



**KINGSWOOD
TOWN
COUNCIL**

**A PLAN FOR
KINGSWOOD**

**A GREAT PLACE TO
GROW UP
AND GROW OLD**

2024 TO 2028

INTRODUCTION

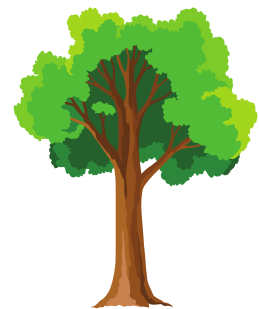
What a moment of opportunity this is for Kingswood. There is so much on the horizon, some of which you will see begin to take shape in the next few weeks and months. We have a real chance to use this moment as a launch pad for change in Kingswood. There are programmes of redevelopment going on in Regent Street, Kingswood Park, King's Chase and The Tabernacle, and this investment will give us places to be proud of.



A community is about more than just places, it's about people. Let's give our young people something to call their own; let's have a programme of community events throughout the year, to bring all of us together; let's support community groups and ensure they can do even more; let's create a Town Council that is driving change and improvement in Kingswood.

This plan will tell you more about our ambitious plans for Kingswood, which have been developed from our conversations with residents, businesses and community groups. Big plans need ambitious people to deliver them, so please consider how you can join in and help us on this journey to create the Kingswood we all want

Let's take that which made Kingswood so great in the past and add it to all of this to make an even greater Kingswood in the future.



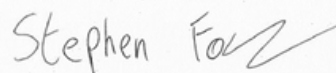
FROM THE CHAIR

Kingswood Town Council was created in May 2023 following a community governance review undertaken by South Gloucestershire Council. Having completed our first year of set-up activities, we are excited to look ahead and create a plan that will take us to the end of this 4-year period and beyond. We took bold steps to set a realistic budget that would support us to achieve our ambitions of revitalising Kingswood. Our budget is based around the priorities contained within this plan and it will enable us to work towards our vision of making Kingswood a great place to grow up and grow old. We believe that we can, over time, provide something for everyone, to satisfy some local needs and wants, as well as providing opportunities and events that galvanise civic pride.



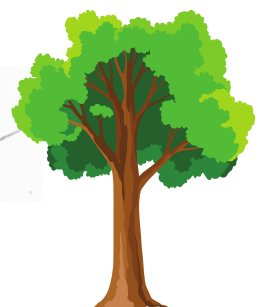
We want the community to be at the heart of what we do and be a council that listens, that responds, that creates opportunities: that is a community leader and enabler. We need to pay attention to, and be part of, the exciting plans for Kingswood, being delivered through the South Gloucestershire Council Masterplan: the Regeneration of Regent Street and of Kingswood Park.

We have thought about the people who we want to support and to work with. We want to help solve local issues and create opportunities so that in turn local people and local groups can start to create opportunities for themselves.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Forsythe".

STEPHEN FORSYTHE

Chair of Kingswood Town Council 2024



OUR PILLARS

Place

To make Kingswood a great place to grow up and to grow old, as well as a great place to work. To develop the individual places within Kingswood, which each have their own identities and communities.



People

To put the people living in Kingswood at the heart of our decision making, to help them overcome barriers they might experience, to help realise their potential and take advantage of opportunities as they arise.

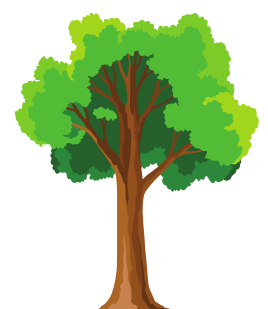
Partnership

To build strong collaborative relationships with organisations, so that we are more effective, united, and stronger. We will do this by engaging with community leaders to make sure that we are not working alone, but alongside the amazing people and groups that already are making Kingswood a great place. We want to celebrate strengths, to become more resilient and build capacity.

Promotion

We want this document to be our work plan, and share it with the community, so that you can work with us. So please do let us have your feedback and suggest ways that we can work alongside you.

As our projects develop, we will increase our responsibilities and employ more staff to manage the workload, to ensure councillors are engaged with but not overloaded by meetings and policy. Each council meeting will receive an update on the progression of projects contained within this plan, with further detailed work being passed to the appropriate committee. From time to time there are vacancies for councillors. If you have what it takes to join us to make Kingswood a great place to grow up and grow old, we want to hear from you.



ABOUT US

Our vision is to make Kingswood a great place to grow up and grow old and we want to ensure that this is achieved with the application of some basic principles of reducing inequalities, reducing loneliness, improving opportunity to be heard and included, to be accessible and visible, as well as ensuring that we listen and respond to the community collective voice.

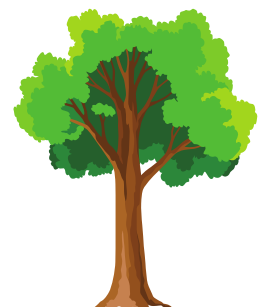


The council consists of fifteen councillors, from six wards within the boundary of the Kingswood parish.

We are independent to South Gloucestershire Council but maintain strong links to ensure that we are working together. We currently employ a full-time town clerk who networks with other towns and parishes in the area.

We meet monthly in the Park Centre, and are becoming more visible and accessible, with a pop-up surgery to meet your Councillor in the Kingswood Library every month. We also provide a monthly update in the Kingswood Voice and promote opportunities for you to become involved. The best way to find out what is going on is to attend one of our meetings or follow us on Facebook.

We are taking our responsibility as a community consultee in planning applications seriously and have a dedicated Planning Committee that comments on applications that are referred to them for comment.



OUR PRIORITIES

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

To invest in young people and their families for the purpose of promoting health and wellbeing, helping them face modern challenges by providing them with the necessary support, skills development and progression opportunities.

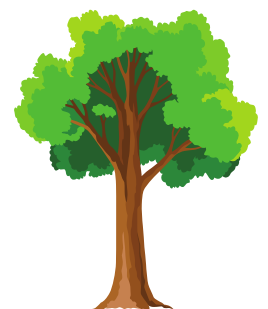


COMMUNITY BUILDING

To acquire a building that can be shaped into a central community hub as well as becoming the home of the town council. This space will become a hive of activity and will essentially provide the younger person with a safe space and a place to learn new skills and for other members of the community to use for activity or service-based sessions.

LIBRARY SUPPORT AND PARTNERSHIP

To collaborate with the library by offering some financial support to ensure that the library continues to offer the valuable service of being a place that not only is about books, education, learning and friendship, but a safe, warm and welcoming space.



OUR PRIORITIES

EVENTS

To celebrate the heritage and culture of Kingswood by supporting existing events and introducing a programme of new community events and activities that brings people together and contributes towards the economic welfare of the community.

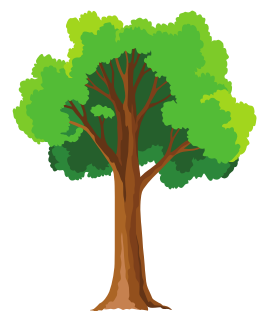


FLORAL DISPLAYS

To provide sustainable floral displays to make Kingswood more vibrant.

COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

Manage a generous community grant scheme that connects with, strengthens, and enables local community groups to provide and deliver projects, events and services for the benefit of as many locals as possible.



EMPLOYMENT

Create employment opportunities by developing a staffing team to enable the town council to deliver its intended vision.

OUR PROJECTS IN DETAIL

It will take time to develop and deliver our vision but we are committed to working closer with the residents of Kingswood and will be actively engaging with the community to ensure that we are hearing your voice and investing in your priorities.



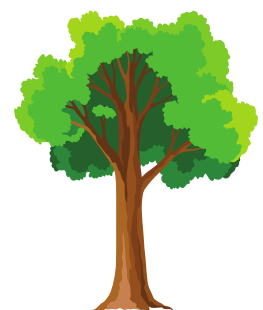
YOUTH SESSIONS

We are investing into increasing the evening offer for youth club sessions in Kingswood and introducing one evening of mobile van youth work. We are working extensively with the Creative Youth Network to develop opportunities to expand the youth engagement offer which will not only be focused on events and activities but hearing, listening, supporting and engaging with our younger community members.

We hope to launch the youth delivery service in September 2024 when South Gloucestershire Council brings the new van into commission. At the same time, we are also exploring opportunities to organise activities or events in the parks during the school holidays.

LIBRARY SUPPORT

We are supporting the library with additional funding, to maintain its opening hours, as well as develop some collaborative activities with the town council. Funding will also be provided to purchase new session related equipment, be it dressing up materials, tablets to support customers with their IT needs, or improved signage.



OUR PROJECTS IN DETAIL

COMMUNITY BUILDING

We are exploring opportunities that will lead to the town council owning or leasing a central building that will be a council HQ. This space will offer community benefits and opportunities, primarily focused on supporting additional youth club, services and development opportunities.

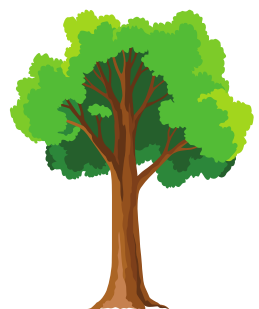


We have begun to develop a business case and are investigating premises opportunities as well as engaging with building professionals to ensure that our decisions are made on a firm footing, and we have been made aware of risks and liabilities as well as business, income and collaboration opportunities.

We are also working with a network of service providers and charities, led by South Gloucestershire Council, who are striving to develop a new Family Hub, open from September, 2024. This space will give access for families to the necessary professionals working together, through co-location, data sharing and a common approach to their work. Families only have to tell their story once, in order to get the most effective support.

COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME

We think that the local community groups know their area best, but sometimes need some startup funds. We have established and launched a grant fund of £50,000 per annum, which will be available to groups which operate in Kingswood for the benefit of residents of the local community. It might be for a community event, to improve access to a community building to encourage participation, a local garden scheme or promote activities that benefit the environment, the local heritage. The list is endless, and we welcome your applications.



OUR PROJECTS IN DETAIL

VITALITY AND SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CENTRE OF KINGSWOOD

We want to bring vibrance and colour to the centre of Kingswood, with seasonal floral displays and expand that provision to other parts of Kingswood, in consultation with and support from landowners, business owners and South Gloucestershire Council.



EVENTS

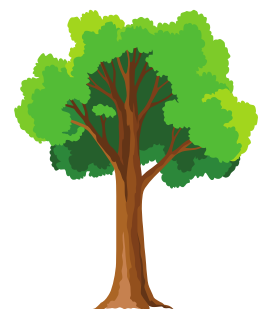
We are creating a role for an Events Officer who will not only actively work with and promote the wonderful array of activities that are already on offer, but who will develop a programme of events, with something for nearly everyone.

DEVELOPER FUNDING

The town council from time to time receives funds generated from larger scale developments in Kingswood and it is a requirement that they should be invested back into the community. The council has elected that any funds that are available are invested into Outdoor Sports Facilities, which should be free to use and for the benefit of all, but will consider each opportunity as they arise.

EMPLOYING THE RIGHT PEOPLE TO MAKE IT HAPPEN

Finally, we need to develop our staffing team so that we can have a workforce that is working to improve the area, in conjunction with the various stakeholders to make sure that nothing is wastefully duplicated and providing the community with opportunities to develop.



HOW WE WILL DELIVER

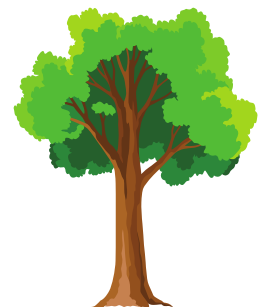
We don't currently have a base, and we hold our meetings in the Park Centre. We are available in Kingswood Library where councillors hold a pop-up surgery each month. In addition, we are working with several local organisations and South Gloucestershire Council as the redevelopment of the Kingswood Park takes shape. South Gloucestershire Council are leading on the regeneration of the High Street and Regent Street. Kingswood Town Council are part of the group committed to ensure that the various stakeholders are engaged and consulted at each step of the way, from the improvements to the signage and shop fronts to encouraging businesses to consider moving into empty premises on the High Street.



We understand there are many more green and open spaces in Kingswood, and we will work to ensure that we bring events and activities to the community, rather than it always being based in the centre of Kingswood.

We can't do this alone and will be working across the community to ensure that we will engage with those groups and volunteers to support their efforts where possible.

We are also working with several statutory partners that include the Police, health providers, local schools, local councils, charities, and South Gloucestershire Council, who we will engage with to share the views of people living in Kingswood. In addition, we want to work with local faith groups that represent a diverse range of people, Community Interest Groups that represent a particular interest or group of people as well as sports clubs, uniformed youth groups, local businesses and the wider business community including the King's Chase Shopping Centre.



OUR PERFORMANCE

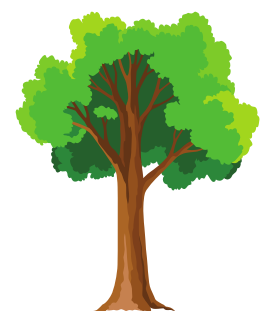
IMPACT AND BENEFIT

Everything we do should have some impact on the future wellbeing of people living in Kingswood. We will be measuring our impact and results, by asking people how we did in our delivery or contribution. We will also be asking how things can be improved. This means that from time to time you might be invited to join a focus group, to take an online survey, or answer some questions that we pose in the Kingswood Voice. See this as an opportunity to talk to us, as we are here to serve.



THE PRECEPT - OUR FUNDING

The town council looked very closely at the charges made by other local town and parish councils, as well as councils of a similar size across the region. We understood the need to minimise the cost to local residents at difficult times, but at the same time raise sufficient funds to make a meaningful difference to the people of Kingswood. We have raised a charge on residents via the council tax, and for Kingswood residents that is a charge of just over £8 a month or £99 a year for the average Band D property. Collectively that gives us £826,480 to invest into the local area. In addition, we also receive developer funds and can apply for grant aid to support our projects. We are ambitious but want to be sure that that money is spent in the area, for the benefit of the area and bring a significant social return on investment. As with any business, we have our staff costs and overheads, but we hope to keep that to a minimum by working innovatively and collaboratively.



HOW TO CONTACT US

Methods of Contact

Our town clerk works full time, standard office hours and can be contacted by phone or email. As we do not currently have an address, appointments can be made as a suitable public place within the town.

Alternatively, you may wish to speak to your ward councillor, details of whom can be found on the website or phoning the town clerk.

- www.kingswood-tc.gov.uk
- 0117 4576531
- clerk@kingswood-tc.gov.uk
- Find us on Facebook

Meetings

We meet as a full council every second Tuesday of the month in the Park Centre at 7pm. The first part of the meeting is for Public Question Time. We also have a Planning Committee and a Finance and Administration Committee; meeting dates and further information are on our website.

Further Reading

Kingswood Masterplan

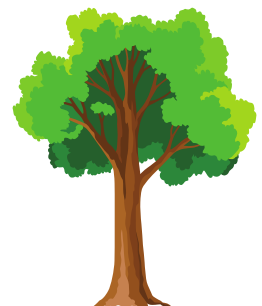
<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/e7a8eb3dd5cdb34f46a2f6a4b667bf00/Kingswood-Masterplan-Final-online-landscape-version.pdf>

Regeneration of Regent Street

<https://kingswoodtowncentreimprovements.commonplace.is/en-GB/proposals/regeneration-of-regent-street-options/step1>

Regeneration of Kingswood Park

<https://beta.southglos.gov.uk/static/0d8d33ad79597fa79e14e4e7239cc6d6/Kingswood-Park-SD11.-Plan.pdf>



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KINGSWOOD TOWN COUNCIL

