

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Full Council

Monday 10th September 2018

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

Investment in Community Centres

As part of the overall needs of the council, alongside the discussions that have been taking place over a number of years, this paper discusses the needs, priorities, costs and benefits of a planned investment programme in our community centres and in the spaces within the Hub that could be used to increase income.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Background

WCC has four community venues within its estate; we own Tinkers Bridge and manage Netherfield, Coffee Hall and Eaglestone.

Tinkers Bridge is within the Regen zone, so its future is unclear. There is significant potential for a large scale improvement plan here – there is unused land to the side of the centre and potential to extend upwards. Once the situation with Regen is clearer, a full evaluation of this centre should be undertaken. As things stand, the building is dated and needs some immediate investment. However, there is a nice foundation from which to build. The centre has a large room, smaller office, kitchen and pleasant outside area. There is potential to rent office space on along term basis, as well as the centre as a whole.

Netherfield is also within a Regen zone. We have this property on a lease from MKC and manage usage. All income is WCC's – we do not pay rent to MKC for this property. It is in fairly good condition, but sits within an area that has limited footfall and currently is significantly under-utilised. The surrounding area is not well kept and there are some external issues with the building. Internally, the centre is in good condition, offering a large and small office, kitchen, storage and a patio area. There is potential to rent office space on along term basis, as well as the centre as a whole.

Coffee Hall (also in a Regen area) is adjacent to our offices and is joined by an internal door. It also has a separate entrance near the shops. It includes a

separate room that has been identified as a space for the Wellbeing Room, a well equipped kitchen and a large hall. This centre has recently been decorated (but will require additional work), but there remain significant issues with toilets and general shabbiness of the space.

Eaglestone is currently undergoing significant works via investment from MKC. It is the only centre that is not within a Regen area and as such, offers more stability. However, at this time we don't currently have a formal agreement with MKC – until this is resolved, any significant investment must be tempered by the possibility that we don't retain control (unlikely as this is).

Work to this point

The Council Manager and RFO visited all centres to undertake an initial assessment of the venues, identifying the immediate and longer term needs and vision. It was agreed at this point that there were some immediate needs (some of which have already been addressed), some medium term issues that would require some expenditure and then a longer term investment plan to bring all centres up to a high standard. The tables below identify the indicative costs (although some of these are estimates), highlighting the level of priority.

There are also some issues that are organisation wide; access to wi-fi within our centres, more effective, timed heating controls (via NEST or similar, to enable remote access control) to reduce our energy costs and usage (currently extremely high), a more effective way of managing access (currently an extremely high cost of staffing to achieve this), provision of suitable equipment within centres / organisation (such as hot water dispensers in each venue, access to cutlery and crockery, suitable tables, sound system provision, etc..) and a pro-active and reactive maintenance system that meets the needs of the centres. There is also a clear need to be far more effective in the marketing of both the centres as a whole and of the office space contained within. To this end, the following tasks have been either started or booked to undertake;

- Review of wi-fi provision, built into IT supplier costs (currently being 'tendered')
- Costing of remote access solutions for all centres (initial meeting has taken place, awaiting costings from first provider)
- Early discussions around staffing provision and a potential review of the staffing model.
- A need to cost and obtain suitable equipment that is either held centrally and then 'booked' by hirers or provided in each centre, or a combination of both.

- Photographs of the centres, with detailed pages available on the website and in a brochure and a planned approach to marketing via third sector organisations, local 'start up' businesses and similar. This will be undertaken once the basic work has been completed with the centres, to show in the best light possible.

This is a considerable piece of work that, if planned and delivered correctly, should show benefits quite quickly. The need is clear; during July, we provided less than 15% usage of our community venues, with costs considerably outweighing income. Whilst there are some potential wins in place during the coming months (a couple of interested parties for office space, a potential pre-school for Eaglestone), a more consistent and constant use is essential if the community venues are going to support the organisations fiscal outcomes in the longer term.

Current usage

Based upon a 'snapshot' month (July 2018), our usage (occupancy rate) of our community venues was under 15% (244 hours booked against a potential 1700 hours). This only includes external renters, but includes sessions which we offer free of charge (e.g. Resident Associations).

Assuming these hours are all fully payable, this equates to an income of £3660.

Over the course of the same month, our basic staffing costs (e.g. caretaking staff) were £2300. This does not include any HQ staff, such as the Booking Clerk, RFO, etc.

Our rates during July were £745 for the four centres. Our gas, electric and water costs were around £1500. There are then all the additional costs, such as replacements, cleaning supplies, waste collections, etc..

With costs above alone, this shows how much we need to change to make the centres cost effective.

Income - £3660
£885

Outgoings (as above) - £4545

Deficit -

Eaglestone

Due to the current situation with MKC and insurance repairs, it is hard to plan effectively for investment across the piece. Once the work has been completed, we will have a clearer idea of the needs of the building and will have a far more robust centre. The work due to be undertaken includes;

- Replacement of the heating system
- Refurbishment of the toilets
- Potential for further improvements, budget dependent.

In addition, due to flood damage, refurbishment of the two squash court floors and walls will take place, alongside remedial work to the roof which has led to leakage into the small meeting room.

We have also got replacement fridge and freezer for the kitchen, via a donation of same. The only other relatively high need is for a water heater for the kitchen (approx £450)

Given the work being planned, it is recommended that no further works are undertaken until such time as these have been completed. We will then have a clearer picture of the needs of the building.

Coffee Hall

Considerable work has been undertaken to improve the appearance of Coffee Hall, via the payback team, who have decorated throughout. However, there are a number of further issues that need to be addressed;

Issue	Estimated Cost	Priority
Creation of additional storage for CHRA and Crafty Birds.	£500	HIGH
Replacement and improvements to ceiling	£500	HIGH
Improvements to toilets	TBC – dependent on level of work undertaken	HIGH
Replacement of door furniture to provide consistent and professional look	£400	MEDIUM
Replacement of tables for round, foldable	£150 per table (x 8 – 10)	MEDIUM
Provision of a hot water heater, installed	£450	HIGH

There is a quote in place for undertaking significant works in Coffee Hall, including refurbishing the Wellbeing Room, improvements to flooring, removal of radiators, minor changes to toilets, insulation, cleaners cupboard, etc.. This is costed at £12,000 and would cover some of the issues noted above.

Immediate works would cost around £1000 plus any decision regarding work to the toilets.

It would be helpful to tie in with any larger works being undertaken with regard to the Wellbeing Room, to minimise disruption to hirers.

Netherfield

Netherfield is currently poorly used and has considerable potential for improvement, despite being one of the more modern buildings. It already includes good toilet and kitchen facilities, but the surrounding area has been allowed to become overgrown, litter strewn and generally does not feel welcoming. As such, limited investment is needed directly into the centre, but a programme of works for the Landscaping Team would bring clear benefits to the rentability of the space.

Issue	Estimated Cost	Priority
Improvement to external planting and appearance	£200 – ongoing cost of Landscaping managing once up to spec	HIGH
Electrical works (putting in additional sockets) and provision of suitable furniture and window coverings for the office	£900	HIGH
Hot water heater in kitchen	£400	HIGH
Repairs and improvements to décor in main hall, including door furniture	£800	HIGH
Window coverings for main hall	TBC	MED
Minor improvements to toilets	£200	MED
Sandblasting and repainting external beams	TBC	LOW

Tinkers Bridge

The only centre we own and the one that is used least. As this currently sits within a Regen area, significant investment is probably not wise at this juncture, but with some additional investment, the space would become far more attractive to renters.

Issue	Estimated Cost	Priority
Improvements to office space, including replacement of flooring, cleaning and provision of office furniture	£700	HIGH
Hot water dispenser in kitchen	£450	HIGH

Replacement doors for kitchen units, boxing in of pipe work and general tidying up	£600	HIGH
Main hall improvements (door furniture, ceiling cleaned, painting, etc.)	£1000	HIGH

Additionally, it is recommended that each centre is wi-fi enabled (included in IT quotes – approximately £230 to be installed and then a monthly charge of around £40 - £700 for the first year, reducing to £480 per year after that).

All centres would benefit from integrated sound and vision systems (either fixed or that can be put in place with infrastructure built in (such as leads, wiring, etc.)). To have a projector and sound system installed would cost around £1000 per centre.

Remote access systems are also being considered – assessment has been undertaken and awaiting costs. Remote heating controls would also save considerable sums.

Conclusion

The immediate needs (those noted as 'HIGH' above) would require investment of £6500. I believe these are fairly generous estimates and may well come in at a cheaper level. This doesn't include provision of remote access, NEST heating controls or sound / vision. NEST should be relatively cheap (around £300 per centre, installed), with costs for remote access yet to be confirmed.

This proposal is very much a 'quick fix' – it will bring much need refreshment to the centres, show our commitment to an improvement programme, make the centres considerably more attractive to renters and increase monthly income. If we increase rentals by 10 hours per month, per centre, the investment will be returned within 12 months (NB This does not include any rental from office space or from centres where there is additional space, such as the Eaglestone small meeting room).

In the longer term, once leases are agreed on Eaglestone and the full impact of Regeneration is clearer, we can look at a more comprehensive programme of works.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

Non - applicable.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Non - applicable.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

To note the report.

AUTHOR

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Council Manager

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Full Council

Monday 10th September 2018

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

This is the first paper presented to Council in advance of and in preparation for the formal Budget and Precept setting in January 2019. Following this there will be a further report to Full Council in November when a draft budget for consultation will be approved and Policy and Resources Committee in December may make further revisions and recommendations. The Services and Operations Committee may also consider their own needs and priorities and make comment accordingly.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

A budget per se is not attempted at this stage. Instead the paper outlines a broad strategy, deals with some of the bigger issues and discusses service and organisational priorities.

Of course no budget can be contemplated without reference to sources of income, and in particular those relating to Council Tax and significant grants, especially LCTS. However at this stage there remains a huge uncertainty about some of these. The key unknowns at this stage in relation to income are

* The Council Tax base defined as the product of a £1 Band D Tax. We won't get confirmation of this until late November/early December. However although a small increase in the Council Tax base is hoped for this is unlikely to be significant.

* The level of LCTS Grant. In 2018/19 we received £151,000 - equivalent to £63 Band D Tax. At this moment in time it is not possible to rule anything in or out and the grant next year could be anything from Zero to over £170,000. Key discussions are taking place on this key element and a verbal update will be given at the meeting if anything significant is known by then.

* The Council Tax Precept. However this is a decision of the Council. Capping is not anticipated next year or the year after. Our current Precept is £202.47p at Band D. Assuming the Council Tax base is constant every 1% rise increases income by approximately £4,900 (i.e. 10% equals £49,000) and in subsequent years by slightly more as the % increase is applied to a higher starting figure

* Income from Fees and Charges, particularly relating to Meeting Places (bookings) but in this broad category could be included advertising and sponsorship and other matters. An income Generation Group has commenced work considering further opportunities

* Income from Grants and Bids. For example we are making bids to the MKC Infrastructure Fund and the Governments Community Integration Fund, but other opportunities will be explored. Some of these are for Capital; Projects, others tend to be time limited and the criteria may not match our highest priorities

However it is worth recording that the Landscape Grant (essentially a contract form MKC) is known for the next four years and this is a bonus having this confirmed so early.

Bids and grants can be a double edged sword – whilst they can bring additional income and therefore additional delivery, they are often limited in their spending scope, leading to additional demands on already stretched staff resources. They rarely allow contributions to organisational overheads and as such, can end up costing considerable amounts that are not covered through any additional income. A planned and considered approach to grant funding much underpin any decision to apply.

There are also uncertainties on the expenditure side. We now know the level of wage increase yet for 2018/19 (which has been backdated) but not for subsequent years. As staffing costs are by far the largest component of our expenditure this is significant. We do have indications of the Pension levels however though this is expressed as a percentage of salary so that extent remains uncertain and is only known for the until the end of 19/20.

We do not yet know the level of Business Rates for our new Offices which will have to be backdated to January 2018 once notified

And of course we need to factor in inflation and cost increases in relation to supplies. Contracts (eg Dog bins) and utilities at an as yet unknown level

All of this makes it difficult if not impossible to quantify a potential budget in numbers.

The broad picture

Fortunately our level of reserves is currently very healthy and we do not face the risk of an imminent crisis. However a good budget looks not just to the year ahead but ideally for between 3 and 5 years ahead even though we formally only set a precept for a single year at a time. Given the level of uncertainties the best

that could be hoped for is a 3 year Medium term strategy (i.e. up to and including 2021/22).

Priorities

An Away Day was recently held for Members on Priorities and a public consultation is being conducted through the Gazette and via an online survey through the website and social media. A written update on the latter will be presented to the Meeting.

At this stage however it is possible to identify a number of priority options of an organisational, financial and services remit. These are outlined below in no particular order.

a) Administration

Maintaining our current administrative support. Over the past two years we have strengthened our administrative support by the employment of a separate RFO, a part time Finance Assistant, and part time Bookings and reception officer and the Committee and Member Support Officer. Maintaining this full compliment is a high priority if we are to respond effectively to the many community challenges.

Ensuring that our staffing model, the job roles and delivery meets the agreed priorities of the council will be essential if we are to progress we the ambitious plans in place.

b) Communications

One area where we perhaps lack expertise and resources is in the field of Communication including website maintenance and development social media and digital communications, publications and community engagement. If resources allowed a strong case could be made for a designated communications officer. Alternatively, building this element in to an existing role and providing effective training to enable improvement is also an option.

c) Woughton Cares*

Our most recently agreed priority has been the development of the Woughton Cares strategy. The most recent addition has been the employment of a Mental Health specialist (part time). This is innovative and fits neatly into our Advice Service. This year we rolled forward funding unspent from the previous year. It would be really useful to be able to add to the core budget so that next years spending is at least as great in total as the current years.

This will be further strengthened by planning budgets more effectively, rather than having a large (£53.5k) unallocated budget line. This money can be earmarked for Woughton Cares initiatives, but should be allocated and costed prior to budgets being agreed.

d) Landscaping*

This is now our highest profile service and whilst it is a generally good and well received service a case can always be made to enhance it, particularly in the context of an aspiration to have much more community engagement management and perhaps even ownership of the Public Realm. The state of the public realm has always been a high priority for the public in our area.

e) Street Cleansing*+

We know that street cleansing including associated issues such as fly tipping is a real concern and given recent cutbacks in these services by MK Council it is perhaps timely to consider whether and the extent to which we could make an effective additional contribution in this area, perhaps by further direct employment (possibly an extension to the landscape team) or by buying in services from SERCO or elsewhere. Our small environment team provide a valuable service within limited resources, but clearly we could do much more if the budget so allowed. Enforcement resources is another aspect of this.

f) Crime and Community Safety*+

There is growing concern about the level of crime, including ASB and the associated issue of Community Safety. Whilst these two areas are distinct (with crime sitting squarely with TVP and criminal justice), we may wish to consider resources for this priority, perhaps through our own Community Safety Officer (we had one a number of years ago) to address issues of community safety.

Crime is a more significant issue and, as noted above, one that potentially sits further outside our remit. We could consider the purchase of a Police Community Support Officer; the level of policing in the area has reduced significantly and this may be the reason why this priority is being highlighted by the Public.

g) Member Support

The Council has recently been considering the role, rights and responsibilities of Councillors. We do know that expectations on Members is high and rising, but it is fair to point out that if we to respond effectively we probably need to provide more support to members to perform their roles. This is especially true at the beginning of an electoral cycle and of course the four year elections are due in May 2019. This could be reflected in additional training, support for Member Communications and administrative support for Cllrs as well possibly as enhanced allowances (our allowances are currently below the recommended levels of the independent panel).

h) Ward initiatives Fund.

Allied to this is the Ward Initiative Fund which enables Cllrs to respond to needs in their wards. Currently set at £200 per member per year it was reduced from £250 3 years ago.

i) Resident Associations*

We are making a real effort to both support resident associations and to develop a better partnership with them. It has already been agreed in principal that in future they will be given a grant to cover administrative and basic costs and that we will fund training and development for them. Whilst this could be from existing budgets (grant aid) the case to do this from additional resources is strong.

j) Youth Services

We enjoy some of the best Youth services of anywhere in MK. However the case for doing more is strong, especially for our most vulnerable children and young adults.

k) Early Years

The level of early years provision in our area does not meet local needs. Whilst the centres at Hedgerows (Netherfield) and the Moorlands Centre (Beanhill) are excellent the recent demise of the provision on Eaglestone has brought this issue into sharp focus.

l) Investment

Many local facilities are in need of investment especially our meeting places. Investment to enhance and improve our facilities could be justified in its own right, but the case grows if the investment increases the viability of such facilities and produces an increase in income. This could be termed invest to save, but the business case would need to be robust.

J) Play Areas

We have not for some years invested in any play areas and unlike some Parish Councils we have not sought the freehold transfer of any of the existing play areas some of which are no longer being maintained and will slowly be taken out of commission. That said most of the larger more popular play areas are still being actively maintained by Milton Keynes Council.

k) Parking

Many issues connected with Parking and to a lesser extent road safety have been identified by local residents in recent times, particularly in areas adjacent to the Hospital, near schools and local centres and adjacent to popular faith or sporting venues (eg Islamic Centre and Stadium MK). Discussions with MKC and other parties are ongoing. There are two ways in which the Community Council could themselves contribute. One would be physical one off expenditure such as bollards or Ascot Railing to address issues such as verge parking. The second is enforcement activity (under License from the highway Authority) but this in turn would more often than not require parking regulations which are not in our control and may not be universally popular as they would affect local residents as well as visitors to the area. However this is a growing concern albeit not unique to Woughton.

l) Health and Social Care

Although potentially badged under the Woughton Cares banner it is worth highlighting that Woughton has significantly higher health and care needs than most parts of MK and this too is something that we may wish to prioritise.

m) Allotments*

Ironically we don't currently have any allotments either of a formal or informal nature though it is our one statutory duty (if there is unmet demand). Sites on Beanhill and Coffee Hall have been identified and the issue is whether providing allotments is a high priority for the Council. There are associated or similar concepts such as community orchards which may also be attractive propositions.

This type of provision, already in place on Beanhill, would support many of the other priorities that have been identified – the food projects, community growing, etc. Whilst early investment may be necessary, ongoing costs would be minimal.

n) Sport.

Years ago we had a Sports Development Officer funded through a 5 year Sports Council grant. Sport provision in Woughton is extremely limited save for the facilities at schools and the Woughton Leisure Centre

Strategy

Because at this moment in time we are very uncertain about our income levels we have to think not just about which services to expand if resources allowed but also which services to maintain if costs have to be cut. Prioritisation is thus important. All of this needs to take place within a strategy and particularly a financial strategy. The following is recommended at this stage.

- 1) That the Council Precept increase shall be between five and ten per cent for each of the next 3 years.
- 2) That the use of reserves be restricted to a) Managing over two to three years any significant reduction in services required with a minimum of £100,000, and preferably significantly more, is maintained at all times or b) For Capital purposes especially if this can increase revenue income or produce cost savings.
- 3) To ask the income generation group to think outside of the box in order to significantly increase income that is neither grants nor precept and to report to the Council on their finding as soon as possible.
- 4) Because of the increasing need to demonstrate efficiency and effectiveness to compile a set of KPIs (Key Performance Indicators) based on outputs or outcomes. Spending for spending sake cannot be justified and we simply have to show and demonstrate the impact our resources

are having.

- 5) To continue and step up our campaign for fair funding given the low Council Tax base and high needs of the Woughton area.
- 6) To seek ways of engaging with the public and to increasingly move to participatory budgeting techniques to ensure that we are making decisions that are supported.

Although largely discursive this report and the discussion it invites will be a significant pointer towards the production of a draft budget in November

*Items marked with an * fall within a broad remit of Community Development and as such, discussions have been taking place around the need for this to be a defined role within the officer group.*

Items marked with a + should be considered to fall within a broader Environment role, with the potential for both current officers to take on a remit that includes an element of community led initiatives, enforcement where possible and an increase in local people taking on additional elements (such as adoption of areas for litter / reporting, regular community led activities, etc).

These two issues further emphasise the need to ensure our staffing model reflects the overall aims, priorities and needs of the council, its residents and the changing face of the parish.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Consultation feedback - early themes and trends paper.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

To note the report.

AUTHOR

Cllr Kevin Wilson - Leader

Consultation feedback - early themes and trends

This paper is based upon feedback received by 16th August through the following routes:

- Paper copies received from Gazette forms
- Online completion of 'Survey Monkey' questionnaire
- Facebook comments from postings related to online survey

Please note that all paper responses have been added to the online survey by Paul Garth, to enable easier evaluation. Facebook comments are separate.

Introduction

The questionnaire was published and delivered to each house in the parish at the start of August. At the same time, the online survey was launched, enabling a variety of completion routes. To promote completion, we also published a number of Facebook posts and added a 'pop up' box to the main WCC homepage, asking people to complete.

We have had 141 responses via the survey (including paper copies handed / posted in) and an additional 12 pertinent comments on the Facebook post (this doesn't include comments such as 'shared' or simply where people are tagged in comments).

The consultation will continue to run until the end of September (and beyond this, for information only), and will form a paper for discussion as part of budget and priority setting for 2019/20.

Demographics (based on surveys only)

There was a fairly even spread with regard to the estates served;

PB	10
LH	15
ES	19
CH	30
BH	34
NF	25
TB	7
RM	1
BLH	0

These numbers mostly reflect the differing populations.

Age ranges were as expected;

Under 18	0
18 - 24	3
25 – 34	27
35 – 44	42
45 – 54	29
55 – 64	17
65 PLUS	19
Declined	5

Gender spread was predominantly female;

73% Female

21% Male

6% Declined

Themes and Trends

There are a number of issues that have come up regularly throughout both feedback routes;

- Drug use and detritus linked
- Anti-social behaviour
- Landscaping and pathways
- Play parks for children (Leadenhall especially)
- Parking

Other issues included services for young and old, advice service and provision of the skip service that used to be in place. There were further comments around issues that are the responsibility of MKC – roads, bin collections, information on regeneration,

The areas that people felt were important were:

Area	Important?	Used in last year?	Priority for 19/20
Environment	101	50	85
Landscaping	95	61	74
Youth	72	28	50
Community Support	65	18	45
Dog Bins, etc	56	40	35
Community Centre	47	28	24
Advice	37	21	25
Events	37	20	13
Grant Aid	29	9	9

These responses suggest that the areas people value most are Environment Team, Landscaping, Youth and Community Support. Dog bins, community centres and

advice services all register mid range, with events and grant aid lower priorities. It is worth noting that the two areas valued least are also the ones that cost least (except dog bins).

All additional comments are available, but for the purposes of this report the comments noted below reflect the main themes:

Of our current services, which do you think are important?

Responses varied from 'all of them are important' to quite specific requests; a play park, support with anti-social behaviour, a bus service, gutter clearance, pot holes. Also included personal responses around landscaping around a specific house, rubbish in a specific area.

And of those services, which have you used or benefited from over the past year?

It was notable that many respondents said that they have benefited from none of our services – given that we provide landscaping services which impact upon ALL in our communities, this suggests that we are not visible enough.

Other responses included a number mentioning the help following the flood (positive) and a number mentioning perceived short-comings (patchy landscaping, poor parks, etc.).

As explained above, we may need to reduce our services due to reduced funding. If this did happen, what should we prioritise? Which are most important to you? (tick no more than three)

Specific responses included 'please push back to the council to ensure funding is maintained', 'I can't pick any of the above as I feel they don't get enough as it is' (both quite positive) to specific suggestions, including pathway improvements, widening a road, poor road conditions and rats.

Are there other things that you would like to see Woughton Community Council provide? Please let us know your ideas, views or feelings below.

This question led to significant feedback (80 specific comments). The themes included; parks, drug issues, anti-social behaviour, traffic and parking and additional activity for young and old. Some positive things around getting community involved, some partners we should work with and a view that we do good stuff but 'visibility of what they already do might make more people engage'.

Many thanks for completing this survey. We will publish the results in the next edition of The Gazette. If there is anything else you would like to tell us about, please pop it in the box below.

Some great, considered feedback here; environment and landscaping lead to increased value on the space, meaning less ASB and better community involvement, Youth helps reduce issues now and in the future, focus on things that benefit the WHOLE community.

Other issues were similar to those above – improve landscape, make kids activities more affordable, more information around regeneration (a number of mentions of this) and litter / bin bays / change of waste management to wheelie bins, etc.

Conclusion

Whilst this is a small snapshot of local views, it does provide some clear themes; improvements to the environment (encompassing landscaping, litter, paths, roads, waste management, etc.), addressing issues around behaviour (drug use, littering, ASB) and a wish to see more responsibility from community members.

Many issues raised lie within the remit of Milton Keynes Council, but those that we have power to address do lead to a suggestion that certain areas may deserve higher priority for the coming year.