



KESTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2024/25

Keston Village Residents Association (KVRA) continues to work on behalf of all residents to represent majority views whilst seeking to improve and protect our village.

Planning Matters

John Algar is our planning representative. John monitors Planning Applications carefully and regularly updates the KVRA Committee with any relevant planning applications. John also attends the Council's regular Advisory Panel for Conservation Areas (APCA) meetings and advises the KVRA Committee on planning matters. The KVRA actively oppose planning applications deemed inappropriate and notify residents of this.

Biggin Hill Airport Limited (BHAL)

Myself and Peter Zieminski (KVRA Vice-Chair) are the KVRA representatives on the Biggin Hill Airport Residents' Noise Action Forum (ARNAF). From the 17th of June to the 17th of September 2024 the KVRA undertook a monitoring exercise to assess the number of aircraft incursions into the Keston Noise Sensitive Area (NSA). Complaints were reported using WebTrak¹ in accordance with the Airport's complaints process. The outcomes from the exercise were finalised on the 4th of March 2025 when the Airport provided details of all outstanding complaint investigations. The headline findings showed that:

- 37% of aircraft were found to have had no justifiable or mitigating reasons whatsoever for entering the Keston NSA
- 35% of aircraft were following an Air Traffic Control (ATC) instruction for safety requirements (i.e. separation to allow other aircraft to land; safety requirements when operating heritage aircraft (spiral descents); hazard avoidance (birds).
- 28% of aircraft were executing the permitted Visual Flight Rules (VFR) Runway 03 approach as a consequence of the prevailing weather conditions.

The Airport responded very positively to our Monitoring Exercise and agreed the following four strategic objectives for Keston NSA:

1. To reduce the number of jet aircraft incursions into the Keston NSA
2. To reduce the number of non-justifiable incursions into the Keston NSA by General Aviation (Light aircraft)
3. Reduce the number of non-justifiable helicopter incursions into the Keston NSA

¹ WebTrak is the Airport's website complaint reporting portal.



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4. Review the current boundaries of the Keston NSA in order to create a meaningful NSA that accommodates all residents of the KVRA

On the 23rd of April 2025 the KVRA's application for membership was approved by the BHACC. The KVRA looks forward to working closely with the BHACC.

Heathfield Road B265 Traffic and Speed Volumes through the Village

Pedestrian safety in Heathfield Road remain a priority for the KVRA.

We have had confirmation from Cllr Alexa Michael that Angus Culverwell, Assistant Director of Traffic and Parking, has requested the red faux speed hump be replaced at the junction of Heathfield Road and Keston Avenue. The red faux speed hump was tarmacked over when Heathfield Road was recently resurfaced. We do not have a date for these works as yet and will continue to press for the Council to replace it as soon as possible.

Christmas Lights

We have a new Christmas lights theme installed each year. Our own Christmas lights have been decommissioned as we were advised that they were no longer fit for purpose. The cost is the same to hire a new theme each year, as it was to put our own up.

The Christmas lights were funded by the successful fund raising events held this year, and a very generous donation from Biggin Hill Airport's Community Fund, however, the lights are an ongoing annual cost and therefore all donations will be gratefully received for Christmas 2025 to our Treasurer, Hilary Ryder, or direct into The KVRA Bank Account: Sort Code: 09-01-29 Account 35321237.

2024 Remembrance Sunday

Once again residents rose to the occasion by honouring the heroic efforts, achievements and sacrifices made in past wars by supporting our annual Village Poppy Display. Large Royal British Legion Poppies were displayed on the lamp posts along Heathfield Road from the Fox Public House to the Village Hall and down Commonsides.

We were able to gather this year at the Village Memorial to pay tribute and honour the sacrifices made in past wars. A wonderful turnout, with over a hundred people in attendance.

We are very pleased to announce that Heathfield Road has been added to the list of permissible Road closures for this year's commemoration. The road will be closed from Fishponds Road to the Westerham Road roundabout for the duration of the act



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of remembrance, making the event a much safer for those attending to pay their respects.

To be able to continue, we will need to replace some of the poppies due to wear and tear. You can sponsor a poppy with a donation of at least £5.00 to our Treasurer, Hilary Ryder, or direct into The KVRA Bank Account Sort Code: 09-01-29 Account 35321237.

Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

A dedicated police unit that works with the local community to address concerns and improve safety. John Algar and John Wiltshire, Chair and Vice Chair respectively of the SNT Committee attend the regular meetings that focus on the partnership with residents, community groups, resident associations and local authorities.

Village Life

KestFest 2024

The day started early with the Event Committee and local volunteers, closing the road, and setting up the site. Soon it was filled with stall holders and food vendors. The central arena was pegged and ready for the day's activities. We hired a stage this year, and once this was erected the band and singers were able to set up.

The day was bathed in beautiful sunshine, albeit a bit windy, this brought out the huge number of visitors on the day. Everyone enjoyed the live music, dance performances and the very popular dog show, as well as a little retail therapy. We cannot thank everyone enough, who were involved in making the day such a success...Here's to this years' event KestFest 2025!

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is now becoming a regular feature in the Village and 2024 was another great success. Hosted in the Village Hall and with over 20 stall holders inside and food vendors outside it was a very busy event. The highlight of the day was the much anticipated arrival of Santa, the weather was on our side which meant Santa's Grotto was outside, complete with snow flurries.

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the day such a great day. We are booked in for this year, so save the date: Saturday 22nd of November 2025

2025 Victory in Europe (VE) Day Anniversary

As a Village we will not be hosting an event on the anniversary date of the 8th of May, instead we will incorporate the celebration within KestFest.



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We will be erecting our Union Flags in commemoration of the day on Tuesday 6th of May, these will remain up until after KestFest.

KestFest - 7th of June 2025

This year we will be hosting our KestFest, a Village Fair style event. We have invited retail stall holders and food vendors; the central arena will host the dog show and performances from the Ravensbourne Morris Men and Studio 74. We will have very exciting live music on the stage area, with DJ Dave compering throughout the day, there is also a fun area with rides for small children.

We have incorporated Countryside Day and will have many elements at the festival including The Friends of Keston Common who will be taking a stall along with the RSPB.

Commonside will be closed for the day from the junction of Heathfield Road to the car park to enable the event to be enjoyed safely. We will notify the residents of Commonside of the Closure.

Watch our social media posts for updates and our posters and banners!

Thank you to the events team: Gail Spencer, John Wiltshire, Hilary Ryder, Shelley Sturdy.

Instagram @kvrakestonvillage

KVRA Newsletter, Website and Facebook Page

We are pleased to announce that we now have a new website www.kvra.co.uk. We have a wealth of information, uploaded on a regular basis, updates on road closures, recent minutes from our Committee meetings, relevant notice of upcoming social events, a gallery of photos and information on the history of Keston.

We make it an important task for KVRA to communicate with our residents and to work closely with our local groups: Keston Residents Road Safety Group (KRRSG) and Friends of Keston Common (FoKC). Many thanks to Hilary Ryder, who issues the KVRA newsletters to residents. If you would like to be added to our newsletter database, then please see me after the meeting or contact us at: kestonvillagra@gmail.com

Shelley Sturdy

Chairman
Keston Village Residents' Association