Woughton Community Council Newsletter

MY WOUGHTON Gazette

WINTER EDITION

DECEMBER 2021





Beanhill



Coffee Hall



Eaglestone



Leadenhall



Netherfield



Peartre Bridge



Tinkers Bridge

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

TEL: 01908 395681 | EMAIL: reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

OPENING HOURS: Mon / Tues / Thurs = 9am - 5pm | Friday = 9am - 4pm Weds = 9am - 12pm





FEELING CRAFTY?

WOUGHTON







TUE & THUR 11.30 UNTIL 2







Coffee Hall Community Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall, MK6 5EG



CONTACT PENNY: 07922507442



Blue Light Walk

to thank NHS and emergency services workers

Friday 25th March 7pm

from the Blue Light Hub (Ashlands) to Milton Keynes Hospital

Bring blue lanterns to show your support!















PUT FOOD AND GARDEN WASTE IN THE GREEN BIN



This helps to

- keep our environment cleaner and greener
- stop black sacks being ripped open
- create compost for farmers





UNSURE WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR RECYCLING?

You can check what you can recycle in Milton Keynes in two ways:

If you have an iPhone – download the app

https://apps.apple.com/gb/app/ horizon-reduce-plastic-waste/ id1523077366

If you have an Android phone – go to the website

https://www.recyclenow.com

On both of these you can enter your postcode to find out what to do with individual items in our area.

Words from the Chair

Hello lovely people of Woughton,

How have we got here!!! Christmas is on its final approach; people are preparing for the big day and the weather has a real nip in the air.

We marked **Armistice Day** with a quiet 2mins, rather than the big children's parade. This was because covid restrictions bought out in the schools meant it was safer for all concerned to cancel this years and make next years even bigger. We remembered the fallen as usual on the Sunday with wreath laying and church service.

Lots of **Halloween events** took place on different estates and the photos I have seen makes me think that the children (and adults) enjoyed them very much.

We have been donated a **piano** which, after it's been tuned, will be incorporated into activities, like the tea dances and cafes.





Halloween 2021

The **community café** continues to thrive, with new volunteers cooking delicious new recipes like Jamaican chicken curry and chicken and bacon pie, and the new college volunteers have started off well too.

Looking forward to our **Santa Sleigh** tour around the estates in December and hopefully we will see you there - look on your estate facebook pages for details.

Short one from me this time, but I do want to be the first to wish all our residents a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, wealthy New Year.





The Community Fridge



waste project runs at Coffee

Hall every Tuesday and Thursday; plus a weekend session on the last Saturday of the month.

Since we reopened the fridge in July 2020 we have distributed over **56,000kg of food** - averaging out at nearly 800kg of food per week. The amount of food donated to the fridge has reduced slightly in recent times. This is partially due to the extra efforts that supermarkets are making to reduce their food waste using in-store initiatives. Despite this reduction we are still able to give out food to over 120 visitors every week.

The Community Café



was set up in 2020 as regular outdoor pop-up event; running alongside the community fridge. In September 2020 the community café moved into the Coffee Hall Meeting Place, and now provides a twice-weekly cooked menu to residents. The café also accommodates a craft group, the Cats Protection League, and other community groups. The café is predominantly staffed by volunteers from the local community and Milton Keynes College.

The Community Larder



was established at Coffee

Hall in July 2020. This is a food membership scheme and is part of a wider network of 24 community larders throughout the UK, run by the food charity,

Sofea. There are currently 5 community larders in Milton Keynes with several more due to come online in the new year. As well as food, members will soon be able to benefit from accessing a range of other benefits including discounts on local businesses and services, utility vouchers etc.



Tinkers Bridge Residents Association

Halloween

In Tinkers Bridge, we held our annual Halloween events during October half term holiday. We had the amazing Halloween Hunt held in the woods. Scarers ran around spooking the children, while the tried their hardest to collect five Halloween items. All the children looked amazing in their scary costumes, and all won a goodie bag. The wicked witch loved teasing the children and the scarers did a fabulous job. Thank you to W.C.C for providing the funds for this event.

We also had a Trick or Treat Map with households putting their addresses forward. This deters children from knocking at doors who aren't participating in Trick or Treat. Its great fun for everyone who joins in.

Christmas

With huge thanks to Milton Keynes Council and Woughton Community Council, the residents of Tinkers Bridge are looking forward to Santa visiting. He will be arriving on his sleigh with his elves on **Saturday**18th **December**, to give out presents to the children.

Pantomime Time

We are excited to be visiting the Deco Theatre in Northampton this year, after missing out due to Covid. They are performing Aladdin and we are sure it will be spectacular. The coach and tickets are being subsidised by MKC – huge thanks to the from the residents of Tinkers Bridge.

Community Litter Pick

We aren't always having fun in Tinkers Bridge. The residents came together on 23rd October to do a little picking morning. With litter pickers and black bags in hand, we waged war on letter throughout the estate. **Thank you to everyone who helped.**

Sarah Mitchell on behalf of T.B.R.A.











Household Flood Plan

How to plan for flooding

Flooding can happen quickly and often when you don't expect it. Preparing a Household Flood Plan in advance of a flood will help you keep calm during a stressful situation. Once you have completed your Household Flood Plan, keep it close to hand and tell everyone in your family where it is. Don't forget to update it when your circumstances change – for example, a change of school, new furniture etc.

Every house is different – so tailor this plan to suit you and your household. It is essential that you sign up for a free Environment Agency Flood Warning. Use this link www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings

Here are a few hints for you when planning for a flood:

- Ensure adults in the household know where and how to turn off gas and electricity at the mains.
- Put important documents in a sealed plastic bag upstairs or on a high shelf. This includes marriage / birth / death certificates, insurance documents, wills, passports, property deeds etc.. BETTER STILL MAKE COPIES AND KEEP THEM IN YOUR EMERGENCY KIT.
- Make sure precious photographs, mementos such as baby pictures, children's drawings and wedding videos etc. are stored upstairs.
- Make a list of valuable household items. Write down a priority list for moving them to safety and note location.
- Keep a collection of blocks and plastic crates, bricks or planks of wood close to hand~ in your shed perhaps. This will help you lift furniture off the ground. Write down where you are keeping them.
- Decide which room to designate for storage you may all have to share one bedroom, make sure there is room!
- Where will you put your car? Many people forget to move cars to higher ground and then find that not only is their home flooded but their car is too!

Before leaving your house try to take photographs of each flooded area showing water levels and items in situ - it will assist you when preparing a claim with your insurance company. SECURE THE HOUSE!

Go through each room methodically and think what you will do and write it down. The following will help you:

Kitchen

- Where could the contents of your lower cupboards go? Move soap powder and stuff in cardboard containers upstairs.
- Put heavier items at the bottom of the pile
- Place vases or buckets under table legs to limit water line damage
- Put plugs in sinks and weigh them down to stop backflow.
- If time allows could you ask a friend / neighbour to pick up and store your frozen goods?

Living Rooms

- Rugs, CDs, books, cushions etc., can all be put upstairs
- Do you have fixed storage cupboards that need emptying?
- Have you disconnected audio / visual equipment and lifted them up or moved them upstairs, along with the cables?
- Fold curtains upwards in half in-situ and tie securely with string
- If you can't carry your sofas upstairs stand them on bricks, crates or blocks and pile your other furniture on top
- What about your paperwork and important files?
- Is your computer or any other electrical equipment unplugged and lifted up high, along with wiring

Actions to take when a trigger warning is reached. This could be when you receive an Environment Agency flood alert or warning, or a Met Office weather warning:



Flood Alert

(Met Office: Yellow warning)

Flooding is possible. Stay vigilant and make early preparations for a potential flood.



Flood Warning

(Met Office: Amber warning)

Flooding is expected. Immediate action is required to protect yourself and your property.



Severe Flood Warning

(Met Office: Red warning)

Severe flooding is expected.
Significant risk to life and
property. Prepare to evacuate
and cooperate with
emergency services.



www.floodtoolkit.com/ox-cam

Beanhill Councillor's Update

We want to wish all Woughton residents a merry Christmas and wish you all the best for next year.

Speaking now about Beanhill we'd like to just say thanks. This year has not been the easiest on estate from **flooding** in parts to sadly the difficulties that some of us have seen around anti-social behaviour, but through it all you have all shown that a community can pull together, the spirit shared and the help given shows to us and others that our estate is a great place to live. We know at times it may not seem like that but take a moment and look around you. The people, the surroundings, the atmosphere.

Beanhill Residents have pulled together when it matters, and we are proud to have served you as a local councillors. We have seen and heard some of your issues and hopefully we have managed to help address them.

This estate has kept going like everyone during covid etc but due to some individuals and some organisation's it's made life that bit easier.

Our extra Christmas thanks goes to the **Residents Association** and to Debbie and her team at Moorlands who have all been there in our time of need and encouraged us all to come out and move on from the devastating effects of covid which sadly is still with us. We also want to thank all the businesses of Beanhill for also playing their part and staying open when possible and adapting their hygiene rules within their premises to help protect us all.

Christmas is a time to relax and enjoy with friends and families and like many, we will be doing what we can to do so. But whilst we all do so and keeping up with the **community spirit** that Beanhill is known for, please take a moment and consider, there are others around us who may not be fortunate enough to have what we have. Sadly we have many residents that don't have families around them at this time of year and if you can, you might to maybe invite them to join you for that extra special dinner. By doing this you might making someone's not just day, but year.

Another shout out to those people that go out every day regardless of what's going on in their lives

to help others. On this estate we see many and we want to wish them a special Christmas wish for what they do, and they may be the only people some residents see but make such a difference.

During this year WCC and MKC have been forging on with works to help improve our communities and although we don't see all they do, we can assure you lots go on in the background. They have made many changes that we do see though including the brilliant job that Ian and his landscaping team from WCC who have transformed the looks in many areas of Beanhill and then there's the work that WCC do with their community fridge and new larder service which is helping many residents and is gaining popularity month on month. The community cafe in Coffee Hall, visited by many to sample some of the great food on offer - this may be the only hot meal that some people get that day and also the welcome you get regardless of who you are and the friendly chats from the volunteers are great.

On Beanhill we also have the places we feel welcome and places we can go to, join in on many things. Be it chatting or clubs, these places are at the **heart of our community** and include the Breadline bakery where Elina and Paul (our resident agony aunt's) are there to give us not just a decent roll and cuppa but someplace to wind down and relax a place to feel at home. Then Moorlands, our community hub. This place has always been there to help residents in good times and bad. They have given so much to our community it's hard to imagine what it would be like they weren't there. The team there and their volunteers do a great job on helping us residents and we are very glad they are there.

Although we can't mention everyone individually, we want to thank you all. From us and our families, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Budget Proposal with this years and next years proposed budget.

The Figures below are the budget for the current year (the reforecast budget) and the proposal for next year. The figures in green have changed, with an explanation for this in the final column.

			2022/22		
EXPENDITURE	20	21/22 reforecast	20	22/23 proposal	
Affiliations	£	5,100.00	£	5,100.00	
Professional Services	£	3,000.00	£	3,000.00	
Audit Fees	£	3,677.00	£	3,677.00	
Capital Loan Repayment	£	26,818.00	£	26,818.00	
Community Events (previously Carnival)	£	5,000.00	£	10,000.00	To reflect more events, we hope
Cllr Ward Initiatives Fund	£	3,800.00	£	3,800.00	
Dog & Litter Bin Costs	£	10,000.00	£	10,000.00	
Events & Hospitality	£	2,000.00	£	2,000.00	
Communities and Environment Fund	£	7,000.00	£		To reflect more grants, we hope
Grant Aid - Res Associations	£	3,000.00	£	3,500.00	
Insurance Inc Vans	£	7,500.00	£	8,250.00	
Meeting Places (Costs)	£	40,000.00	£	40,000.00	
Member Allowances and Expenses	£	15,500.00 8,000.00	£	15,500.00 8,000.00	
Newsletters, Websites and Communications	£	12,100.00	£	THE PROPERTY OF THE PARTY.	Inflation increase
HQ - Building Costs (regulars) Vehicles	£	9,630.00	£	9,630.00	initation increase
Branding (also to include uniforms)	£	3,000.00	£	3,000.00	
Stationary and Amenities and services - HQ	£	9,900.00	£		Inflation increase
I.T (previously included broadband and Members IT)	£	29,000.00	£		Reflecting the increased costs
Organisational Costs Total		204,025.00	£	219,880.00	herieuting the increased costs
Organisational Costs Total	£	204,025.00	£	219,880.00	
Staffing Costs - added 2% accross the board + increments					
Pension costs (20/21 = 22.1%, 21/22 = 23.6%, 22/23 = 25.1%)	£	86,330.12	£	87,625.07	
Employers NI Costs (PAYE)	£	130,727.52	£	137,894.91	
HQ Staffing	£	105,928.16	£	108,046.72	
Youth Staffing	£	62,428.08	£	69,429.36	
Community Staffing (previously incl Advice)	£	80,757.43	£	82,372.57	
Landscape and Environment Staffing (incl Envir)	£	136,377.00	£	139,104.54	
Members Staffing	£		£	2 0	
Meeting Places Staffing	£	34,804.00	£	35,500.08	
Increments & payrise (3%)	£	19,289.77	£	19,799.20	
Staffing Total	£	656,642.07	£	679,772.45	Increase due to pension, Living Wage, etc
Landscape - Building costs	£	6,000.00	£	6,600.00	Increased energy costs, etc
Landscape - Services Budget	£	18,000.00	£	18,000.00	0//
Youth - Building Costs	£	5,000.00	£		Increased energy costs, etc
Youth - Services Budget	£	10,000.00	£	10,000.00	COLUMN TO A CONTROL OF THE COLUMN TO THE COL
Advice - Services Budget	£	500.00	£	500.00	
Environment - Services Budget	£	500.00	£	500.00	
Community Development - Services Budget	£	1,000.00	£	1,000.00	
Service Plan Delivery	£	10,000.00	£	30,000.00	
Emerging priorities	£	10,000.00	£	10,000.00	
Training, Development and Conferences	£	10,000.00	£	10,000.00	
Emergency Contingency			£	20,000.00	
Services Delivery Total	£	71,000.00	£	112,100.00	Increase proposed to reflect increased delivery
EXPENDITURE TOTAL	£	931,667.07	£ 1	,011,752.45	
INCOME					
Bank and Investment Interest	£	50.00	£	50.00	
MKC LTRS Grant / Deprvation grant	£	169,782.00	£	168,937.85	
Hire of Meeting Places	£	40,000.00	£	40,000.00	
Landscape Grant (3% RTI increase)	£	153,097.02	£	160,521.60	
Precept	£	577,811.77	£	631,140.74	Based on 3% increase
Additional Income Generation	£	20,000.00	£	20,000.00	
Income Total	£ 960,740.79		£ 1,020,650.19		
SUPPLIES (PERSON		00.077.77			
SURPLUS / DEFICIT	£	29,073.72	£	8,897.74	

Woughton Futures Priorities for 2022/23

It is that time where we are planning for the coming year, looking at what is wanted and needed, considering our budget and asking you, the residents, what you think.

Woughton Community Council provides a range of services and support to the 14,500 people living within the parish, alongside the hundreds of people who work, attend school and visit the parish every day.

The 'Woughton Futures' survey was launched in October, to start us thinking about what you would like to see. With some excellent ideas proposed, with everything from CCTV to 'rewilding' some natural areas, Christmas decoration making sessions to older people support, there is a whole lot to consider and decide on.

It has been a difficult time for many. The impact of Coronavirus means people have been furloughed, made redundant, found themselves working from home and has meant we haven't been able to visit friends or family, go away, have birthdays, weddings or other celebrations or many other things. We hope that this will get better, and it certainly seems that things are moving in the right direction.

But we still need to think about money. We know that the last couple of years have been tough for many. We have seen the impacts of Covid, with job losses and changes to income. We've seen prices going up in shops – the difficulties with distribution and shortage of lorry drivers means that lots of the basics have got more expensive. The costs of gas and electric have increased, vehicle fuel costs have gone up – lots of stuff costs more now than it did last year.

So the big question is how do we balance this? We know that people value the services we provide – the Community Fridge has redistributed over 50 tonnes of food in the last year, with the Café helping ensure nobody is hungry and the larder helping people get more bang for their buck. Our Youth service continues to support hundreds of young people, despite the challenges

that the past year has brought. Landscaping, environment services, community centres, advice, wellbeing – the council works to make the parish the best it can be.

With the impact of all the other things going on still being felt, we want to know what matters to YOU.

What is important in the parish? What services or support do you want to see? Are there things you want to see change? We want to know.

We can't do everything, and some issues are outside our control (roads, housing, waste collection, schools - these are all Milton Keynes Council - we will try and keep up the pressure but can't make them change these things). What we can do is listen to you, hear what you have to say and try and make a difference.

- Do you want more events? If so, what would be good?
- Do you want more flowers, or some places with meadows rather than just grass?
- Are rubbish bins a priority? Or dog bins? Or both?
- Should we spend additional money on CCTV cameras, or a dog warden, or more grit bins?

Our suggestion is that we keep any increase to an absolute minimum – a rise that is below inflation that is about 10p a week on council tax for the Woughton part (there may be other rises from MK Council and Thames Valley Police and the Fire service). This is much less that we had planned for previously and reflects the need to keep increases as small as possible. One of the questions you will be asked is whether this is too little, about right or too much – you can see the budget sheet that explains where the money goes and the reasons for any increase.

Tell us your thoughts and we can put them all together so we can plan for the future. The full survey is available online at www.surveymonkey.com/r/woughtonfutures, or a shorter version is included within this edition. You can return them to any of our community centres, our youth building, any of our services or at The Hub.









Public Consultation

Aligning policies across Bedfordshire, **Luton and Milton Keynes**

Tell us your views on our proposals to align three policies across BLMK:

- Fertility Services
- Milton Keynes Pharmacy First
- Gluten-Free Food Prescribing





In order to provide equal access to services we need to move to a single policy for each service.

This QR code takes you to our website

Share your views by completing the questionnaire at www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/ PolicyConsultation





Consultation runs to Tuesday 21 December 2021.

Please visit our website www.blmkccg.nhs.uk/PolicyConsultation for further details of the consultation.

If you require a paper copy or alternative formats of the consultation documents please email blmkccg.communications@nhs.net or call 01525 624264.



Winter Watch register - Need a hand?

























People are vulnerable for loads of reasons - age, a physical health issue or disability, anxiety, depression or another mental health need, neuro diversity, such as autism or Aspergers and many other reasons.

At Woughton Community Council, we are eager to make sure that everyone in our community is safe and with winter coming, if you would like to register with us so we can keep an ear / eye out, please do let us know.

We won't be able to do everything, but we usually know someone who can do most things!

T: 01908 395681 E:reception@woughtoncommunitycounci.gov.uk

COFFEE HALL COMMUNIT ARDER



What is a community larder?

A membership programme that provides:

- · Access to utility discounts and social tariffs
- · Local business discounts
- · Little larder club
- · Meet new people in a friendly environment

Food available 48 weeks per

Who can join?

Where does the food come from?

food waste and save money. It is not means tested.

Anyone who wants to prevent A Didcot based charity, providing surplus food, training and opportunities to young people and organisations







des up to 10 items of non-perishables (pasta, tins etc.) per week plus free fruit and vegetables.

A family membership is twice as much

Want free food and a bunch of other benefits?

Sign up today! www.sofea.uk.com





WOUGHTON priorities

CONSULTATION

YOUR SERVICES

> YOUR VIEWS

Woughton Community Council is YOUR local council, offering a range of service and support, including;

Community Fridge Youth Services Woughton Advice Service

Landscaping and Environment Support Wellbeing Room and Support Community Grants

Events and Activities Training and Education Planning and Development Oversight **Democratic Services** Community Centres and loads more.....

Each year, we decide, on our priorities for the coming year and set a budget to help us achieve this. We can only do this with your support.

Your views are essential - please take a few minutes to complete the survey that helps us to ensure we continue to deliver the things that matter most.

The survey is available by clicking the QR code below, going to the website or by completing the questionnaire in the Gazette.



www.survey.com/r/woughtonfutures 01908 395681

reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Please answer the following questions to help us decide how we should deliver services during 2022/2023.

WOUGHTON priorities CONSULTATION

Which of our services do you think are Youth Service (open access clubs, Play Rangers, music / film clubs, specialist services, schools work, etc.)	e important? (please click up to three) Events (Festival, Apple Day, Divali, networking breakfasts, Christmas meals, Remembrance Day, etc)				
Wellbeing and Advice Service (provision of tailored advice and information to local residents, outreach sessions, etc)	Community Support (supporting local groups, schools, older people, people with disabilities, etc)				
Grant Aid (grants to local groups for community benefit)	Community Centres (provision of centres in Coffee Hall, Netherfield, Tinkers Bridge and Eaglestone)				
Environment Team (dog bins and bags, flytipping, abandoned vehicles, rubbish / waste issues, green open spaces, etc)	Landscaping (grass cutting, hedge management, shrubbery, tree crowning, etc)				
Community Fridge and Cafe (reducing food waste, providing access to social and nutritional support, etc)					
Other (please specify)					
What would you like to s	ee us provide in 2022/23?				
More waste bins	More support to young people				
More dog waste bins	More activities for older people				
More events	Christmas lights at local centres				
More grit bins	A market within the parish (weekly, monthly or				
Greater use of CCTV	occasionally)				
	Defibrillators within our community buildings				
Something else (please provide some details)					
We know that it has been a difficult year for changes and increased costs. Given this, we	many, with the impacts of covid, Brexit, job are suggesting a rise of the Woughton part of				
council tax of about 10p a week. This covers	the increased costs to us (gas, electric, etc.)				
but keeps any rise to the absolute minimum	. Do you think that this is:				
Too little About right	Too much				

[Y]OUR YOUTH SERVICE

It's getting cold out there but get yourself wrapped up and get out to play this winter — our projects are on and the Youth team are still out there!

It's been great to see many of our children and young people again (and meet a few new ones) but there's lots of children and young people across the parish who don't know we're back and out & about. Youth Clubs are open with safety measures in place - we're using outdoor spaces as much as we can, and have hot snacks and drinks to keep us all warm, alongside plenty of running about! All our projects and youth workers will have our Priorities Consultation forms with them in the coming weeks and we would love to hear what is important you, as children, young people and parents & carers who live here in Woughton.

We want to know what you think....

...so please take 5 minutes to chat to us and complete a short form. Looking forward to a new year, we are developing the programme ready for the new 'normal' the youth team are really keen to respond to the needs of our young residents. So let us know:

How are they? Are they settling back into school/life okay? What do they say they need and how could our dedicated team 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



SENIORS Youth Club @ Netherfield Meeting Place. Mondays 5-7pm with football on the courts in partnership with APA 5.30pm. We are also hoping to bring an all girls football MK DONS session to Eaglestone courts in the new year.

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUBS ARE BACK!

Arts. Crafts. Fun. Sports. Games. Cookery. Snacks. **Tinkers Bridge Juniors Wednesdays** @ Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place **Eaglestone Juniors Thursdays** @ Eaglestone Activity Centre For ages 8-12yrs. 3.15-4.45pm every week



Play Rangers will continue to be at

Tin Man Park, Beanhill **Tuesdays 3.30-4.30pm**

*weather permitting





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

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



Langland Scouts Help Community!

Scouts that meet in Netherfield held a very productive and topical meeting this week talking about plastic pollution and how this affects the environment. They all learnt something and have a better understanding of how they can help and support this.

After this session they went out in the local community in and around Netherfield to complete a litter pick. They were truly amazed by the amount of litter that is left in our community and had a sense of pride when they had completed the task.

We caught up with Mark (Section Leader) and this is what he had to say -

"The youngsters collected over 300 pieces of litter from the school car park and the pathway towards the canal. We had thanks from local residents as well. Really proud of them"



"Huge well done to all involved in this and it's great to see our Young People making a change in our community".

Halloween in Beanhill

Sunday 31st October saw strange goings on happening at Beanhill Shopping area.

The lovely bakery had some gruesome goings on in a scary grotto which struck fear into everyone who crossed the threshold. They also served up free freshly cooked popcorn for all who dared to enter.

Next door at the community shop saw Paula the pumpkin and Glenda the witch host a free scavenger hunt around the estate. Once the completed forms were returned everyone got a bumper goody bag. Yummy.

Then last but not least, came the haunted mansion at Moorlands Family Centre where there was fun and games to be had. Everyone had the choice of either soup or a hot dog with a cake and a drink and plenty of sweets were given out. There were prizes for best fancy dress and certificates for all who took part. The brilliant disco was done by phantom Phil



This is what can be achieved when groups pull together. So thanks once again to Breadline Bakery. Beanhill community shop, Friends of Moorlands group and Moorlands Family centre and everyone who gave up their time to volunteer.

Review of the Year



2020/21 (the 'council year' which runs from May to April) was one of the strangest and most challenging that we remember. With lockdowns, cancellations, shortages, and a growing season that meant everything was green, it was a year like no other.

The year started in the height of the early stages of the pandemic – having closed the offices in March, by May we were slowly adjusting to the new ways of working. With online meetings, the discovery of 'Zoom', remote working and the balance between keeping everyone safe and ensuring that the essential services of the council were able to continue. We were really lucky that we had done some work around our IT systems early in 2020, which meant officers were able to work remotely without any interruption - a seamless move to home working.

The Community Fridge reopened in July 2020, followed later

in the year with an outdoor café, weekly

visits to the estates over the summer. And we provided over 1800 food parcels in those early stages, where many people were frightened, alone, and isolated. These deliveries were more than simply food they were regular contact, check ins and brought many other benefits. The support of the volunteers, resident associations. councillors, and officers during this time cannot be underestimated.

Landscaping services

continued throughout, with only a few weeks on hold, whilst we worked out how we could deliver safely.







The landscape team continued to transform areas in the parish

Online Meetings

Moving meetings online was both strange and yet really helpful for many – being able to attend the meeting from the comfort of your living room / kitchen / wherever meant that more people than ever were watching our meetings - with the first online meeting taking place on April 20th, 2020, in that first year we held 33 online meetings, with over 7000 views. This has continued into this year, with thousands more views and now 'hybrid' meetings, with people meeting in person, but able to join remotely too. Zoom and 'online' also meant we were able to offer welfare checks, regular 'drop in's', advice sessions and remote youth activities too (including the 'dance sessions', which were broadcast each week with children across the parish joining in from bedrooms, gardens and lounges).

In the Community

As things progressed, we started moving back to a more usual way of working – whilst most large events were cancelled, we re-opened the Community Fridge, distributing over 35 tonnes of food between July and April. This led to a 'café' springing up on the green outside (named 'How've You Bean'), with drinks and cakes and, more importantly, some safe social contact. This was mentioned by many as something of a 'lifesaver' – having been isolated for so long, simply having a cuppa and a biscuit in the sun was a welcome relief.

Staying in touch and updating people was a real challenge – we started a weekly 'Friday Update', with news and info, updated the website to include pages of information



about activities, knowledge and understanding of the situation and places of support. We did weekly visits to each estate over the summer, with the trailer and Play Rangers working together to offer some 'normal' play, alongside councillors and officers from Woughton on hand to help. And we continued to deliver the Gazette each quarter - the first one of 2020 was rewritten almost overnight as the pandemic hit, to try and ensure people knew we were still here and able to help. By the end April, we had 25,000 video views, hundreds of attendees at the outdoor sessions and had delivered the Gazette four times to each house on parish.



We just managed to squeeze in the 'Santa Sleigh' evening before the Christmas lockdown hit this was a wonderful evening where residents associations, community groups, councillors and officers all got involved to decorate a sleigh, 'borrow' Santa for the day and distribute presents to children as the sleigh travelled the estates. Being outdoor, people simply came to the end of their gardens and enjoyed what remains one of the Council Managers favourite memories of the year. 2021 saw the start of the vaccine rollout and enabled us to start planning how we were going to move forward – with a service plan that focused on a 'post covid world', the idea was to get back to holding events, opening the offices, getting back to 'normal'.

Whilst things didn't really work out that way, we were able to begin to reconnect. This included being able to consider re-opening of our community centres, which had laid empty for most of the year.



And throughout all of this, we carried on with all the stuff that just happens – dog waste continued to be collected (and there was more than usual, as people bought new dogs), rubbish, fly tipping, abandoned vehicles and all the other environment bits carried on being reported, logged, and followed up. Youth services delivered where they could, but also offered regular activity packs to be collected, online resources for home schooling and online sessions. The advice service was still there when needed, meeting people online, over the phone, via email and where safe to do so, in person.

All in all, this was a challenging year for everyone and huge thanks are due to everyone involved – the councillors and officers of Woughton, the Resident Associations, volunteers, essential workers – pretty much everyone helped during the year that shall be remembered.

We look forward to a more positive year ahead and certainly the beginning of this Council Year has been better – the offices are open again, services are operating, and community centres are open. Whilst there remain some challenges, we know that Woughton as a parish, will continue to be a place where we look after each other. Thank you all.

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Coffee Hall





Coffee Hall







Beanhill

Redmoor

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Mon / Tues / Thurs -

OPENING HOURS:

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please check website due to

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