

Matters to be raised by Kings Barton Residents' Association (KBRA) at Kings Barton Forum of 11th July 2023

1. After a successful recent clean-up of KB green spaces, KBRA are holding a **Summer Fete** for residents on Sunday 9th July. Many thanks to HWPC for helping us to purchase a gazebo and to St Barnabas Church for lending us gazebos and tables.
2. We have responded on **several recent issues affecting residents:-**
 - WSP Consultants Report and HCC Decision on Andover Road closure
 - lack of a bus service contrary to the Travel Plan approved by HCC
 - the need for inclusion in the draft WCC Local Plan of changes to the status of Andover Road following the decision to include a major development at the Sir John Moore Barracks site
 - the state of roads in 1B (the northern end of Kings Barton)

3. WSP Consultants Report and HCC Decision on Andover Road closure.

We wrote to Cllr Rob Humby of HCC on 21st June pointing out that:-

- we consider the assessment made by WSP to be unsatisfactory and inconsistent with LTP policies
- we believe that an assessment based on the LTP policies and the facts we have presented would show Option 3 (keeping both Andover Road and Winchester Avenue open) to be greatly superior to Option 1B (closing Andover Road to general traffic). The assessment criteria and approach used by WSP are inappropriate.
- the WSP report was not available to Kings Barton Residents' Association before HCC made its decision to close Andover Road. We consider that our current review of the report merits a reconsideration of the HCC decision.
- we were not allowed to see the WSP Consultants report before HCC made its decision to close Andover Road and we were not allowed to present our case at the County Council meeting when that decision was made. This is a failure to acknowledge our democratic rights to present our case against the evidence upon which a decision is to be taken and which negatively affects the lives and wellbeing of Kings Barton residents.

We have not had a response as yet.

4. Lack of a Bus Service

The Kings Barton Travel Plan approved by both CALA and HCC states that:-
“Between the occupation of around the 250th – 350th dwelling and the opening of Andover (aka Winchester) Avenue and the Park and Ride light site an 86A service will operate. This will provide a 30 minute frequency service between the Phase 1B development and the City Centre via the existing Andover Road.”

HCC has defaulted on this requirement. There are now, we understand, some 500 dwellings occupied.

We have provided publicity to residents on HCC's recent survey of what kind of public transport service residents require. We have cooperated with HCC in this way even though the survey does not acknowledge that HCC has defaulted on its obligation to provide a proper bus service.

One potential improvement for Kings Barton residents would be to divert the no. 7 bus to serve Kings Barton.

We understand that CALA have provided the full amount of their Bus Subsidy Contribution; surely this contribution should be spent by HCC providing bus transport for residents?

5. Changes to the status of Andover Road in WCC's draft local Plan.

More than three months ago we wrote to WCC stating that:

"We have taken advice from a planning consultant. This advice was that the additional development at Sir John Moore Barracks to the north of Kings Barton (as proposed in the emerging Local Plan) is a material change and requires a re-appraisal of the decision to downgrade the Andover Road, with any change to the approach being set out within the new Local Plan. This would provide the best case to then pursue the necessary planning application(s) and Traffic Order(s) to unpick the 2011 SoS decision on closing Andover Road.

Would you be prepared to consider this as a material change as you move forward with the preparation of the Local Plan? We consider that this would provide an excellent opportunity for WCC to meet with HCC and CALA to resolve this issue which is so important to Kings Barton, Harestock and Weeke residents."

We have had no reply and believe that this unwillingness to respond to our request is because the position of WCC is compromised by its actions in the period 2010-2013. KBRA has now decided, using the Freedom of Information Act, to request that WCC provide disclosure of all information that led to the decision to close Andover Road to through traffic.

6. The state of the roads in 1B continues to be very poor. We understand that this is because CALA and HCC have still not reached agreement on the design of these roads. It is not acceptable to residents that they should suffer such poor road conditions.

7. We have recently also requested information on the design of Winchester Avenue and its junction with Harestock Road from CALA but have been told that we will not receive this information until after agreement is reached with HCC. This uncertainty is undemocratic given that residents have been living in Kings Barton for the past six years. We formally request

that the design be made public now and ask for the timeline when this will be provided.

8. We were sad to lose Naomi Arnold more than 3 months ago as our **WCC Community Development/Liaison Officer** and still await a decision on an appointment by WCC of a replacement.

9. We have attended CALA's exhibition for the **Neighbourhood Centre** and for phase 2B. KBRA Committee have submitted their views on the Neighbourhood Centre and CALA did advise us that they will be consulting with us as the plans for the Centre develop. We have encouraged residents to provide their feedback on CALA's proposals. In particular we have noted the need for the Neighbourhood Centre to be of the right shape and size for a range of activities, for safe walking and cycling to be included in the plans, for the car park entrance to be well away from the proposed pedestrian crossing and could be accessed from a side road, and for further speed-reducing measures be included on Winchester Avenue.

10. We have continued to **liaise with CALA and Castleford** on a number of issues and are separately submitting the Notes of our meeting on 15th June with CALA Homes and Castleford discussing a wide range of topics.

11. KBRA chair and vice-chair held a useful meeting with Julian Hamblin and Rob Watters of HWPC and agreed a more **harmonious means of HWPC and KBRA working together supporting one other**.

12. In our last report to the Kings Barton Forum, we asked that the Forum be regularly **updated on progress on S106 and S278 contributions** (in line with the Development Fora Terms of Reference) including how much is now due, how much has been received by WCC and HCC from CALA and how much has been spent and how it has been spent. We repeat this request. We are particularly concerned that there is no bus service for residents and no improvement in cycling and walking facilities for residents. When can this information be provided?