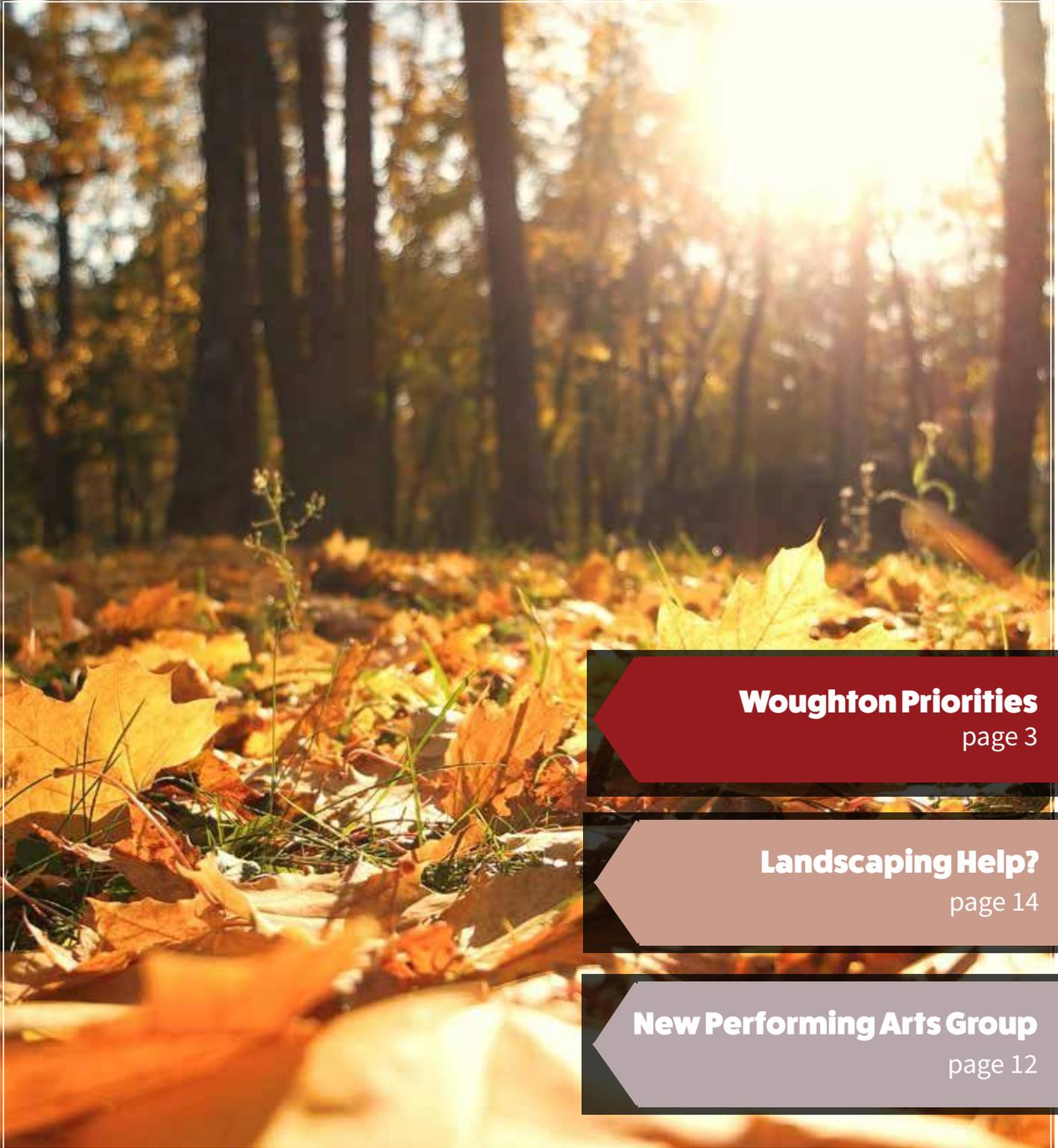


MYWOUGHTON

gazette



Woughton Priorities
page 3

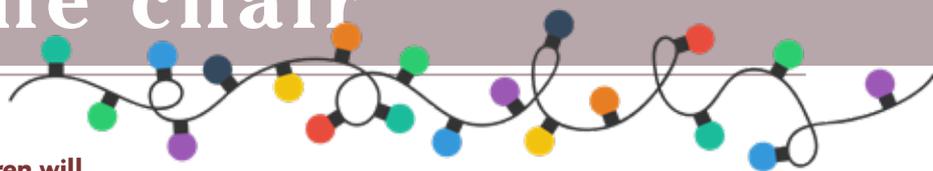
Landscaping Help?
page 14

New Performing Arts Group
page 12

COFFEE HALL | EAGLESTONE | LEADENHALL | BEANHILL | PEARTREE BRIDGE | NETHERFIELD | TINKERS BRIDGE

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL | WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL HUB | THE LOCAL CENTRE |
GARRAWAYS | COFFEE HALL | MILTON KEYNES | MK6 5EG

words from the chair



By the time you get this Gazette delivered, children will have gone back to school, the summer almost over and leaves on the trees changing their colours.

Looking back, the **'Summer of Play'** was a huge success, and the **'Beach Party'** was enjoyed by all that attended.



Looking forward, we have Halloween and Christmas events coming up. Santa will be coming round to all estates so please keep an eye out for dates.



Council meetings have started as face to face with us still streaming on Facebook so residents can keep engaging and contributing. Please bear with us whilst we get use to doing them this way.

Pop up Café has come to an end for this summer but has started again inside CH Meeting Place – *keep an eye on the website / Facebook for updates*. Thank you to all that attended over the summer - residents, volunteers, staff, and councillors.



The **Landscapers** are working hard to catch up on the fast-growing season we have just had and hopefully by Christmas we should see the result of their toil.

Well, that's me for another edition. Even though we now have very few restrictions in place, please do stay safe and take care. Until next time.

Councillor **Sue Smith**



Thank you to the Youth team and volunteers for providing almost **3000 free lunches** for the children of our parish throughout the school holidays.

The events on the estates were a very welcome break from covid worries - Coffee Halls **'Day of Music'** was very well attended with great music throughout and Eaglestone's new Chair of the Resident Association and team did an excellent job of their 1st **'Picnic in the Park'**, with music, dancers and henna tattooing and look forward to next year's event. With Tinkers Bridge also having a **'Summer Gala'**, there has been plenty going on.

We have had **litter picks** and yard sales on some of our estates, with more to come - all great ways of clearing up and recycling.



Woughton Priorities - What do YOU want to see?

It is that time of year when we start thinking about what comes next year (even though we are only halfway through the 2020/21 financial year) and as always, we would love to hear from you about your ideas.

We know that there are key areas that matter to lots of you – **landscaping and environment** is always top of the list. Making sure that the parish is a nice place to live is what everyone wants to see, and it affects all who live here, so the fact that it is prioritised so highly is no surprise. As you may know, we have invested more money in landscaping this year to try and manage the exceptional growing season we have seen and hope that this means that we will be a great position for next year.

Next is usually our **youth and community support** – youth clubs, community fridge and café, events for older people. These are the things that might not be used by everyone, but most people are able to see how useful and valuable they are to those that do use them. The same is true of the Advice Service, the wellbeing support, and events (although not as much support for events, in previous years – this might be different this year with everyone coming out again!).

Our **grants programme** that supports local groups and resident associations, our community centres and the various other bits and bobs (dog waste bins, grit bins, reporting abandoned vehicles, etc.) are also felt important.

So, with all these things helping some or all residents, what else should we be looking at? As a local council (a town, parish, or community council, rather than Milton Keynes Council), we only have certain powers and abilities, but we want to try and do things that will make a real difference to you, the residents. Lots of ideas have been suggested by you; more dog bins and litter bins, more use of CCTV to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour, more events, better play parks, more support to older / younger / isolated / vulnerable people, Christmas lights, a local market – some of these we could possibly do, others would be trickier.



And of course, there's the money. Every bin we provide costs about £400 to install and then another £300 a year to empty and dispose of the waste (whether a dog bin or a general bin). A grit bin costs about £300 to install and then £150 every time we fill it. Play parks are hugely expensive to buy and install and running costs can be thousands each year. But these are all things that can make life better for residents.

CCTV is a trickier one – whilst we can 'buy in' cameras and monitoring, we don't have any power to prosecute if we do get evidence. This is a MK Council or Thames Valley Police issue (depending on what is happening). Unless we can be sure that they will help when we do get video of bad things happening, CCTV is of limited use.

There will be other ideas too – what would you like to see happen in Woughton? This is your chance to let us know so that we can consider for the coming year, the coming budget and planning ahead. If you can take 5 minutes to let us have your thoughts, that would be really helpful - you can do that by going to the link below, our website or social media and follow the links. **You can email us, ring us, attend one of our events or simply come and have a natter with us** at the Community Café or another event. Whatever way is best for you, please do let us know your thoughts.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/woughtonfutures>



We may not have had the sunny summer we'd longed for this year but despite the clouds the warmth has remained and continued to lead to reports of dogs left in hot cars and exhausted and heat stricken dogs taken on walks. There have been dramatic rescues, car windows broken, examples of vets resuscitating and treating heat exhausted dogs and, for some dog owners, the realisation that despite their best intentions, they are not always in control of the time they are away from their cars or out with their dogs.

We all have the best intentions to be away just five or 10 minutes, but due to our busy lifestyles and the fact that we have what feels like a million things to do, it's easy to become distracted or lose track of time, resulting in dog walks being longer than anticipated or even totally forgetting the dogs were ever in the car. Sadly, both of these scenarios can have fatal outcomes.

The fact is that cars can become as hot as ovens in just minutes. Our advice, no matter what your plans are, is to **NEVER** leave a dog in a warm car.

Animal welfare charities have campaigned for years about the negative impact heat can have on dogs, and we believe our messages have helped to encourage some change. A quick look at the internet and social media posts shows that people are passing

on good hot weather advice for dog owners, but there is still more to do to achieve a total change in behaviour and that's what makes our campaigning efforts now more important than ever.

The subject of climate change is currently on everyone's lips and we're advised that the planet is heating up with the UK already undergoing disruptive climate change. According to climate experts, in the space of just 30 years the UK has become 9°C warmer and 2020 was the third warmest and eighth sunniest year on record.

During the lockdowns of 2020 and 2021 we saw an increase in people getting puppies as they saw an opportunity to bring a dog into their 'new normal' lives. What a lot of new puppy owners probably didn't realise is that caring for a puppy can be overwhelming – there is so much to do and remember just like being a new parent. For the first six months there is no end of things to think about to make sure our dogs have what they need, when they need it. Many new dog owners will carry out research and visit accredited trainers and behaviourists, but others will turn to the internet for advice. Unfortunately, there is a lot of advice freely available that is misleading at best and incorrect at worst. It could also contradict good advice which can leave new dog owners confused and not knowing what to do for the best.

To help make your busy lives easier, we've put together this helpful tear-out guide on how to protect your dog from the heat of summer.

Walking your dog in hot weather

- Dogs need exercise, even when it's hot, but exercise is the biggest cause of heatstroke for dogs so it's important to be careful. We recommend walking your dog in the morning or evening when it's cooler to reduce the risk of heatstroke and burning their paws on the pavement.
- Flat-faced dogs (brachycephalic) require closer attention than other dogs due to them being more than twice as likely to suffer heat-related illness – this is because heat regulation is much more difficult for dogs with flat faces.
- Don't run or cycle with your dog during warm or hot weather.
- Test the heat of the pavement with the back of your hand – if it's too hot for you, it's too hot for your dog and it's best to leave any walks until later in the day.

Keeping your dog cool

- Make sure your dog has constant access to the shade when in and outside of the house.
- Ensure there is always fresh, clean water available, you may also want to pop an icecube in the water on really hot days.
- Prevent sunburn using pet safe sunscreen on their ear tips and nose.
- Brush, clip and groom your dog regularly to keep them free from mats or knots.
- Use frozen toys, paddling pools and water sprinklers to entertain and cool your dogs down.

Remember

Dogs can die in hot environments. Never leave dogs in warm cars, conservatories, caravans or outbuildings – **heat stroke can kill.**

Warning signs of heatstroke in dogs include:

- Heavy panting.
- Excessively drooling.
- Dog appears lethargic, drowsy or uncoordinated.
- Dog is collapsed or vomiting.

For more information on keeping your dogs happy and healthy in summer visit: rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/seasonal/summer/dogs



Tinkers Bridge Residents Association



Yard Sale

On Tinkers Bridge, we have had a busy Summer. On the 14th August, we had our very first Yard Sale. Michelle on Colne, came forward with the excellent idea, inspired by Netherfield's recent successful yard sale. Michelle did a great job organising it, collecting addresses for the map and sharing the event many times, on every local Facebook group. There were stalls selling all sorts of items as well as several residents setting up their small businesses. At 10.30am, it was tables at the ready, as everyone's table went on to our Facebook page. Lots of residents did really well, some didn't sell very much and that is down to placement in their individual roads. It would be fabulous to hold another Yard Sale in the future. It has been suggested that houses further down each road may want to move their sale tables to the grass verges, running along Aldenham (the main road through the estate). Let us know your thoughts on this.

MANY THANKS TO MICHELLE FOR YOUR HARD WORK.



Summer Gala

On Sunday, there was a Summer Gala, held at the meeting place and grassed area. There was a stage with live music the whole afternoon, featuring Tim Heights, an Elvis

Presley act and Tinkers Lane, who performed their original tracks. There was a barbeque and refreshments. The weather wasn't great but we made the best of it. Lots of residents and their families came throughout the day to enjoy free burgers and have a singalong and a boogie. Huge thanks to the W.C.C for supplying the stage and set up and supporting the day with funding. It is very much appreciated.

More thanks must go to John Orr for all his hard work organising the gala. Lastly, a delicious thank you to our chefs on the day, Derek, Terry and Cliff, for making fabulous burgers all day!

Seaside Trip

Our annual seaside trip is taking place on Wednesday 25th August. The coach is fully booked for the day at Bournemouth's gorgeous sandy beach. The weather is looking to be a sunny 22 celsius so let's hope the weather doesn't lie, and you all have a fabulous day. We would like to thank the W.C.C for funding this trip and keeping prices low per seat. This makes it more affordable for all families, and residents to get a day at the seaside, during Summer. Thank you very much for your support.



My View on Beanhill



Councillor Brian Hepburn

VANDALISM & ASSAULT

I would like to start my piece about the ongoing issues with vandalism and the recent spate of assaults on people within the estate. These occurrences are sadly rising, and something must be done. As part of this there will be a public meeting in early Sept (date to be arranged) which will discuss Beanhill issues only. Many believe this is being carried out by the same people. I ask you all to please report these to the police either on the 101 website (<https://www.police.co.uk/101>) or by calling **101** and most importantly asking for a crime number. It's only then that we can have all the information collated and some sort of response initiated.

I also ask all the parents to have a chat with your kids and explain about repercussions of assaulting others or in some cases bullying as well as criminal damage. They may find this is fun if in a group and doing this, but it will eventually come back and bite them hard, it can cause serious consequences later when applying for jobs for instance. Having a criminal record is not a status to be proud of - it's a weight which will only get heavier and can take a long time to get off.

We all live in a society that, in my opinion, is slowly falling apart with these types of happenings and we must do what we can to stop it. Some people are being hurt not just physically but mentally and this will last with them maybe for life. As said, I ask you all to help and play your part on helping teach these people doing these acts that this is not acceptable.

MOVING ON...

Beanhill has been busy this past couple of months coming out of lockdown. The residents committee have been little buzzy bees around the neighbourhood, from litter picking to the recent yard /car port sale which were both well attended. Many garden lawns have also been cut and the Residents Association continue to come up with new events to help us feel good and to help our community.

There are a number of events coming up on the estate including a art exhibition and workshops ran by the Milton Keynes art centre (<https://www.miltonkeynesartscentre.org>) in conjunction with a renowned artist Maddi Nicholson and supported by MKC and also involving WCC and Beanhill Residents Assoc. This will be advertised more on its lead up to the event which will be around the **28th -29th September**. With various workshops on the days and weeks ahead of it all which will be advertised and notified also by posters which will appear on your local notice boards and shops. We will also be looking for volunteers mid Sept to help clear the tin man park area before these events, there will be teams from WCC and hopefully MKC/ Serco to help us do this.

We have various **bus trips** ran by organisers such as June Hughes and Moorlands/Res Assoc. These are off to places such as Great Yarmouth and Ramsgate so look out for them and anymore that will be advertised. We also have other events which again will be advertised on the

UPCOMING

EVENTS



Beanhill Facebook pages. Beanhill Residents Association (BHRA) & Beanhill info and chat page.

You may have noticed the **resurfacing** of the road by doctors. This was great to see having been done faster than planned and thanks to highways for doing so, it's certainly a lot smoother now. And still working on future plans to resurface the car park at shops if I can convince MKC and help find the money.

Other things I should mention is our **landscaping problems**, these are currently being addressed by talks with WCC and MKC but in the meantime we will be targeting priority areas such as footpaths and corners where visibility both for drivers and mobility scooters are being affected. There is a massive issue not just on Beanhill but all over the Woughton parish and we have to be patient. One of the things they have been helping with is gardens some people which are physically or mentally unable to do this have been getting help by volunteers cutting their grass. Another way you can help is the overgrown areas outside your property which overhangs the footpaths. MKC have stated that any bushes/hedges that are within your garden boundary is your responsibility to maintain, so hedges that grow over footpaths effecting safe passage by pedestrians and mobility scooters must be cleared by yourselves. Again, some help may be provided and there is a tool library within WCC that you can draw on to get the tools necessary if needed. The trees within your garden boundary again MKC are stating is your responsibility as these

were gifted to the residents by the developers many years ago. Some of these are now causing concerns it maybe that you can deal with these but firstly double check with MKC or WCC. And these are only the trees that are within your boundary and not outside your garden or around the back. But if you need help then please contact your local housing officer or Residents Assoc or landscaping teams from MKC and WCC.

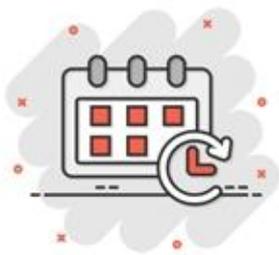
Lastly, I would like to **thank the Residents Association**

for their continued support my fellow councillors and WCC and also places such as Breadline bakery who let me set up my local councillor surgeries on their premises and keep me well fed and hydrated. And I must also mention places such as the Beanhill charity shop and Moorlands Centre for the many ways they support the residents. We have a great community and I for one want to keep it that way, so I ask you all to play your part and do the right thing if its reporting crimes or helping others we are all beans and want to ensure our community stays a safe and happy pace to live.



Thanks to all!

Cllr Brian Hepburn is one of the three councillors for Beanhill. The statements in this article represent his views alone and are not necessarily shared by WCC, its councillors, officers or partners.



Christ The Vine Community Church Upcoming Events

9th October 3-5pm	Christ The Vine 25 year Celebration	Bring and share memories of the lifetime of Christ The Vine Community Church with bring share buffet
10th October 10.45am	Harvest Service	Usual harvest service looking at food bank donations This will be a thanksgiving service for 25 years
4th December 10am-1pm	Christmas Event	Christmas fair with stalls and refreshments and much more
December 19th 6pm	Carol service	Inviting people to join our Carol service
December 24th 4pm	Christingle	Inviting local people to join our Christingle service
December 25th 10am	Christmas Day Service	Everyone welcome to join in

'GAP' closure on Marlborough Street

HAVE YOUR SAY

Milton Keynes Council are proposing to permanently close some of the 'gaps' (the crossing points) on Marlborough Street between Eaglestone and Peartree Bridge. The message from Milton Keynes Council and how to respond is below.

Please do respond by 15th October 2021



We are contacting you to get your comments about our proposal to close off several central reservation gaps on the V8 Marlborough Street (Eaglestone and Peartree Bridge). I've attached a plan showing the proposed changes to the current layout of the V8 between the H7 Chaffron Way and the H8 Standing Way.

WHY GAP CLOSURES

This location has been identified after a history of collisions at various junctions along this section of the V8 Marlborough Street. The aim of the scheme is to provide a safer environment for vehicles travelling on the V8 Marlborough Street, and to provide safer egress and access to the residential areas of Eaglestone and Pear-tree Bridge.

HAVE YOUR SAY

If you have any comments relating to this scheme, please email highway.consultations@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The consultation can be seen on the MKC website – <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/649>

That's what I pay my council tax for...



You may have noticed flowers and shrubs cropping up in various places across the parish, adding splashes of colour which are much needed after the past 18 months. Some have been planted by us, some by residents wanting to beautify Woughton.

These areas have been done only with the agreement of Milton Keynes council (the asset holder), and us (the landscape contractors). If approved, we discuss the areas with the residents as to the best way to improve a bed and log it on our system so it is not inadvertently sprayed or trimmed in the future.

We find it best not to plant fast growing shrubs needing frequent maintenance, or half hardy flowers which will die and need replacing annually, and it's important make sure that invasive plants do not find their way into borders, especially banned non-native varieties.

It is also recommended tall varieties are not planted in front of street signs and notice boards, hiding them. No-



one wants their Amazon order going astray because of some badly placed gladioli which would be ironic if you'd ordered a Morrissey album....

Structures such as raised beds, although nice to start with need maintenance and soon look tired if this is not continued. There is also the question of permissions if near a highway or footpath, and insurance if they should cause injury or damage.

Fences should not be placed around public land without Council permission. If you are not sure which areas are council maintained, call or email our office on Coffee Hall, and we should be able to give you an answer. It may not be the one you want, but we will save you from getting into trouble. With a landscaping issue anyway.

All this is wonderful stuff we are seeing and a great help with the landscaping which in some areas is not suitable now it has had forty or so years to grow. There are one or two places where a cow should never have been swapped for magic beans. We know some people utter the magic words above - (no, not abracadabra, that's a different panto, the ones in the title), and resent volunteering to do what they consider to be a council responsibility. But the fact is, the past eighteen months have seen the finances stretched beyond belief and the priorities are getting people fit, healthy and back to normality. If we can do our little bit to ensure more monies go to these areas by occasional gardening and litter picking it can only be a good thing. And it does make people smile.



[Y]OUR YOUTH SERVICE

We have just finished a great summer holiday across the parish.

It's been so good to see so many of our well known children and young people, as well as meet a fair few new ones. We saw lots of families using our parks and open spaces and had lots of great conversations. We were able to offer our support & guidance for some and signpost some to other services.

It was good to hear what's important to you and your families and we welcome more.

As we look forward to a new programme and a new 'normal' the youth team are really keen to respond to the needs of our young residents. We would like to know: How are they? Are they settling back into school/ life okay? What do they say they need and How could our dedicated team of youth workers best support them?

For more information or to provide us with your valuable feedback please contact us

Call Tash or Gemma on 01908 392945/ 07983 590546, Reception on 01908 395681

email tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

We will be creating a new programme for the autumn and winter to include open access youth clubs, play sessions and targeted sessions to meet specific identified needs.



SENIORS Youth Club @ Netherfield Meeting Place. Mondays 6-7pm

with football on the courts in partnership with APA. We are also hoping to bring an all girls football MK DONS session to Eaglestone courts soon.

Contact Gemma for more information



As part of our Wellbeing Wednesdays, why not come along

Generational Community Garden Project
@No95 in the Youth Centre Garden
Growing vegetables & plants, outside in the fresh air
Individuals all ages & families welcome
For more information contact: 01908 392945

Grow your health Grow a garden!
Follow and Like our Facebook page
@Woughton Youth



Play Rangers will continue to be at

Tin Man Park. Beanhill on
Tuesdays 3.15-4.15pm
*weather permitting



WCC will continue to offer genuine safe spaces to our young LGBTQ+

No95 is fully operational as a Young & Free C Card registration & collection point
A full list of times and additional location will be posted on our website & facebook page



Working alongside our SEND children and young people continues to be a priority, as do healthy lifestyles for all. So look out for our SEND youth club, Food Project & Gym sessions.

Our Saturday DANCE classes are continuing weekly too

Following the huge success of our summer camp, we are so excited to open the doors to PHOENIX ARTS at Eaglestone Activity Centre every Tuesday where every child and young person from our parish can explore, practice and excel at Drama, Singing, Dance, Musical Theatre and more for **FREE**.
For details contact **07395111919** or email phoenixartsmk@aol.com



Participants are asked to fill out a registration form the first time they attend projects so we have emergency contact details in the unlikely event we should need them.

www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

INTRODUCING THE GRAPEVINE WELLBEING HUB



A new project has commenced within the Parish. Meeting on Friday mornings at Christ the Vine Community Church in Jonathans from 10 am until 1 pm, all are welcome.

On offer within the Grapevine Wellbeing Hub is Café Vine serving quality teas and coffee, panini and sandwiches plus cake, a Gardening Group, and a "Friendship Shed" where all manner of crafts can be undertaken; currently, pyrography, marquetry, making pom poms, knitting and crochet are on offer but we are very open to trying new skills. If you have an interest in gardening or just want to ask a few questions, please ask away as we learn from each other.

Why not pop along and find out what we are about, make new friends or reconnect with old ones.

Men in Sheds

started in 2017, working on one day a week.

After working from the Woughton Council offices for a while, we were offered premises in a on Barnfield Drive on Netherfield – this was a rundown 'depot' that needed a lot of work doing to make it suitable.

We put an extension in place, updated the electrics with working sockets and lighting. We created work areas like a cutting room and preparing room, kitchen, toilet area and equipment that we were lacking.

After a lot of hard work, we were able to help vulnerable, disabled and any member to volunteer to learn new woodworking skills and safely use tools. This helps people get back into the community and maybe back into work.

We train our volunteers in a **safe, friendly atmosphere** and provide safety equipment and training. We are a non-profit organisation – all funds raised go back into the group to update tools, buy materials, and reach more people.



Many thanks.

Men in Sheds team

Anyone wishing to join please feel free to pop into see us -
Monday to Thursday from 10 till 4 pm
At the Tinkers Bridge end of Barnfield Drive, Netherfield

WASTE & RECYCLING INFORMATION

**WHAT CAN I PUT IN
MY CLEAR RECYCLING
SACK?**

PAPER, CARD, MILK & JUICE CARTONS, PLASTIC BOTTLES, PLASTIC AND METAL LIDS, PLASTIC POTS, TUBS AND TRAYS, READY MEAL CONTAINERS, DISPOSABLE PLASTIC CUTLERY, FOOD AND DRINKS CANS, PET FOOD CANS, EMPTY AEROSOLS, SWEET AND BISCUIT TINS, CLEANING PRODUCT BOTTLES INCLUDING TRIGGER SPRAYS

IF IN DOUBT - LEAVE IT OUT!

**WHEN CAN I PUT MY
RUBBISH OUT?**

**YOU SHOULD PUT YOUR BAGS, BOXES & BINS
OUT BY 7 AM ON THE DAY OF COLLECTION BUT
NOT BEFORE 5 PM ON THE DAY BEFORE THE
WASTE IS COLLECTED.**

COLLECTION DAY IN OUR AREA IS

WEDNESDAY!

**WHERE SHOULD I PUT MY
WASTE AND RECYCLING?**

**PUT YOUR WASTE AND RECYCLING ON
THE BOUNDARY OF YOUR PROPERTY
CLOSEST TO WHERE THE COLLECTION
VEHICLE PASSES**

**DON'T PILE UP YOUR BAGS WITH YOUR
NEIGHBOURS**

**MAKE SURE ALL WASTE AND RECYCLING
BAGS ARE SECURELY TIED**



Low Cost or **No Cost*** PERFORMING ARTS CLASSES

Pleased to meet you! We are Phoenix Arts CIC— a group which believes in **Arts for All!** We are inclusive (the open arms in our logo aren't just for show—we want you just as you are) and accessible... we keep all experiences low cost or free.



A mixture of singing, dancing, acting, musical theatre, performance-poetry and much, much more. Make friends, learn and develop skills. Community performances, shows, termly awards, regular Phoenix Feasts, song recording, backstage/tech-craft, & Talent Agency membership. All classes held at Eaglestone Activity Centre

Phoenix First Stage	(4 –7 years)	Tuesdays 4.00pm—5.00pm	£3
Phoenix Tykes	(8–12 years)	Tuesdays 5.00pm—8.00pm	£5
Phoenix Teens	(13+ years)	Tuesdays 5.00pm—8.00pm	£5
Adult Drama	(18+ years)	Tuesdays 8.00pm—9.00pm	£3
Little Dancers	(4—8 years)	Saturdays 11.30am-12.15pm	£3
Streets Ahead	(8-18 years)	Saturdays 12.30pm-1.15pm	£3



*All classes are **FREE** for anyone living or educated in the Woughton parish estates of Beanhill, Bleak Hall, Coffee Hall, Eaglestone, Leadenhall, Redmoor, Netherfield, Peartree Bridge and Tinkers Bridge.

COMING SOON:

Pen2Publish & Pen2Perform (Creative & Comedy Writing,) Phoenix Fun Cafe (for pre-schoolers & parents,) Open Choir (for singers of all ages/abilities.)
ACCREDITED ARTS AWARDS/LAMDA EXAMS

**OPENS
SEPTEMBER
7TH!**



In association with our partners, the incredible Woughton Community Council

To book any classes, register your interest for 'coming soon' classes or to find out about what we offer, please **visit our website** below or call **0739511919**

www.phoenixartscic.co.uk

[phoenixartscic](https://www.facebook.com/phoenixartscic)



Summer Events

After 18 months of staying safe, this summer has seen the parish (and the wider city) start to move back towards holding events and seeing people again.

We have seen **Coffee Hall Residents Association** holding their 'Day of Music', **Tinkers Bridge Residents Association** have a mini festival (music and BBQ) and **Eaglestone Residents Association** having a 'Picnic in the Park'. These have all been excellent events – very different, but all full of joy and fun.

The **Summer of Play** saw our Youth Service deliver both open access Play Ranger sessions AND free lunches for children across the parish. Hundreds of meals, dozens of sessions and many, many happy children (and parents!) means that despite the pretty grotty weather, a successful summer season.

We have also seen the Fire Service hold their **Tunnel to Tower** event, supported by councillors and officers from WCC, raising money for the Fire Fighters Charity in memory of the 20th Anniversary of the Twin Towers attack. They ran from West Ashland Hub all the way to the Xscape building, climbing to the top, in full kit. Raising thousands of pounds, this was a brilliant event and huge congratulations to all involved.

MK Pride saw WCC as one of the event sponsors (providing the Youth Hub and Community Stage equipment) and had thousands of attendees enjoying a full day of entertainment over three stages, fun fair rides, a rainbow market – having been postponed last year, this was a fabulous day showcasing the diversity of the city and the support from the community.

Apple Day is planned for 25th September – depending on when this Gazette is delivered, this might be coming up or might be just gone! We hope everyone has enjoyed / will enjoy this!

And coming up, we have **Halloween**, **Diwali** and of course, the **Santa Sleigh** coming up towards Christmas.



Check the website or **Facebook** page for updates, photos and information.

How can Residents Association help with landscaping?

A number of Resident Associations (RA's) have taken steps to try and improve their estates through undertaking some work that falls under the 'landscaping' umbrella – cutting back bushes, trimming shrubs, clearing paths, etc. Most of this is absolutely great and is massively appreciated, but it is important that anything that is done is safe, makes sure that permissions are given and doesn't leave either the Residents Associations or individual residents at risk of any problems.



What you CAN do

Anything that is on your property can be trimmed, cut or managed as you want to. The only exceptions will be if your tenancy agreement or deeds prohibit this (usually if there is a special tree, or it may say that any changes have to be put back to normal if you move out).

If you are working in the public areas, then you need to have the permission of the landowner before doing any work – this is usually Milton Keynes Council, but some land is owned by The Parks Trust and some by others (schools, businesses, private individuals). If you start work without this permission, the landowner COULD take you to court for 'criminal damage', so worth checking before you start.

If the work is on MK Council land, you can check with us at Woughton Community Council, because we have been given 'devolved powers' to manage some of the landscape. This means that the land is still owned by MKC (and we still have to check with them for lots of things), but that we are looking after some bits of it.

**ASK FOR ADVICE
BEFORE DOING
ANYTHING!**



What you CAN'T do

Anything that you do outside your property boundary needs permission. This will rarely be refused, but without it, you are at risk of doing something that could be seen as criminal damage. So, our advice is always ask!

This includes:

- Removing trees, bushes, flowers, shrubs, etc.
- Changing the use of any piece of land (e.g. putting in a flower bed where there is grass)
- Cutting back anything in the 'public realm' (includes cutting grass, trimming bushes, cutting overhanging branches, etc.)
- Building any planters or boxes near the highways (e.g. under road signs) as these are considered a hazard and in the event of an accident, whoever has placed them could be liable. This also includes digging any holes near the roads, even for popping a flower in, so please be careful.
- Any other activity that is happening on public or privately owned land that isn't yours.

You also need to be aware of other rules which might mean that you can't do things at a particular time – there are rules around disturbing nesting birds, use of chemicals, removal of plants without a replacement going in, etc. So again, if you do want to do something, have a conversation with us first.

It is also really important to get advice on what can and can't be planted, if you are going to put new things in. This helps ensure that there is no issue with invasive plants, non native species, things that grow without stopping or that cause other problems.

ASK FOR ADVICE BEFORE DOING ANYTHING!

How can you help?

Despite what it says above, permission is usually decided quickly and will only be refused for a good reason – safety, changes to the landscape that mean more work in future, or biodiversity issues are some of the things that might mean permission is denied.

IF THERE IS SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DO, THE FIRST THING TO DO IS CONTACT US...



– tell us what the issue is, what you want to do, what difference it will make, whether you need any help, etc. If easier, just drop us a message saying 'can I talk to someone about doing some work in X place, please' – that way, we can chat through the situation and see what can / can't be done. We don't need masses of information, just an idea of what is needed.

It may be that you can get started, but you need some help with the cuttings, or you want to help but you don't have the right tools – these are things that we might well be able to help with; we have a tool library where we lend out equipment and our landscape team can arrange to come and remove cuttings once the job is finished.

Activities that you might want to try

There are regular activities that are planned by Resident Associations, with everything from litter picks to fun days, to larger spaces being cleared of weeds to whole estate 'clean up' days, where bushes get trimmed, bollards get painted, litter gets cleared and the whole estate is spruced up. To get involved with these, you simply need to keep an eye out and sign up when the activities are publicised.



You might want to do some things on your own – litter picks are always welcome (we can loan you a picker and hoops and give bags if this is something you'd like to do) and **smaller landscaping or tidying up activities are things such as:**

- Trimming / cutting back bushes or shrubs
- Planting – usually a small area (e.g. around road signs or in a small bed). PLEASE do check with us on the plants you are planning to use – it is a real problem if the wrong plants are put in and road signs are blocked.
- Weeding along paths or alleyways (please note that this is ONLY removal of weeds, and NOT treating with chemicals)
- Removal of detritus under trees / ground clearance of twigs, etc.

We recommend that before you do anything outside your property line, you ask for advice. This might be a quick phone call, might be a visit from one of our team to discuss the situation, might be that we are able to offer help with tools, volunteers, or plants. We all want Woughton to look great and working together, we can make a real difference.

Thank you for your support with this and for all the help that people give. It makes such a difference to the estates and to the parish.



Woughton Community Council
The Local Centre, Garraways,
Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes MK6 5EG

tel: 01908 395681
email: reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

Opening hours:
Mon / Tues / Thurs = 9 - 5, Friday = 9 - 4, Weds = 9 - 12
please check website due to Covid 19 restrictions

* All email addresses are as follows:
firstname.surname@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

EAGLESTONE



Pam Wilson
01908 607264
pam.wilson@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Luke Louis
07434 658225
luke.louis@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Jordan Coventry
07340 308181
jordan.coventry@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Liz Simpkins
07768288993
liz.simpkins@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

COFFEE HALL



Philip Hopcraft
07956 809869
philip.hopcraft@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Donna Fuller
07925 237282
Donna.Fuller@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Lauren Townsend
07898 886744
lauren.townsend@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Nick Scott
01908 606559
Nick.scott@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

LEADENHALL



Yvonne Tomlinson
07786 573027
Yvonne.tomlinson@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

BEANHILL



Amber McQuillan
07495301358
amber.mcquillan@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

BEANHILL



Brian Hepburn
07790 555593
brian.hepburn@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Alan Williamson
01908 234821
Alan.williamson@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



PEARTREE BRIDGE



Sue Smith
01908 476043
sue.smith@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Ruth McMillan
07989 661632
ruth.mcmillan@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

TINKERS BRIDGE



John Orr
07565 92368
john.orr@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

NETHERFIELD



Janette Bobey
07951 117905
janelle.bobey@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Terri Parish
07780 373322
terri.parish@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Elina Apse
07722 466796
elina.apse@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Maggie Ferguson
07703 619574
maggie.ferguson@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk