mainly be run by volunteers there will be a couple of paid Library Assistant roles advertised on the Parish Council website soon.

### Is there anything I can do to help?

If you would like to become a volunteer or are interested in organising an event or activity in the library, please let me know [anaylor@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:anaylor@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)

### Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I worked for a bank for 30 years, initially managing branches but more recently in learning & development. I live in Kingsthorpe and when I was made redundant, I decided to do something positive in the community.

Libraries have always played an important part in my life, from regular trips to my local library with Mum, to studying for a degree in the magnificent Bodleian, and now visiting Northamptonshire's wonderful community libraries to pick up best practice!

I look forward to welcoming you to the Kingsthorpe Community Library soon!

*Andrew*  
Andrew Naylor  
Library Manager



## GRANTS AWARDED

The Council welcomes and values the work of local voluntary groups and non-profit organisations, so each year it makes an annual provision. The application form and information are available at [www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk), alternatively, please email [clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)

During 2023/24 Council recognised:

Kingsthorpe Team Ministry	Three Defibrillator and Bleed Kits	£5028
Friends of Thornton Park	Park Event 2023	£1800
The Jets Football Club	Park Event 2024	£2000
Kingsthorpe Moors Trust	Watercourse	£1900
Northants Domestic Abuse Service	Groundwork for Refuse	£2000
C2C Social Action	Delivering Art Sessions	£2000
Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park	Remove Tree Crowns	£1800
Friends of Kingsthorpe Village	Park Event 2024	£1500
CSC Social Action	Four Artists	£2000
Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park	Materials and Machine Hire	£1632
Reynard Way Evangelical Church	Defibrillator and Bleed Kit	£2000
Sustrans	Resources for Outdoor Sessions	£200
Kingsthorpe Tiny Tots and Carers	Youth Club events	£2000
4 U Community Café	St David's Foodbank	£844

Cllr Lewis-Nichol was delighted to have met with Julia Milner, the pastor's wife, and 'Moms and Tots' leader, and helper, Sarah Welsford, at Reynard Way Evangelical Church to view the life-saving equipment for their local community, which the Parish Council was delighted to help fund.

Cllr Eluned Lewis-Nichol, Julie Milner, Sarah Welsford ▶





## NEW VEHICLE ACTIVATED SIGNS FOR KINGSTHORPE

The Parish Council has been approached many times over the last few years on their concerns about speeding vehicles in the parish.

A working group of Councillors was formed to address these issues and Council purchased three mobile units to operate in key areas around the parish.

We are hoping this will support speed awareness – warning drivers exceeding safe speed limits and encouraging them to slow down helping to make Kingsthorpe a safer environment for road users and pedestrians.

The plan is in place to move the signs every month to different locations and we would be grateful to residents to give their support to this scheme and would ask you to suggest where you think there is an issue with speeding traffic. Please get in touch [clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)

Cllrs, Rachael Ball, Steve Miller ▶



## GIVING A 'BIG' SHOUT OUT TO GREAT COMMUNITY EFFORT

Parish Councillors along with the 'Litter Wombles', and members of the community, gave up their time and came together to lend a hand at various locations in Kingsthorpe over the Coronation weekend, as part of the special volunteering celebrations 'National Big Help Out Event'.

- Over thirty people turned out to help with the resurfacing of the paths in Obelisk Spinney Pocket Park.
- They certainly made good use of litter picking equipment and did an amazing job and collected boot loads of rubbish!
- Sherwood Avenue residents joined together, for ground preparation work to transform a local grass verge for a flourishing wildflower area.
- Council also supported five £100 grants for local community groups, voluntary organisations, and local residents to help host events to celebrate the King's Coronation III.



Cllrs, Titus Ajayi, Rachael Ball, Bryan Lewin, Eluned Lewis-Nichol, Elaine Miller, Nate Miller, Georgie Ball



## MESSAGE FROM YOUR PARISH PATH WARDEN

Our Kingsthorpe footpaths are a great community asset. They allow walking and other forms of active travel away from the fumes of traffic. Please help maintain them by reporting when they become overgrown or littered or if you find an abandoned trolley.

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/street-cleansing/report-litter-or-grounds-maintenance-issue>

You can also report issues using the West Northants Council "Report it" app on your phone.

Please also contact Cllr Lewis-Nichol, [elewisnichol@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:elewisnichol@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk), your local Parish Path Warden.



## TACKLING KNIFE CRIME



A Parish Council has the power to introduce crime prevention measures, as well as help others establish schemes, for early intervention and prevention of crime.

Following the success of Councils Community Consultation held last July to discuss knife crime, the Parish Council has recently formed a Crime Prevention Working Group.

One of the things it will be doing is trying to support and build on the work already being done by the many local organisations and individuals concerned about knife crime, the Parish Council has set aside an additional Grant provision of £10,000.

It will also be working with Kingsthorpe's local Police Constables, Luke Cottle, Chris Hilton, Holly Massey, and PCSO's Nicole Bednarczyk and Rachael Barber, to ensure that people are aware of how they can protect themselves from crime.

If you have a suggestion for the work of the Crime Prevention Working Group, or would like a Grant application form, please contact the Clerk on [clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk) or Cllr Lewis-Nichol on [elewisnichol@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:elewisnichol@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk)

## REMEMBERING THE COUNTRY'S FALLEN HEROES

How lovely did the lamppost poppies look? brightening up our parish with a dash of red.

Thank you to Cllrs, Rachael Ball and Bryan Lewin for decorating the lampposts. They were to honour the occasion as a tribute to all those who lost their lives in conflict and for residents to take a moment of quiet reflection.

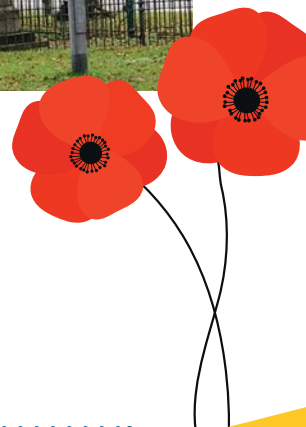


## REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Following a march from the Green up to the War Memorial, a beautiful Remembrance Service took place, led by Rev. Jonathan Lee, Curate.

Parish Councillors attended the service and laid commemorative wreaths on behalf of the Council and local people.

◀ Cllrs, Titus Ajayi, Rachael Ball, Eluned Lewis-Nicol

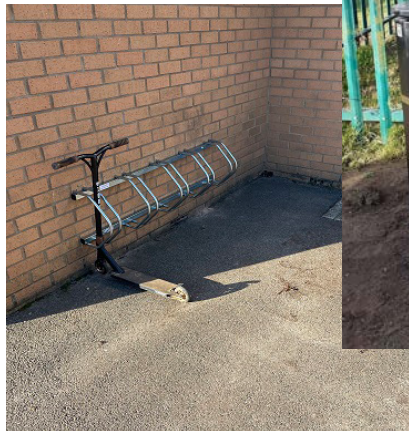




## IDENTIFYING WAYS TO SUPPORT CLIMATE CHANGE

Our Climate Change and Environment Committee is a group of local Parish Councillors and residents, created to reduce the overall impact of climate change within Kingsthorpe, and assist those that live within the community to reduce their impact on the climate and environment.

It is part of their responsibility to consider projects, and possible funding streams, which work towards developing a carbon neutral community including recycling and air quality as well as collaborating with local schools and organisations.



## WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Last May the Committee sponsored 'Walk to School week.' Three schools elected to take part and received classroom support materials, including a wall chart for pupils to record the number of times they walked or actively travelled to school, and stickers to reward them for their achievements.

Walk to School Week is promoted by Living Streets, the national charity for everyday walking, to encourage pupils to walk or travel to school by bike, scooter, or other active means. Not only does this enable young people to get the daily exercise essential to their health, but it also reduces the amount of vehicle air pollution at the school gate.

Air pollution from vehicles aggravates asthma and contributes to cardiovascular disease. It has been linked to mental ill health and to impaired concentration levels. It also stunts mental and physical growth. Cars drawing up at the school gate, often leaving engines idling, can create an invisible but toxic accumulation of gases for pupils to walk through.

Your Parish Council will be supporting Walk to School Week again in May 2024 and will be shortly writing to schools to invite them to take part. It is hoped all parents will support it.



## CYCLE RACKS

The Committee have been actively supporting cycling initiatives. The Parish Council has now installed four new cycle racks and hopes to encourage people to cycle more, reducing vehicle traffic and encourage healthier lifestyle and travel choices.

The racks are conveniently located on Kingsthorpe 'front,' hoping this will make, leisure, business, shopping, and connected journeys so much easier.

The Committee has also help fund cycle racks for the local schools.

**Nicola Bayliss, Whitehills School: "We have now had the bike racks installed. Many children cycle to school during the summer months and would have to leave them on the floor due to the lack of bike racks. Now we have space for ten additional bikes which really does help. Many thanks again for the kind donation. It is very much appreciated."**



## BRINGING A BIT OF SPARKLE AND SHINE TO KINGSTHORPE FRONT

The Parish Council was delighted last Christmas to be organising Christmas illuminations for the first time in Kingsthorpe. Due to the success, we are hoping this year to expand the number of decorations.

Thank you to our residents who joined us for the 'Switch On' festivities. It was lovely to see so many of you. Also, thank you to Credence Capital for the venue and Born to Perform for entertaining us and getting us in the Christmas spirit (if the Mulled wine had not done that already!)



Rev Alison Wagner, from Kingsthorpe Team Ministry, Cllrs, Titus Ajayi, Sally Beardsworth, Anthony Antoniou, Gill Askens and June Ward from St David's Church ▲

## PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS - ALL WELCOME

Residents are welcome to attend any Council or Committee meeting and can speak to the members about an agenda item under public participation.

The Parish Council normally meets at 7.00pm, on the third Wednesday of each month (except August). The Planning Committee meets at 6pm, with the Climate Change and Environment Committee at 6.45pm on the first Monday of each month (except August).

**Times and dates of meetings are published on the Parish Council website and Facebook page.**



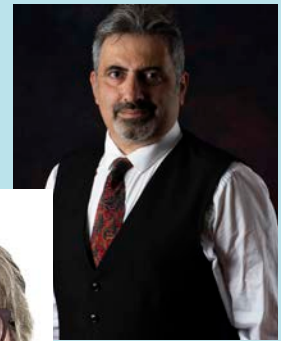


## WELCOME TO OUR NEW COUNCILLORS!

Parish Councillors play a crucial role in local governance. They are dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and effort to serve their communities. We are pleased to announce that we filled our two vacant positions with the co-option of Cllr Gill Askens, representing the Sunnyside Ward, and Cllr Anthony Antoniou representing Spring Park Ward.

***Cllr Askens: I am delighted to have joined Kingsthorpe Parish Council and to represent my Ward. 'I am a retired nurse and I have lived in Kingsthorpe for almost all my life and over 30 years were on the Obelisk Estate. I have a keen interest in Crime Prevention, and I am a member of the Northamptonshire Police Independent Advisory Group. I shall work hard to help support and improve our community'.***

Cllrs, Gill Askens, Anthony Antoniou ▶



## YOUR COUNCILLORS

<b>Kingsthorpe Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Samuel Kilby-Shaw</b>	01604 979460	skilby-shaw@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Rachael Ball</b>	01604 979460	rball@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Sally Beardsworth</b>	01604 721216	sbeardsworth@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>Obelisk Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Steve Miller</b>	01604 979460	smiller@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Mike O'Connor</b>	01604 979460	moconnor@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Eluned Lewis-Nichol</b>	01604 979460	elewisnichol@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>Spring Park Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Bryan Lewin</b>	07920 108300	blewin@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Elaine Miller</b>	01604 979460	emiller@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Anthony Antoniou</b>	01604 979460	aantoniou@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>Sunnyside Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Titus Ajayi</b>	07506 176540	tajayi@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Tony Ward</b>	01604 979460	tward@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Gill Askens</b>	01604 979460	gillaskens@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
<b>St David's Ward</b>	<b>Cllr Dilip Kumar</b>	07551 912890	dkumar@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Mamun Ali</b>	07828 801317	mali@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk
	<b>Cllr Arthur Newbury</b>	07802 707293	anewbury@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk

## AND FINALLY...

For all information or for up-to-date Council news, please contact us on 01604 979460, [clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk), visit our website at [www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk](http://www.kingsthorpe-pc.gov.uk) or follow us on Facebook.

