

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Area of the Village formerly known as Kinglake

As part of the legal agreement which accompanied the planning approval for this development, the open space (including the attenuation ponds and play area) should have been transferred to the Somerset West & Taunton Council or another agreed party on completion. Unfortunately, Somerset West & Taunton Council refused to take responsibility for the area and no other party has come forward to do so. As a result for the last 12 years Persimmon has remained responsible for this area.

I'm sure residents will agree the standard at times has been quite poor.

Last year the Parish council asked for feedback from residents as to who they would like to take responsibility for this area and the overwhelming majority said "The Parish Council" should be the responsible body.

This year the Parish Council has been liaising with Persimmon and Somerset Council. At the meeting of the Parish Council on 8th June 2023 Members agreed the following resolution:

Following a proposal from Cllr Plumbly and seconded by Cllr Jollands with a unanimous vote Members agreed to progress with procedures for the Parish Council to take ownership and responsibility for the open spaces (including attenuation ponds and play areas) within part of the Parish known as Kinglake, subject to the following criteria being met:

1. *That the whole area and associated equipment is brought up to the standard required for transfer and that the required standard is confirmed by Somerset Council;*
2. *That the funds payable for the upkeep and maintenance of the area are provided by Persimmon in accordance with the terms of the legal (Section 106) agreement;*
3. *That the funds provided are subject to the necessary financial controls as required by the legal agreement;*
4. *That an article is included in the Community News, with a map of the area, to inform the community of the Parish Council's intentions;*
That the Parish Council request any conveyancing fees are covered by Persimmon when the land transfer is drafted and finalised.

The transfer comes with funds to maintain the open space (£352k plus indexation). The annual costs are currently estimated at £10,000. This money is legally bound to be spent only in the approximate area marked on the map overleaf. The money cannot be used within other areas of the Parish. Strict financial controls will be in place to ensure the Parish Council remains legally compliant.

Assuming the transfer is completed and the Parish Council has ownership and responsibility for the area, there will be opportunities to discuss other ways to improve / enhance these open space facilities for the benefit of all Bishops Hull residents. Please note the planning permission dictates that this area must remain as open space in the future

The Parish Council will continue to keep residents updated on progress and it is hoped that by the end of 2023 Somerset Council will take responsibility for the roads in this area and the sewers will be adopted by Wessex Water.

Date of next Parish Council meeting: Thursday 6th July at 7pm at the Bishops Hull HUB, all welcome to attend.

