



KESTON VILLAGE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2025/26

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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

Our Planning Representative monitors planning applications carefully and regularly updates the Committee on any relevant submissions. John also attends the Council's Advisory Panel for Conservation Areas (APCA) and advises KVRA on planning matters. Of particular concern at present is the planning application for the change of use of Grade II listed Leafy Grove House from a residential dwelling to a children's home for traumatised children. KVRA is actively opposing this change of use, along with any planning applications deemed inappropriate, and will notify residents accordingly.

Biggin Hill Airport Limited (BHAL)

In July 2025 the Airport Residents' Noise Action Forum (ARNAF) formed two working groups – one to make recommendations on how the Airport's complaint investigation process could be enhanced, and one to introduce key performance indicators to establish targets to measure compliance with associated processes.

Each of the working group's recommendations fell into one of four categories:

- Category 1 – Those that could be implemented immediately
- Category 2 – Those that required further investigation and development
- Category 3 – Those that require an amendment to the Noise Action Plan (NAP) and would need to be considered as part of the 2026 NAP Review
- Category 4 – Those that the Airport determined could not be implemented

The two working groups met on alternate months and were supported by members of ARNAF and the Airport Team. This proved to be a positive example of what can be achieved through active engagement. It is to the credit of the Chief Executive Officer that no recommendations fell into Category 4, and all recommendations were agreed at the beginning of April 2026.

Complaint Investigation Working Group (CWG)

The CWG has continued to progress improvements to the complaint process. This included feedback from ARNAF resident representatives, the majority of which focused on improvements to the Airport's website. This work was managed through a process flowchart comprising approximately fifty separate elements. At the time of writing, the majority have been completed or have a defined route for completion.

- Resolution of aircraft height clarity (AGL or AMSL) and complainant location
- Definition and publication of the five-stage complaint process
- Clarity regarding resident complaints and auto violations



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- Addition of TVLs to WebTrak
- Greater clarity for the roles of NSSC and SANARB
- Customer complaint process to measure future improvements
- Website accessibility review including neurodiversity considerations
- Improved automation of the complaint process
- ARNAF observers attending SANARB and NSSC
- Review of noise abatement documentation
- Improved guidance for residents on complaint categories
- Full review of the Airport 'Have Your Say' pages

Heathfield Road B265 – Traffic and Speed Volumes through the Village

Pedestrian safety on Heathfield Road remains a priority for KVRA. We have confirmation that the red faux speed hump at the junction of Heathfield Road and Keston Avenue will be replaced following resurfacing works. We do not yet have a date for these works and will continue to press the Council for replacement 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 they were no longer fit for purpose. The cost is the same to hire a new theme each year as it was to maintain our own.

The Christmas lights were funded by successful fundraising events and a generous donation from Biggin Hill Airport's Community Fund. As the lights are an ongoing annual cost, donations will be gratefully received for future years. Our Santander bank details are: Account Name: Keston Village Residents Association; Account Number: 35321237 ; Sort Code: 09-01-29

2025 Remembrance Sunday

Residents once again honoured the sacrifices made in past wars by supporting our annual Village Poppy Display. Large Royal British Legion poppies were displayed along Heathfield Road from The Fox Public House to the Village Hall and down Commonsides.

We gathered at the Village Memorial to pay tribute, with over one hundred people in attendance. Heathfield Road remains on the list of permissible road closures for this year's commemoration, improving safety for those attending.

To continue the display, some poppies require replacement due to wear and tear. You can sponsor a poppy with a donation of at least £5.00 to our Treasurer, Sara Lawrence. Bank details as above.

Metropolitan Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT)

The Safer Neighbourhood Team is a dedicated police unit that works with the local community to address concerns and improve safety. John Algar and John Wiltshire attend regular meetings



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focusing on partnership working between residents, community groups, resident associations and local authorities.

Village Life

KestFest 2025

Sadly, KestFest 2025 was cancelled due to a yellow weather warning for high winds, rain and thunderstorms. The decision was made due to the risk of lightning affecting electrical equipment required for live entertainment.

Preparations are now underway for KestFest 2026 on 6th June. We hope to see you there.

Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair is now becoming a regular feature in the village and was another great success. Hosted in the Village Hall with over 20 stallholders inside and food vendors outside, live music and Santa's Grotto made for a busy and enjoyable day.

Thank you to all volunteers who helped make the day such a success. This year's fair is booked for Saturday 14th November.

KVRA Newsletter, Website and Facebook Page

Please check our website www.kvra.co.uk for updates, road closures, committee minutes, upcoming social events, photographs and information on the history of Keston.

We continue to work closely with local groups including the Keston Residents Road Safety Group (KRRSG) and Friends of Keston Common (FoKC). If you would like to be added to our newsletter database, please contact us at: kestonvillagera@gmail.com.

Shelley Sturdy

Chairman

Keston Village Residents' Association