

# Newsletter

Summer Issue – 202

# Community Wildlife Garden

We have finally received the go ahead from The Secretary of State to move forward with our plans for the former Middleton Allotment site and turn it into a space for all the community in the form of a Wildlife Garden. We plan for this area to be a peaceful outdoor space, a haven for wildlife and a place for people to come and enjoy the stillness & tranquillity that green spaces are so good at providing.

## **Community Litter Picks**

As part of the Great British Spring Clean, we held several Community Litter Picks across the parish. Collecting 16 sacks of rubbish!! Moving forward we will be coordinating with other organisations to ensure monthly litter pick will become a regular occurrence.

If you are unable to make the community picks but would like to borrow some litter picking equipment, please drop Lynn an email using the contact details on page 4.

# Goodbye and Thank You.



We want to say a huge thanks to David Monk, who after 5-years as Parish Councillor and Chairman, has taken the very hard decision to step down and retire from the Parish Council this year.

David epitomises what it means to be passionate and committed to your local community. He has worked tirelessly on the Parish Council and has been involved and seen through many challenges and improvements, such as reopening Middleton Pavilion with a new tenant, a new parish office in

Oakgrove, dealing with Anglian Water flooding on Kemsley Allotment, land access to U70 at Oakgrove, Traveller encroachment(s), planning and licencing to mention a few.

We thank David for his selfless dedication and commitment over the past 5-years. Vicky our Clerk pays tribute to his support for her and many councillors both current and past will feel the same way. He will be sorely missed on the Parish Council, but he will continue to be a positive presence in our community, of that there is no doubt!

## A warm welcome to our new Chair - Tim Small

We welcome Tim as our newly elected Chairman of the Parish Council. Tim is passionate about our community and has been very much involved as

a member of our council for the past 5years and our Vice-Chairman for the past 4-years.

Tim heads up our Asset & Maintenance Committee, which is responsible for looking after all our building and land assets and actively takes part and contributes in many of our other working groups and committees. Along with David, Tim has also seen through many challenges and improvements to our parish.



We very much look forward to working together with our new Chairman in taking the Parish Council forward to the next level.

# **Landscaping>>** Our

landscape contractor RTM has been busy over the last few months keeping our green spaces looking healthy and in top condition.

They have been hedge planting in MK Village, these hawthorn hedges will provide a natural, more visually pleasing and environmentally friendly barrier to our football fields, to hopefully deter any unauthorised entry.

You may have also seen them out and about watering the newly planted hedges and trees as we are concerned the low rainfall could affect the new growth.



**Bins** >> We have now stepped in to empty the litter bins in the play areas of Oakgrove. This was after concerned residents contacted us to complain about the constantly overflowing bins. We will be temporarily taking over the emptying of these bins until The Parks Trust take over the greenspaces. We are also taking on the emptying of the litter bin in the car park next to MK Village Hall. This takes our bin tally to 53 and a monthly spend of around 1k on bin servicing.

#### **Crime Prevention Consultation Results >>>**

Earlier this year we sent out a consultation, via social media and our website asking you what we might be able to do to help you feel safer in your community. Here are the results:

# were: 1. Littering 2. Speeding



- 3. Anti-social Behaviour
- 4. Dog Fouling
- 5. Inconsiderate Parking
- 6. Being able to walk in the area after dark & feel safe

The top 10 main concerns in the community

- 7. Burglaries
- 8. Vehicle Theft
- 9. Drug Dealing
- 10. Theft from Vehicles

# When we asked how <u>you</u> think we could help to reduce crime in your area – this is what you had to say:

- → Install CCTV in hotspots 37%
- → Promote neighbourhood watch schemes 27%
- → Promote anti littering campaigns 21%
- → Promote a campaign to remember to lock cars/doors at night 7%

# We listened to your concerns, and so far, we have started the following initiatives:

- ✓ We are looking at an initial one-year contract with specialist provider, Crimewave Security Consultancy, for a mobile CCTV solution that they can move to target 'hotspot' areas. This is endorsed by Thames Valley Police (TVP) and will be working closely with TVP them to identify where to place it.
- ✓ During Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Week from 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> June, we promoted setting up NHW schemes and have made packs available for people interested in setting up their own schemes to download from our website. NHW coordinator Nikki, has attended our Crime Prevention working group and can support residents who are setting up their own NHW schemes.
- ✓ As lockdown eased, we were able to set up a series of community litter picking events across the parish, these generated some interest, and we are happy to say they will be a regular occurrence going forward. Keep an eye out for future dates on our usual communication forums.
- ✓ Through social media, website & noticeboards we are promoting the #Protectyourcar campaign.

  Leave it locked, lit and empty www.ourwatch.org.uk/protectyourcar

#### **UPDATES** >>>

### **Old Forge**

The old forge has had a mini makeover with the much-needed installations of new oak doors.



## **Anglian Water**

After 6 repeated flooding episodes of sewage since 2016 at our Kemsley Crescent allotment site, we have been working closely with Anglian Water (AW) to find a long-term solution to resolve this problem. We sincerely hope that by AW raising the chamber and making improvements at their pumping station, this will now solve the problem.

#### Secret Garden

Work has started at the Secret Garden in MK Village to tidy it up and give it a little TLC. If you are interested in coming along to lend a hand, we have set up some regular working groups to meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month from 7pm to 9pm and the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month from 10am to noon. For more info drop an email to: Ryan.gillies@broughtona ndmkv-pc.gov.uk

## **May Half Term Play Sessions >>>**

May half term arrived and brought with it some scorching weather for the first part of the week! On the Wednesday, the team from MK Play Association (MKPA) set up on the Middleton Football Field to provide messy and imaginative play that was enjoyed by over 100 children. Come Friday, the weather was not so kind, and we had a little of the wet stuff however, that was not enough to dampen anyone's spirits and the play sessions continued in earnest with risky play being the most popular pursuit! Thanks to the team at MKPA for all their hard work and for the images. We would also like to take the opportunity to give thanks to MK Pavilion team, who kept the Wednesday session topped up with water throughout the day.

We are looking forward to the 6 weeks of Summer where we hope to be able to provide some more FREE sessions for our younger residents! Keep an eye on our social media pages for upcoming details.





# New Allotment Site coming Soon>

Plans are well underway for a new allotment site at Brooklands. The site will be situated off Olympic Crescent and we hope it will be completed in time for the 2022 growing season. If you would like to be considered for a plot, then head over to our website for more details and to get your name on the waiting list. www.broughtonandmkvpc.gov.uk/allotments/bro oklands-olympiccrescent/

#### **Allotment News >**

Following the late frosts and a wet May the allotments are now slowly coming into the growing season, with plot tenants only now able to plant out their seeds and seedlings! We have some new tenants this year who have made their way from the waiting list and onto a plot to join the 'grow your own experience'. We are looking forward to seeing the 'fruits and veg' of their labour over the next few months.

There has been a growing interest in allotments, resulting in a very long waiting list. If you would like to join our waiting list, please do so by filling out an enquiry form on our website.

### **Parish Councillor Vacancy >>>**

Being a Parish Councillor is a great way to get involved in looking after the needs of our community. It is entirely voluntary, requires a time commitment and can be demanding, but it can also be fun! There is lots to learn and it can feel very rewarding! We currently have one vacancy for a Parish Councillor in the ward of Broughton & Atterbury (includes Brooklands, Broughton Gate). The Parish Council would like to fill this place by co-option as soon as possible. No special qualifications are required to be a councillor, indeed it is important that all sorts of people serve as councillors to give good representation of the community. Training for new councillors is available to help assist with understanding the responsibilities of the role.



Tackling meetings in the early stages of lockdown – we wrapped up & met outside in the carpark to keep one another safe!

#### Get in touch >>>

Don't worry, not all the meetings are outside in the carpark!! We are currently holding our Full Council meetings at Milton Keynes Village Hall to enable social distancing. Whilst our councillors must attend in person, we encourage members of the public to attend virtually – we call these hybrid meetings. If you are interested in becoming a Parish Councillor, we encourage you to attend a variety of our meetings (virtually) to give you a taste of what we do.

You can find meetings details by visiting the "Meeting" tab on our website.

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#### Warden

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If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Give us a call and please do leave a message if we are not available, one of the team will get right back to you, as soon as possible within office hours. Alternatively drop us an email.

Thanks to all our likers and followers on social media – 1,379 of you follow us on Facebook, 455 on Instagram and 184 Twitter followers!

Wherever you are and whatever you are doing, you can keep up to date with what WE are doing on social media!