Report from Kingskerswell Sports Club - to Parish Council

Current Situation

As of the summer of 2020 and following the new Parish Council approved Constitution of KSC we have been planning for the end of the pandemic and the challenges and opportunities that will follow.

The early success of the Park Cafe is a great starting point to focus on. Many villagers, dog walkers, children and parents and members of the associated Clubs that use the field and pavilion supported the early months of the cafe. This year again the covid regulations will ensure that we cannot fully open indoors immediately.

We have two or three new not-for-profit organisations lined up to run the cafe on any one day of the week. These potentially include The Mare and Foal Sanctuary, Kingskerswell Action Group and Karing Voluntary Group. These groups will have the opportunity to manage the Cafe one day per week to raise funds for their respective organisations together with spreading the word of the great work that they carry out.

The smallest of networks revolving around the cafe has already proved fruitful for two of the groups.

The Sports Pavilion urgently needs improving with the replacement of the doors and windows being the most pressing current project. To this end KSC has obtained various quotes for some or all of the work. The improvements will also include a new extractor fan for the kitchen and a cool air wall fan for the bar.

The showers in each changing room are barely fit for purpose and the floors are a permanent hazard. Again we have obtained quotes for some or all of this work. Our main job is to choose the order we carry out the improvements that will bring the building up to 2021 expectations.

Moving Forward

The aim of KSC has and always will be to provide sport, leisure, fitness, enjoyment and pleasure for the village and its residents. We don't want the pavilion to be somewhere that puts people off any of the activities that we are planning. It needs to be warm, light, welcoming and modern. The kitchen and bar have already been upgraded and the Sports Club has been rewarded with a steady stream of new members or daily guests - all in accordance with the license that Mark holds and manages for the building.

The rewards are also noticeable when looking at the way the park is now kept and looked after by both Princes (John Bartlett) and the Cricket Club. Locals have been quick to point out the visual improvements and the new aesthetically welcoming look.

This is in response to KSC permanently questioning the locals and visitors on what they would like and would not like. The Requests range from a long-awaited noticeboard to a Firework display and live music.

As a group in “management” of this treasured yet under used and undervalued facility we will be doing everything possible to provide answers and delivery on many of their requests.

The park is cruelly underused and will provide the perfect setting for village fetes, fireworks, Community Days, Childrens events, table top sales and dare I say live music.

We have already started by being the venue for a weekly Zumba Class and also the Pavilion being booked for Health and Safety courses. Starting soon is a weekly bingo afternoon/evening.

KSC is also investigating the Birthday Party market.

It is imperative that the Parish buy into the concept that we are portraying - that of providing fun and enjoyment for the village and its community. We must not be scared to try new events - bigger, better, jazzier - but putting the venue and the village on the map. Anyone remember the “Last night of the Proms” in Cockington?

Business Plan

KSC is currently considering a paid steward for the Pavilion and it’s ongoing expansion of what it can offer the village. Online booking forms, enquiries for booking out the pavilion and field, social media coverage and overseeing the Cafe.

KSC is also getting it’s own contact number which will be available from 0900 until 1600pm Monday to Friday. This will include an answerphone for messages and missed calls.

Overview

For the first time in many years you will see some real light at the end of the tunnel, a group that wants to carry out improvement after improvement, provide new fun and enjoyment for the village, an updated Sports and Social Club that caters for all ages, a premises that the community will want to visit - for painting, scrabble, bingo,

singing, band practice, birthdays, parties and much more - but let us be perfectly honest - the community will not do that in its current state.

KSC has also provided grab rails for the step into the toilets and for both of the sit down lavatories.

There are now hanging baskets permanently on display to make the facility more welcoming. The new shed will be erected and functioning in the next month and provide ample storage for the main complex users.

The future is very bright indeed but it will need full and unconditional support from the Parish Council - We have years of experience of event planning, leisure management and forward thinking in this business area.

We WILL make the village proud.

Mark Faulkner
Adam Mason
David Gypps

Kingskerswell Sports Club