

28th March 2017

Dear Friend,

Update on Blackhorse Road Cemetery and Chapel, Kingswood.

I am writing with an update relating to the planning permission granted by South Gloucestershire Council to renovate and convert the former chapel into 15 flats.

Following permission being granted in July last year, there have been two issues of note;

First is that the developers have been seeking planning permission from Bristol City Council to construct two small detached houses on the entrance lane that runs off of Two Mile Hill Road. A very small part of this application is also within South Gloucestershire (the boundary between the two council areas runs through the site) so they have had to seek permission from South Gloucestershire Council too. I am told that in the past the developers received strong support for the lane to be developed from people living in Unity Street and businesses on Blackhorse Road. The disused lane had attracted anti-social behaviour and a traveller encampment that gave rise to fear of security and personal safety in the locality. The developers are seeking permission to build two houses here in order that the whole development becomes financially viable for them.

The second bit of news is that **THIS COMING FRIDAY AND SATURDAY** (31st March and 1st April), the developers are holding a couple of Open Days at the former Chapel. They have cleared all of the overgrown vegetation away from the portion of graveyard immediately alongside the Chapel (where they want to put a car parking area) thus exposing the memorial stones and tombstones etc. so that relatives and anyone else interested can come along. The Open Days are taking place between 11am and 3pm each day. The developers will be on-site to answer any questions people have. There will NOT be any access inside the ruined chapel as it is very derelict. Anyone intending to turn up would be advised to wear clothing and footwear appropriate for a rough terrain. The developers did say that they would be placing notices in the local papers too. The developers will photographing every tombstone/memorial *in situ* and making a comprehensive record to forward to the Kingswood History Society and the Bristol & Avon Family History Society at the Bristol Record Office.

I hope this is a helpful update. I will certainly be attending on the Friday. Finally, if you are on email please let me know as I can then save a few pence on postage !

With best wishes,

Andy Perkins (Councillor for Woodstock)

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