

Woughton Community Council Newsletter

MY WOUGHTON Gazette

SPRING EDITION

APRIL 2022



Beanhill



Coffee Hall



Eaglestone



Leadenhall



Netherfield



Peartree
Bridge



Tinkers
Bridge

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Landscaping

The official source of parish news and
information to residents of Woughton

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

please check website due to Covid 19 restrictions



01908477106

MEN IN SHEDS

THE OLD BARN
BARNFIELD DRIVE
NETHERFIELD
MILTON KEYNES




MEN IN SHEDS STARTED UP IN 2017 AND CONTINUED TO WHERE WE ARE NOW. OUR PRICES ARE REASONABLE

We are a community project. We are all volunteers and are looking for more to join us. Men and ladies welcome. We offer a work experience please enquire. We also offer pot testing. Please enquire. Monday to Thursday 10 till 4 pm



DAFS

DRUGS & ALCOHOL FAMILY SUPPORT

Who are DAFS?

DAFS are a small team of volunteers who focus on supporting and empowering families of addicted loved ones without judgement or exclusion.

We work in partnership by sharing lived experiences, offering compassion and understanding.

We aim to **raise awareness, reduce feelings of isolation, help build self-confidence, self esteem and self worth.**

We motivate families to live their lives, laugh again and to have **HOPE** for the future.

WE COMFORT HURTING FAMILIES

Get Support!

Join us on Facebook!
www.facebook.com/groups/MKFamilySupportGroup

Speak to Val and Lynn.
Tel: 07598346244 OR 07874849659
or
Email: dafsmailbox@communityled.org.uk

www.communityled.org.uk

in partnership with
SAMAS
SUPPORT, ADVICE, MENTORING AND ADVOCACY SERVICE

COMMUNITY LED INITIATIVES

Milton Keynes Council

Dementia Friends
An Alzheimer's Society initiative

Two thirds of people with dementia live at home. They and the people who care for them need our help. Becoming a Dementia Friend is the first step to make the communities we live in dementia friendly.

A Dementia Friend is somebody that learns about dementia so they can help their community.

Dementia Friends help by raising awareness and understanding, so that people affected by dementia can continue to live in the way they want, get around their town and carry on with their hobbies and interests.

These free, 45-minute sessions can be held virtually. They are informative and are a useful way to raise awareness and get conversations started.

Please help make your local area dementia friendly!

For more information or to arrange a Dementia Friends session for your neighbours, activity/community group, pub, café, or work mates in Milton Keynes please email: AnnLouise.Taylor@alzheimers.org.uk

Milton Keynes Council

Alzheimer's Society
United Against Dementia

MILTON KEYNES OPEN 2022 ART EXHIBITION

9 - 17 July 11am - 4pm
(11 - 15 July by appointment)

Open for submissions
Deadline 2 May 2022

An exhibition of selected artworks by artists based in Milton Keynes & the surrounding areas

Available to view in person and online
See work by our Westbury Young Artist of the Year

www.westburyartscentre.org.uk

The Woughton Wellbeing and Advice Service is here for the residents of the Woughton Parish to help with any issues or concerns you may have. We aim to help within the advice session or sign post residents on to the relevant agencies who may be better positioned to help.

Contact the Wellbeing and Advice Service on 01908 395681 or email was@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

You can also access sessions at our local Family Centres. - Hedgerows (on Tuesdays) or Moorlands (on Wednesdays)



Words from the Chair

Hello Woughton,

I do hope by the time you read this, the weather has taken a turn for the better. The clocks have gone forward, lighter evenings and warmer breezes are coming and the Blue Light Walk is the big event happening.

Covid restrictions are a distant memory, (I hope). It's been strange winter, little snow, very rainy but at times freezing cold. With lots of things costing more, Energy prices increasing, along with food and petrol. Lots of our residents that were already struggling will find it even harder, living within Budget. **If any of you need help, please ring** the office, and ask to speak to our advice officer Lauren, who will try to assist you, making sure you are getting the benefits you maybe entitled to, Sign posting you to other agencies that can help.



Café has re-opened

and providing lovely refreshments and finally meeting up with friends that you have missed.

Donna (leader of WCC and your Ward Councillor

from MKC) and I are usually at hand both Tuesday and Thursday to assist with problems and if we can't help, we probably know someone who can.

You may have noticed that our **meetings** on Facebook are slightly different. This is to keep our Staff and Councillors safe, keeping attendance at a minimum but still quorate, but Councillors are welcome to join online, and we have spoken to them before the meeting to see what their views are regarding agenda items so we can still represent everyone if a vote is needed, as only the councillors attending can do this.

Easter is on its way, and we have lots of activities coming up in the school holidays. The **Jubilee** weekend will have happened before our next issue and



I'm looking forward to attending the celebrations that are happening on the estates. Please look out on the relevant pages for details and I hope to see you there. You can also find details of some funding for your events in this edition.

To end the Chairs Words this issue, it's a sad and disturbing duty, to extend our condolences to the Family of the 16 yr. old boy, Ahmednur Nuur, who sadly lost his life after being attacked on the borders of Leadenhall and Coffee Hall on Friday 11th Feb. 2 family's lives changed forever that day and so disturbing that it was knife crime once again. We are having fewer police on our Neighbourhood team in Woughton, so I'm asking for residents of Woughton to be our eyes of the community. If you see anything and think *"I'm not reporting it as it takes so long on the phone"*, please report online, as the police can't react if they don't know about something. Please look out for each other.

Till next time.

Sue Smith



MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR



**IF YOU CARE ABOUT
WHERE YOU LIVE AND ARE
PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR
COMMUNITY, WE NEED YOU**

**JOIN US AND MAKE A
LOCAL CHANGE**



MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

WHAT DO LOCAL COUNCILS DO?

Your local council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of your local community. Their work falls into three main categories:

- Delivery of services
- Improve quality of life for residents
- Give communities a democratic voice

BECOMING A LOCAL COUNCILLOR

As a local councillor you can become a voice for your community and make a real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the interests of the communities they serve.

Local councillors have three main responsibilities:

- Decision-making
- Monitoring
- Getting involved locally

GETTING ELECTED

To stand for election to a local council you must:

- Be a UK or Commonwealth citizen; or be a citizen of the Republic of Ireland; or be a citizen of another Member State of the European Union
- Be at least 18 years old
- Be an elector of the local council; or in the past 12 months occupied land or other premises in the area the local council serves (as owner or tenant); or work in the area local council serves (as your principal or only place of work); or live within three miles of the local council boundary.

Here in Woughton, we will be holding a series of information events to answer any questions you may have before the elections in May 2023

If you would like to know more, get in touch at

reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk or ring us on 01908 395681



We need safe and loving homes...

We're looking for **local families** to foster MK children and we can help you every step of the way.

We offer:

- Competitive rates of pay
- Training, supervision and 24/7 support
- Access to Fostering Network and local groups

If you're over 21 and can offer a safe, happy and supportive home to a child or young person, and have a spare bedroom, please get in touch.

Call our experienced team on **08000 356 671**

or visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/fostering

Annual Meetings - Tuesday 3rd May 2022

The Annual Meeting of the Parish will take place at 6.00pm on Tuesday 3rd May 2022, taking place in the Chambers, Woughton Community Council.

The Council Hub, Local Centre, Coffee Hall.
MK6 5EG.

This is the meeting where electors can ask questions of the council, councillors and senior officers. You would be very welcome to attend or watch online via the usual channels.

This will be followed at 6.30pm by the Annual Meeting of the Council.



Medical Detection Dogs

Some of the world's most powerful bio sensors, with fluffy coats and waggy tails, live on your doorstep and need homes while they undergo their training. If you're interested in giving them board, lodgings and cuddles while they learn how to save lives, read on...

The world leading charity, Medical Detection Dogs, trains dogs to save lives using their amazing sense of smell and is based in Milton Keynes.

Bio Detection Dogs learn the odour of diseases like cancer, Parkinson's and malaria in the charity's training centre and this work will lead to early, less invasive diagnosis of some of the world's biggest killers.

Medical Alert Assistance Dogs work with individuals with complex health conditions such as Type 1 diabetes, POTS and severe allergies, giving them a 5-10 minute warning that a medical crisis is about to happen. Clients have no awareness that their condition is about to take hold, but the dogs detect a change in their odour. Their hairy lifesavers prevent injury, emergency services callouts and hospital admissions and give them back their independence and confidence.

Most recently, the charity has been training dogs to detect COVID-19 as a wet-nosed line of defence against the virus. The first phase of the project proved that dogs can detect the odour with an accuracy of up to 94% - significantly higher than the other immediate testing method, the LFT. The dogs are now screening people in real world settings such as workplaces, conferences and events as part of their training and the project is at it's final validation stage. It only takes a second and there is no need for an unpleasant swab. We know which we'd prefer...

The charity is appealing to its nearby community for volunteer socialisers to look after the young



dogs while they are trained. Claire Baker, Volunteer Manager would love to hear from you if you would like to give one of their beautiful puppies or younger dogs a caring and loving home.

She says: *"The charity is proud to have a no kennel policy and it is very important to us that our dogs live in a loving home environment before being partnered with a client or work as a Bio Detection dog. Without the help of our wonderful volunteer puppy and dog socialisers and fosterers we wouldn't be able to train our life-saving dogs. This unique role involves attending regular puppy classes, following positive dog training methods and taking the dog to visit lots of different environments. You will need to be at home most of the day and be able to travel to our Centre in Great Horwood on a regular basis".*

If you might be interested in hearing more please contact

Claire Baker on 01296 655 888
or email

volunteering@medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk

A Year in the life of a Community Fridge



8,045 visits to the fridge

That's a visit every three minutes
during our opening hours.

Many of you will know about the **Community Fridge** – a waste reduction project that has grown and grown into so much more. During 2021, we kept a note of loads of different things to give you an idea of just how much the fridge does.

The fridge started as an Environment Team project, led by Lorraine Essam and others, building upon some of the work that was in place helping feed young people in our youth clubs. Working with Helen from the Wolverton Fridge, contact was made with food suppliers, supermarkets and others and donations were collected almost every day.

As the fridge network in Milton Keynes grew, with Netherfield starting at the church on Broadlands and then others in Conniburrow, Great Linford and more recently, Westcroft, funding was found to launch '**Food Connect**' – electric bikes and vans that do all the food collecting now. This took a huge amount of pressure off people here at Woughton as well as providing a clean and green approach.



90 tonnes

Of carbon emissions saved by
ensuring food isn't wasted

As 2021 started, things were all a bit strange, with some restrictions remaining but the fridge still open each week. We saw some weeks where a tonne of food would come in and other weeks with slightly less, but there was a steady supply – lots of bread, lots of veg and some strange bits and bobs that arrived. One of the brilliant things about the fridge is that you never really know what will come in!

We also worked to increase our **volunteer numbers**, working with a core group of people, supplemented by students from MK College and officers from WCC meaning that



there were plenty of people around to support the fridge (and then later, the café and the larder).

Volunteering is one of those things that brings many benefits; it helps us deliver more, but also has a massive impact upon people who volunteer. This has meant that people from local communities have become more involved in the delivery of this project, developed new skills and confidence and, for some, moved onto paid employment or new opportunities.

Another unseen benefit is that of carbon savings. Each tonne of food that is saved through the fridge is equivalent to about 4 tonnes of carbon emissions in the growing, production, etc. If that food goes to waste, not only is the food gone, but that carbon contributes to the changes we see in our climate, our air quality, and the future.

The fridge led to the Community Café too – in 2020, we had seen the success of offering something outdoors during the summer



and we did this again during 2021. As restrictions were relaxed and the weather got colder, we moved the café into the community centre, but continued to see people come for a cuppa, a meal, a cake or just a catch up and a chat. This has now become 'Souper Tuesdays', quick snack Wednesdays and a hot lunch on Thursdays, with plans to increase when we can.



A huge thank you needs to go to our volunteers, councillors, officers, Food Connect riders (thanks Ritchie!), Hubbub and SOFEA who created and support

the fridge network, Abba Father and other groups who contribute to the fridge and many others who have helped make a difference. With similar results from the excellent fridge in Netherfield too, plus the new Community Larders, it is great to see Woughton leading the way in addressing environmental impacts from food waste.

Open for more than 400 hours
over 114 sessions

One visitor every three minutes –
over 8,000 visits in total

More than 40 tonnes of food
redistributed

90 tonnes of carbon emissions saved

2 tonnes of cakes and pastries
(that's 30,000 doughnuts)

19 tonnes of fruit and veg (that's
almost 130,000 apples, or enough for
everyone in the parish to 10 a year)

8 tonnes of bread, enough for a loaf
for every house in the parish

4 tonnes of meat and dairy
(that's 67,000 hens eggs).

FREE!
For More Info:
07739840717

All People Active MEN GET FIT!

**For Men of all ages
and levels of
fitness!**
GET UP
GET OUT
GET ACTIVE!

MONDAYS: 5pm – 6pm @ Hedgerows, Netherfield



@AllPeopleActive www.allpeopleactive.com

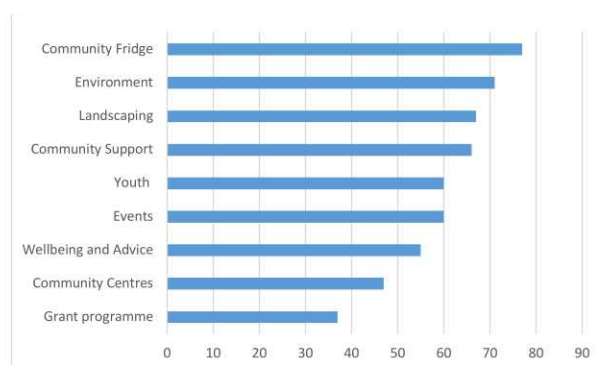
Funded by  **milton keynes council**

Consultation Feedback What did you have to say?

As many of you will know, we run an annual consultation to gather ideas and views from people across the parish. This helps make sure that we can deliver services and support that helps, checks that the stuff we are doing is still valued and to look for ideas of what new things we might want to consider.

The consultation ran for a longer period last year meaning we had more responses and feedback, including feedback from the annual budget survey. The findings of the survey were then used to inform the councillors of views, to consider the service plan for the coming year and to look at the budget needed for these.

The first question we asked was around what we currently do - **'Of our current services, which do you think are important?'**

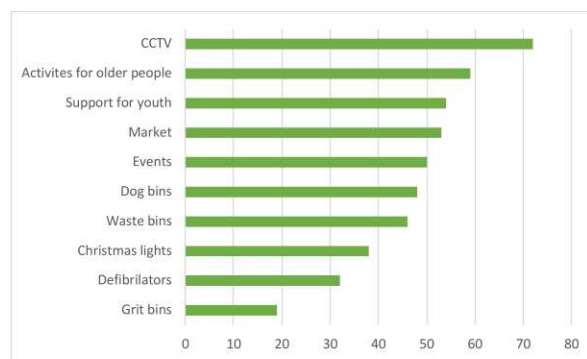


There was good support for most things, but the bits that mattered most were **Community Fridge**, **Environment** and **Landscaping** – these are things that many people access or benefit from and are similar to the feedback from previous years.

Grants and community centres scored lower – over the past couple of years, both these parts of the council have been used less than usual, so it will be interesting to see how this might change over the next year.

- The grants pot has been reduced for 2022 / 23, but will be reviewed again at the end of 2023.
- A review of community centres is taking place with a plan to evaluate their value to the community.

The next question looked at **what people would like to see us do that is new**. The list offered was based on feedback over the past year, ideas that had been discussed, things that had been seen elsewhere and chats between councillors, residents and officers. The consultation responses were:



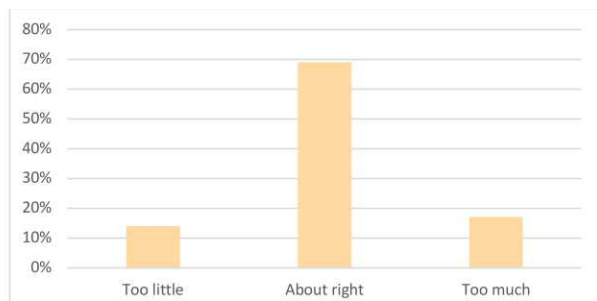
CCTV has been discussed for a few years and we have been liaising with the enforcement teams around how best to do this. The activities for older / younger people were expected, but the support for a local market was a surprise (a pleasant one, but a surprise!). Other things were more of the same – more dog bins, grit bins and waste bins, with some lower-level support for lights at local centres at Christmas and defibrillators.

- As the highest scoring subject, CCTV provision is something that we will continue to progress with MKC and TVP.
- We have already increased the number of waste bins, with 4 new bins installed across the parish, replacement dog bins agreed and a review of placement (and an online map showing where they are). There has been a small increase in the budget for dog bins to reflect the feedback.
- We will investigate the options of a market and do a 'taster' to see if it can work – watch this space.

The final question was around the **proposed budget for 2022/23**. This is always a difficult one, as we know that things have been pretty tough over the past few years. As a result, the council made a decision to try and keep the budget as tight as possible and proposed a small increase of 3% on the bit of council tax that comes to us. This increase was about 10p a week per household

Consultation Feedback What did you have to say?

and most people who responded to the consultation said that this was 'too little' or 'about right' – over 80% of respondents.



- The precept rise was agreed by Full Council in January 2022
- The Service Plan and budget for the 2022/23 council year were also agreed at the Full Council meeting

There were many other comments regarding the consultation too, some of which were about things that WCC cannot control (roads, schools, fly-tipping) and some really positive ideas around community events and activities, environmental concerns and changes to the estates to make them more 'user friendly' for all residents – you can see some of these, and the WCC response below.

Rewilding. There are areas of grass that could be rewilded with native species of perennials, shrubs and trees. Grass could form a border round the area if necessary - this would look attractive, and there would be much less green to mow.

- We have been working on a parish wide plan to encourage areas to 'rewild' and will be working with resident groups to increase the diversity of planting too.



More **benches** between estates and shops, I would like to be able to walk to the shops but cannot walk that far.

- We will work with MKC to see if there are places where benches would be suitable and installing where we can. If you know of somewhere that would benefit from a bench, let us know and we can check it out.

An **estate wide event** where people put stuff they don't want in their front yard, for people to take for free. Especially stuff for children - books, toys, clothes. There is such a high turnover of kids' stuff. We've got to do something about consumerism and waste.



- We have seen these events take place over the past year on some estates and they have been really positive. If you would like to try and arrange one on YOUR estate, get in touch with your residents association or WCC and we can see how we can help.

Information sent out about public meetings of WCC.

- All our meetings are public, and we will publish an annual calendar of meetings in our summer Gazette and on the website. We also put notices on all our notice boards and our social media, as well as broadcasting all our public meetings.

If you would like to be informed via email of our meetings, we can add you to a mailing list – just get in touch.

We welcome feedback throughout the year and would encourage you all to share ideas, comments or constructive criticism with us – we are YOUR council and are here to enable and support residents to make Woughton the best it can be. You can get in touch via email, phone, in writing or by speaking to your councillors.





MILTON KEYNES COMMUNITY FRIDGES

A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food

Milton Keynes has the highest density of community fridges in the country. They work together to maximise the redistribution of good surplus food to the residents of Milton Keynes.

Want to visit other fridges?

Coffee Hall

Woughton Community Council Hub,
The Local Centre, Garraways, MK6 5EG

Tuesday 10:00-14:00

Thursday 10:00-14:00

Saturday: 10:00-12:00

(last Saturday of the month)

Great Linford

The Little 'Bookshop' Café,
2a St Leger Court, MK14 5HA

Monday 11:00-12:30

Friday 11:00-12:30

(Open bank holidays)

Conniburrow

Big Local Community Hub, Bramble Ave,
MK14 7AP

Wednesday 12:30-14:30

Friday 12:30-14:30

Saturday 12:30-14:30

Netherfield

Grand Union Vineyard Church, Broadlands,
MK6 4YP

Tuesday 17:00-19:00

Thursday 11:00-13:00

Wolverton

The Old Bath House and Community Centre,
205 Stratford Road, MK125RL

Wednesday 18:00-19:30

Saturday 12:00-13:30

Westcroft (new location December 2021)

Westcoft Pavillion, Cranborne Avenue,
MK4 4ET

Tuesday 14:00-16:00

*These opening times are subject to changes,
please go to the website for up to date
information and addresses.*

**Thank you for supporting
our mission to save good
food from being wasted!**

Please remember to:

- Be kind
- Respect 2 metres social distancing
- Wear a face covering
- Select a maximum of 10 items



Scan for the Milton
Keynes Community
Fridge website



MKCommunityFridge



www.mkcommunityfridge.org



www.foodconnect.io



mkcommunityfridge@gmail.com

Cleaner Environment



Together with Milton Keynes Council we continue to do what we can to make our Parish a cleaner, safer environment for us all, with 2 Fixed Penalty Notices issued on our Parish by the Enforcement team in the last few weeks following reports we have put through and more cases being investigated.

Milton Keynes Council have also employed a new team, the WISE (**Waste Investigations Support & Enforcement**) environmental crime officers who deal with lower level issues around the Borough. They have been active around Woughton, particularly the local centres, where they have also issued Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) for things like dropped litter and cigarette butts. PLEASE use one of the multi-purpose bins for your litter or take it home and dispose of it with your household waste.

Unfortunately we still have a problem with fly tipping and littering but we are working hard to advise and educate residents to '**Do the Right Thing**' with their waste and recycling.

If you are still unsure what to put in which bag, bin or box please ask for one of the MKC leaflets which explains it all or speak to a member of our Environment team who will be happy to tell you the best way to deal with your rubbish.



What goes where?

Only these items for recycling...

- Mixed paper, magazines and envelopes
- Cardboard
- Food and drink cartons
- Drinks cans
- Food tins
- Foil trays
- Empty aerosol spray cans
- Plastic bottles and lids
- Plastic food trays and pots

BLUE BOX

Other items for recycling...

- Glass bottles and jars (no lids)

BLACK SACKS

Other rubbish including...

- Disposable coffee cups
- Wet wipes
- Plastic film and cling film
- All tissues and kitchen towel
- Plastic carrier bags
- Broken glass (wrapped up)
- Dirty nappies and sanitary products
- Pet food pouches
- Clothes, bedding and other textiles
- Pet poo and bedding
- Crisp, sweet & biscuit wrappers

GREEN BIN

BATTERIES

- Household batteries
- Button batteries
- Laptop batteries
- Mobile phone batteries

Battery Bag

[Y]OUR YOUTH SERVICE

It's definitely getting a little brighter and lighter out there after school. Spring is here and the youth team are out across the parish every week. We have relaunched some of our much loved projects and added a couple of new things to the programme, so come along and join us!

JUNIOR YOUTH CLUBS ARE BACK!

**Arts. Crafts. Fun. Sports. Games. Cookery.
Plus Healthy 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



NEW to the Youth Centre @No95

Thursdays 3.30-5pm

A safe space facilitated by WCC youth workers together with the YIS team



SENIORS Youth Club @ Netherfield Meeting Place. Mondays 5-7pm
with football on the courts in partnership with APA 5.30pm.



GIRLS PL KICKS football with the MK DONS

@ Eaglestone courts in every Thursday 4-5pm



Generational Community Gardening



@No95 in the Youth Centre Garden.
For families & individuals of all ages
3.30-4.30pm
Every Wednesday



Play Rangers will continue to be at

Tin Man Park. Beanhill
Tuesdays



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**



For more information call Tash or Gemma on 01908 392945/ 07983 590546, Reception on 01908 395681 or email tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk
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

Eaglestone Councillor's Update



Over the past year other than attending meetings and talking to residents what have I been up to. Part of my role is to advocate for residents when they have problems and help them to contact the appropriate services or sign post them onto people who can help resolve their problems. Things have been quiet over the last few months, which says to me, Eaglestone residents don't have any issues. I suspect this is not the case, however I cannot help if I don't know there is a problem. There are a number of ways I can be contacted. Email me on liz.simpkins@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk, **Facebook via Eaglestone Guardians** or **Eaglestone Residents Association** or mobile 07768 288 993. If you cannot use any of these, you can leave me a message with Woughton Community Council Hub on Coffee Hall.



Parking issue's on Eaglestone was the reason I became a councillor, especially the hospital parking on Eaglestone. Since moving I have had to use the hospital car park on numerous occasions and have been astonished that every time I have been there, the second level of the multi storey has been empty or practically empty. I believe this may indicate that hospital visitors are using Eaglestone to save money and not as previously thought because there is no empty spaces to park. Frustratingly, parking continues to be a long running issue as it seems impossible to put in place solutions which all will agree on. This issue will not be resolved until more residents express their views to those who are in a position to influence changes. i.e. Local Counsellors, Residents Association.

As I no longer live on Eaglestone, I have been able to compare services between my Local Authority and Milton Keynes Council. Rubbish collection is always an issue and I am now in an area where wheelie bins are used and the difference

is surprising. When I have been in Eaglestone on bin day, there is so much rubbish on the road due to animals ripping black sacks. Although wheelie bins are not always practical, especially if you don't have space for them, I do believe, they keep areas cleaner. Eaglestone Guardians have been making a valuable and positive contribution to keeping Eaglestone a cleaner and tidy place. It is good to see how their community efforts have made such a difference.

During the last few years, Coffee Hall, Netherfield, and Tinkers Bridge have started **community fridges** and **community larders**. I have wondered if this is something Eaglestone would want or as we can all access these fridges and larders do we need another one. The Woughton Community Council weekly updates on Facebook have highlighted how successful these have been and I know several people on Eaglestone who go there regularly. I have on several occasions popped into the community fridge, to help stop food waste and have a hot drink from the community café, which is also a great opportunity to meet people.

The Eaglestone Guardians and **Eaglestone Residents Association** have become a prominent part of the Eaglestone community. They have been working with great effort and energy to make Eaglestone a better place to live, but like all voluntary groups they need your support to achieve more.

Liz Simpkins



PLATINUM JUBILEE - FUNDING AVAILABLE

Contact us at reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk



Funding and support available to:

Resident Associations or other estate based groups – up to £500

Streets or smaller areas – up to £50 (potential for up to £100 for larger streets / events)

Use of Community Centres / support with use of open spaces

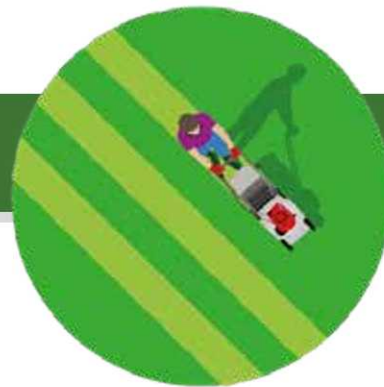
Support with road closures/ event planning / etc.

Also available on a 'first come' basis is equipment including:

- Tables
- Chairs
- Gazebos
- Etc...



Landscaping Update



As we start the 'summer season', with the mowers being serviced and the grass starting to get long again, we thought that a quick update and reminder about how the landscaping team help keep Woughton green, clean and safe.

Over the winter, the team has been out with the tractor and chipper, cutting back, improving sight lines, trimming the fast-growing bushes (whoever planted thorny bushes that grow 6 feet a year was clearly not a landscaper!) and generally doing the stuff that is harder to do over the summer months. This is partly because during bird nesting season, nobody is allowed to disturb the birds – the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and the European Habitats Directive 1992/Nesting Birds directive both mean that if we were to breach this rule, unlimited fines and six months in prison are the maximum penalties. So we try and avoid that – whilst we can cut hedges, we can only do so if we are sure that there aren't any birds. This means watching the hedge for visits over a period, checking for noise, visual checks for nests and so on.

Our route around the parish is usually:

Eglestone - Leadenhall - Coffee Hall - Bleak Hall - Redmoor - Beanhill - Netherfield - Tinkers Bridge - Peartree Bridge, but this can change depending on needs. We aim to cut the grass between 10 – 13 times each year, keeping it to a reasonable level. On unusual years, this can be higher (when things are growing really fast) or lower (such as when it is really hot and the grass stops growing).

As well as the day to-day stuff, we also respond to emergencies or urgent action needed issues. Already this year we have been involved in the removal of trees that came down in storms and improvements to sight lines in parts of the parish



Aldenham Roundabout - Tinkers Bridge
Before and After.

As always, we will be working to deliver a landscaping service that balances looking tidy with environmentally responsible – some areas will be left to 'meadow', others will be allowed to blossom, and some cut back to promote safe walking routes. If you have concerns, queries or questions, please do get in touch and we will do what we can – it isn't always us (sometimes MK Council, sometimes Parks Trust, sometimes private owners), but we can usually help in some way.

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please check website due to
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Coffee Hall



Beanhill



Redmoor



Netherfield



Tinkers Bridge



Eaglestone



Peartree Bridge



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