

# MY WOUGHTON GAZETTE



**December 2019**

**Winter Edition**



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# WANT SOMEONE HELD TO ACCOUNT?

## THEN WHY NOT YOU?

Reporting problems to Milton Keynes Council - **Can you do it?**

**Yes you can! And MUCH MUCH more. Open an account today.**



If you have any issues with potholes, fly tipping, littering, street lighting, abandoned vehicles, park equipment, or you want to order a blue box, recycling bags or green wheelie bin, book a bulky waste collection, check your council tenancy account, enrol for evening classes, lodge or view a planning application – **you can do it all online!**

### Simply log into the website

<https://mycouncil.milton-keynes.gov.uk/> and start the process of registering an account. Once this is done, and you have set up a password, you can do all of the above with a few clicks. You will get a reference number so you can track the history of your requests, and you will be notified of the outcome of any problems reported.



Unless you report them, Milton Keynes Council may not necessarily know about a problem. If we all report them – they **WILL** know.

**Go on, give it a go – you know you want to...**



## Want to learn to sing?

**Singing is hugely therapeutic, its good for your brain and your health. Singing with others is a great way to try singing without the fear of doing it solo. Above all it's great fun!**

**We offered a 6wk Learn to sing course and it so went well and the people who attended had such a great time that they are the founding members of our new choir.**

**We meet every Tuesdays 6.30-8pm  
@ The Moorlands Centre. Dodkin. Beanhill.**

**Open to everyone from 8yrs up. No pressure, no previous skill needed. Our friendly Choir leader Darren is a Woughton resident volunteering to share his love of singing, will soon put you at ease. Come with your families, your friends or come alone and make some new friends.**

**Join this choir as it gets going and grows in confidence as Woughton's Community Choir grows and goes on to do great things!**

**For info call the office:01908 395681 or centre 01908 679819**





# Words from the Leader

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL



**Well, it certainly has been a busy couple of months since I last had the opportunity to catch up with you.**

*Firstly, you may remember that in the last issue I shared with you that we had made the shortlist for the NALC star council of the year award..... **We won!!***

You may not make use of all of the projects or services that are delivered here in Woughton on a personal level, but the range and innovative things that we deliver was recognised as offering the best service that we can for our communities and I am very proud of that. Of course, there are so many folk to thank for this achievement as it has been built over many years but I would like to thank all of our past and present councillors and staff, and equally as importantly, you, our residents. It is vital that you keep telling us what it is you need and want for us to keep providing the services that mean the most to you.

There has been Diwali, Halloween, and firework night and all of the events that were organised alongside them, I know that Residents Associations did things around Halloween especially, well attended children's discos and I even heard of a special performance taking place on Netherfield! There were also the two Remembrance services that took place at the Woughton War memorial.

As well as the usual Sunday service, there was the children's service on Armistice day, both were very well attended. I was especially pleased to see residents and Resident Associations from across the parish joining them. All of these events were organised by community groups, all of whom work quietly to make Woughton the best it can be, well done all of you!

The other thing that occupies a lot of thought at this time of year is the coming years budget. There is a piece in this issue, explaining the options, and a survey asking you what you would like us to do in the coming year. It is so important that you read it carefully and let us know your thoughts. I know that budgets have been stretched at MKC and we do our best to ease that here in Woughton but we can only do

that with your input so please take 5 minutes to take part.

Finally, Christmas is fast approaching, I have already been to some fantastic events and if you haven't managed to yet I would encourage you to go out and support your local festivities, who doesn't love a bit of sparkle and glitter!!

For now, I hope that you and your loved ones have a fantastic Christmas and a peaceful new year

See you in 2020

**Donna Fuller**  
LEADER



# Words from the Chair

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL



*Wow, that was a hell of a summer..... We are still in Europe; we are heading for a General Election and Christmas is fast approaching. Oh, and yes .... We WON the Star Council of the year at the National Association of Local Council conference.*

I would like to thank the staff for delivery of all the projects and services that us Councillors put onto the service plan, providing events and services that residents are accessing at such a rate.

We now are coming into a very important time of the Council year where we consult with you, our residents regarding what services are important to you and the budget with which we use to provide those services, so please look out for the different modes of communication of these questionnaires.

Our funding avenues from Milton Keynes Council are reducing along side the reduction of services from them, which makes it hard to match our budget to the demand, so you will see options which you can send in your thoughts.

Thank you to Coffee Hall Resident Association, Royal British Legion (Jubilee Branch) and Christ the Vine Church for the spectacular Children's Remembrance service on the 11th November. Even more children than last year I believe.

Lots of our resident associations and community groups are holding Christmas fayres and events so please go along and support them.

Some of you may not have seen that Milton Keynes Council have agreed to build a new library in Woughton in memory of Kevin Wilson and we look forward to working with them to get this exciting new amenity into the Parish.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish a very Merry Christmas and a Happy new year to my Fellow Councillors, all our fabulous officers, our partners and of course all of our wonderful residents.

*See you in the spring!*

Take care, **Sue Smith** CHAIR





## [Y]OUR YOUTH SERVICE

# DANCE SATURDAYS

## FREE CLASSES WITH A SPECIALIST TEACHER

**LITTLE DANCERS:** EAGLESTONE ACTIVITY CENTRE @ 12-12:45  
\* EXPLORE BALLET, TAP & CONTEMPORARY STYLES

**STREETS OF WOUGHTON:** NETHERFIELD MEETING PLACE @ 1:15-2.00  
\*\* LEARN STREET, HIP-HOP & CONTEMPORARY STYLES

FOR \*5-8YR & \*\*8-16YR OLDS (LIMITED SPACES)





Creating Connections, Supporting Communities  
Woughton Community Council

For further information contact Tash on 01908 392945/ 07983 590546

### Play Rangers

(Until After February Half term)

We are continuing to deliver our Monday Play Rangers session through the winter

**Mondays 3.30-4.30pm**

**@ No 95 in our Bank Garden**

Woughton Community Council



### On-Going Weekly Provision

Mondays:	<b>Netherfield Junior Youth Club</b> - 9-12yrs 5.30-6.30pm <b>Netherfield Senior Youth Club/ Outreach</b> - 13yrs+ 6.30-7.30pm
Tuesdays:	<b>Food Project</b> - (10yrs+) Taking referrals Winter programmes now! <b>Coffee Hall Senior Youth Club drop-in</b> 12yrs+ @ No95 5.15-6.30pm <b>Community Choir</b> — 8-108yrs! 6.30-8.00pm @ The Moorlands Centre
Wednesdays:	<b>Sexual Health &amp; Advice Drop in</b> - at Chaffron Way Campus 12-1.15pm <b>Tinkers Bridge Juniors</b> 8-12yrs 4.15-5.45pm <b>SEN Youth Club @No95 Professional referrals only</b> <b>Q Youth (LGBTQ+ youth group)</b> 13-17yrs. 6-8pm @ No95
Thursdays:	<b>Eaglestone Juniors</b> Yrs 5,6 & 7 4.30-6pm @ Falconhurst school. <b>Young Parents Group</b> 12.30-2.30pm at Moorlands <b>Music Café</b> - 13yrs+ Free rehearsal space for local Youth Bands & Musicians with Youth workers & Musician support. 6.00-8.00pm @ Chaffron Way Campus.
Saturdays:	<b>Little Dancers: Ballet, Tap &amp; Contemporary</b> 5-8yr olds 12.00-12.45pm @ Eaglestone Activity Centre. <b>Street Dance</b> 8yrs+ 1.15-2.00pm @ Netherfield meeting Place <b>Q Juniors (LGBTQ+ Junior youth group)</b> 8-12yrs. 2.30-4pm @ No95

**Please contact; Tash Darling t: 01908 392945/ 07853 590546**  
**e: [tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)**



# Operation Dark Night...

## launched to target winter burglaries – Milton Keynes



Thames Valley Police in Milton Keynes started its winter burglary operation on to combat dwelling burglaries and target offenders during the darker winter months.

**Operation Darknight** has run five times in recent years in Milton Keynes and has helped to significantly reduce the numbers of dwelling burglaries over the winter period.

During the operation the Milton Keynes Neighbourhood teams will be running crime prevention activities on estates offering general crime prevention advice.

**Residents are advised that, with the clocks having gone back, now is an important time to check that your home is not vulnerable to burglary.**

If you have any concerns, or just want some crime prevention advice and information, feel free to approach your local neighbourhood officers who will be able to assist you.

*We would urge residents to get in touch with any information they may have in relation to criminal activity occurring in their neighbourhood or to report it to crime stoppers on*

**0800 555 111.**

**RESIDENTS CAN FOLLOW THE CRIME PREVENTION TIPS BELOW:**

- keep front and back doors locked, even when you're at home
- install a burglar alarm with a visible alarm box
- fit a door chain and spyhole for extra security
- keep all valuables and keys out of sight and out of reach of doors and windows
- store high value items in a hidden safe
- mark your belongings and register them for free with Immobilise

- fit energy efficient security lighting
- don't leave spare keys in obvious places such as under doormats or plant pots
- keep items that could be used to break into your property such as ladders, tools and wheelie bins stored safely away
- lock side gates to prevent easy access to the rear of the property
- check fencing regularly to keep it in good repair
- use pea shingle on driveways or under windows, as it crunches loudly when stepped on
- trim overgrown hedges and plants to remove hiding places and improve surveillance
- use a timer switch to make your house look occupied, even when it isn't
- consider joining or forming a Neighbourhood Watch scheme

Residents in Milton Keynes can obtain localised information by following the Milton Keynes Twitter account **@TVP\_MK** and looking out for **#Op\_Darknight**.

For regular updates on crime and disorder in your area you can sign up to Thames Valley Alert

**<https://www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk/>**

### Christmas Revised Bin Collection Dates

#### Christmas Week

Normal Collection Day	Revised Collection Day
Monday 23rd December	Monday 23rd December
Tuesday 24th December	Thursday 24th December
Wednesday 25th December	Friday 27th December
Thursday 26th December	Saturday 28th December
Friday 27th December	Monday 30th December

To reorder recycling sacks call MK 252570 or [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/myservices](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/myservices)

Refuse and recycling collections may be delayed if there is heavy snow. You can download our free Recycle MK app to get notifications plus an A-Z guide to waste and recycling. In the event of severe delays the Food and Garden waste collection may be suspended but please continue to use your green bin.

NEW YEAR WASTE COLLECTIONS	
MONDAY 30 <sup>th</sup> December	TUESDAY 31 <sup>st</sup> December
TUESDAY 31 <sup>st</sup> December	THURSDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup> January
WEDNESDAY 1 <sup>st</sup> January	FRIDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
THURSDAY 2 <sup>nd</sup> January	SATURDAY 4 <sup>th</sup> January
FRIDAY 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	MONDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> January
MONDAY 6 <sup>th</sup> January	TUESDAY 7 <sup>th</sup> January
TUESDAY 7 <sup>th</sup> January	WEDNESDAY 8 <sup>th</sup> January
WEDNESDAY 8 <sup>th</sup> January	THURSDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> January
THURSDAY 9 <sup>th</sup> January	FRIDAY 10 <sup>th</sup> January
FRIDAY 10 <sup>th</sup> January	SATURDAY 11 <sup>th</sup> January
Normal collections resume	MONDAY 13 <sup>th</sup> January



# What is a Good Neighbour Network?

**Good Neighbour Networks (GNNs) connect people in the community whilst meeting “low level” needs that might otherwise go unmet.**

*Networks are co-ordinated by a core of volunteers who take it in turns to match requests for support with a volunteer who has offered to do the task requested.*



Please get in touch with us if you'd like to get involved!

## TASKS CAN INCLUDE THINGS LIKE:

- Household repairs such as changing a light bulb, fixing a dripping tap or checking a smoke alarm,
- Gardening: GNNs can offer a one-off tidy up for someone who can't manage it themselves.
- Befriending on a regular basis. This can benefit not only older people and newly bereaved people but also people who are new to the area.
- Practical help such as shopping, collecting prescriptions, occasional cooking or delivering a meal.
- Letter writing and form filling can be a problem for many people in the community. Help with non-legal documents, both written and online, can be much appreciated.
- Transport: Some networks have volunteers who can give people occasional lifts in their car.

## WHAT'S IN IT FOR WOUGHTON?

*For someone volunteering their time, the network offers a chance to:*

- Get involved with your community and do as much or as little as you want.
- Meet new people; including those from different generations and cultures.
- Make use of whatever spare time and skills you may have; such as IT or gardening expertise.

For those being helped, the scheme is a chance to access support with tasks that may normally be difficult for them to do alone. But the scheme could also:

- Give them the opportunity to meet new people and make friends.
- Help them to stay in their own home for longer as they get older.
- Soften the impact of losing local services.
- Enable them to become a volunteer if they have skills to offer.

### How you can help:

The first part of getting a Good Neighbour Network set up is to carry out a survey the community to establish if there is a need for it. You can help us by sharing the survey online and encouraging your friends, family and colleagues to complete it. We will publish details of the survey in the New Year.

*For a Good Neighbours scheme to work in Woughton we will need volunteers with all sorts of skills from across the whole community. Volunteers will need to apply to Woughton Community Council and each volunteer will need to complete an application form and a DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check.*

**Please get in touch with us if you'd like to get involved!**





# Lest We Forget



**A huge thank you to all involved in the preparation and delivery of the event and to ALL the children who came and took part.**



## **As has become custom, the Memorial on Coffee Hall was the focus of events over Remembrance weekend.**

*The open event took place on Sunday, on a glorious autumn day and was followed on Armistice Day on the Monday, where hundreds of children from across the city observed an impeccable two minute silence, saw doves released and paraded to the memorial led by a piper and bugler.*

As always, this immensely touching event brought young and old together and provided some great opportunities to discuss what Remembrance means and how it continues to affect so many.

The War Memorial on Coffee Hall had a bit of a makeover before the Children's Service on Monday 11th October with the permission of the Royal British Legion, and the much appreciated help of the Woughton Councillors and staff. In the October half term, young people from Hope MK dug over under the ascot railings in front of the Memorial Garden, and planted rosemary ( for remembrance) and sweet box, with tulips (varieties Fusilier, Kingsblood, Red



Proud and Black Hero) to come up in the spring. It is hoped to add summer planting early next year.

The Woughton Craft Ladies, along with the youths, lino printed poppies onto wooden discs, which were then screwed to the railings. HOPE MK young people were joined by local children to make recycled plastic poppies and the Wellbeing group to lino print wooden discs to decorate the area.



***Hopefully over the years it will be a beautiful peaceful garden area in which people can sit and reflect.***

## *Eaglestone Residents Association*

*We hope to have a really good turnout at our Annual General meeting at 7pm in the Eaglestone Centre on **11 December 2019.***

Included on the agenda:

- Presentation of our revised constitution for approval
- Election of a new committee
- Reports on the year's activities
- Your ideas for next year

**Afterwards we'll enjoy some hot drinks and mince pies.**



Our email address is [eaglestonera@outlook.com](mailto:eaglestonera@outlook.com)



at  
Eaglestone, Milton Keynes

### **Dates for meetings of ERA at Eaglestone Centre in 2020** Second Wednesday of each month at 7pm:

8 January	12 February	11 March
8 April	13 May	10 June
8 July	NO MEETING in Aug	9 September
14 October	11 November	9 December

All residents are welcome. Tea and coffee and biscuits are served



# CAN YOU READ THIS?

Help us share  
the joy of  
reading.



## READ EASY MK SOUTH

There are many people in our community who are unable to read sufficiently to understand this article. We are here to help those people learn to read in a safe and supportive environment.

Read Easy Milton Keynes South (REMKS) is an affiliate of national organisation Read Easy UK, serving Milton Keynes. We coach adult readers, 18 and older, who have a wide variety of reading skills and experience.

### **We help adults learn to read.**

A Skills for Life survey of 16-65 year olds in 2011 found that 5% of adults in England could only recognise a few common words, and a further 2.1% were barely able to read simple health and safety notices at work. We can help.

## HOW DOES IT WORK?

Coaching is conducted on a **one-to-one basis** in thirty-minute sessions twice per week. We have various meeting places across Milton Keynes, making it easy to find a convenient location. The environment is discrete and safe, such as a local library or meeting room, with the privacy of the reader in mind.

The materials are designed to support readers at any basic reading level, including those who cannot read at all.

Each experience is individual, confidential, and catered to the needs of the reader.

***We provide this service free of charge.***

### **We are currently welcoming new readers!**

If you know someone who would benefit from our services or if you are interested in being a coach, please contact us via our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ReadEasyMKSouth/> or via telephone at: **07422 523 858**.



# CHAIRS AWARDS 2020

**Each year, the Chair of Woughton Community Council celebrates people who have made a difference within the community, hosting an awards night and awarding trophies to those who have gone the extra mile.**

*This year, Cllr Sue Smith, Chair of Woughton Community Council, would like **YOU** to nominate the people that have made a difference in **YOUR** community. This might be someone who helps others, had worked to improve the environment, has built positive relationships with groups or individuals – anyone who you feel should be recognized for the difference they make.*

Previous award winners include people who look after the landscaping, schools who have done new, innovative work, faith groups that have reached out to others and companies that have gone above and beyond to improve the world (or even the small bit of the world that is Woughton).

The awards will take place in March 2020, with nominations needed by 31st January. To nominate go to:  
**<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VR9Y9JH2>**  
or via the website



**YOU CAN NOMINATE IN A NUMBER OF CATEGORIES:**



## **LOCAL HERO / HEROES**

who has made a difference on your estate?

## **COMMUNITY GROUP**

is there a group that has done especially great stuff this year?

## **PARTNERSHIP OF THE YEAR**

where have people or groups come together to create something special

## **YOUNG PERSON (UNDER 25)**

someone who has shown just how much young people can change the world

## **EDUCATION PROVIDER**

a school, college or adult learning provider or teacher that has been fantastic

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CHAMPION**

a person or group who has shown commitment to making the environment better.

## *What a difference 5 years makes....*

*It's been five years since the first full year, following the parish of Woughton split.*

When the parishes were created, Woughton offered two youth sessions a week, didn't deliver any landscaping services, had just opened the Woughton Advice Service and was based in Netherfield, in offices that were draughty and dated.

Since that time, we have taken landscaping from MK Council and invested in staff, equipment and made an excellent start in undoing some of the lack of attention that the parish had faced.

The Youth Service now offers sessions on six days per week, covering a range of open access and targeted services, supporting hundreds of young people each week.

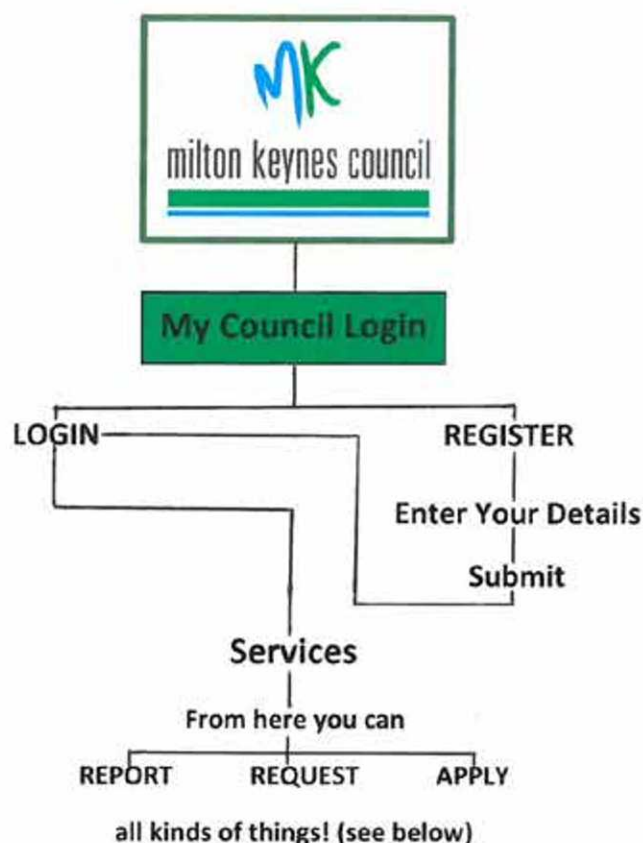
The Advice Service continues to offer one of the few parish based, direct access advice services and has expanded to include specialist mental health and wellbeing approaches, in a dedicated Wellbeing Room.

And the offices, now on Coffee Hall, offer a cheaper, more modern, useable space that includes the Community Fridge, Advice Room, Wellbeing Room and space for both Council Meetings and other groups to access.

**Thank you all for your support over the past five years. We have been around since 1894 and continue to look to innovate, grow and offer the very best we can to you, the people of the parish.**



## HOW TO GUIDE REPORT/REQUEST/APPLY on MKC WEBSITE



**REPORT IT** - Abandoned or Sublet Properties, Abandoned Vehicles, Dead Animals in Public Places, Dumped Rubbish and Abandoned Shopping Trolleys, Environmental Crime, Food Complaints, Graffiti, Hazardous Debris on Roads and Broken Glass, Health and Safety, Littering, Litter Bins and Dog Fouling, Missed Collections, Noise, Parks, Open Spaces and Play Areas, Pollution, Public Health, Roads, Footpaths and Redways, Safeguarding Adults - Alerts, Signs, Bollards and Posts, Street Lighting

**REQUEST IT** - Blue Recycling Box, Bulky Waste Collection, Homeless Prevention Self Help, Homelessness Reduction Act Referral, Library Donations, My Accounts- remove an account, My Accounts Registration Process, Notice To End Tenancy, Planning - Decision Notice Request, Planning FAQ Chatbot Feedback, Recycling Sacks Delivery, Refuse and Recycling, Request for Care and Support, and Eligibility Checker, Street Light Column Relocation, Tenancy Succession, Tenants Improvement

**APPLY FOR IT** - Adult Learning Course Enrolment, Application for a Temporary Private Opening Licence, Application for Commemorative Benches, Application For Joint Tenancy, Application for Naming and Numbering of Streets and Buildings, Application for Permission for a Temporary Development Access, Application for Permission for Tables and Chairs on the Highway, Application for Permission to Erect a Hoarding on the Highway, Application for Permission to Place a Builders Skip on the Highway, Application for Permission to Place a Crane on the Highway, Application for Retail Rate Relief, Application for Small Business Rate Relief, Application to Hold an Event on Public Open Space, Application to Place Building Materials on the Highway, Application to Place Scaffolding on the Highway, Council Tax Discount Application for Members of Religious Communities, Direct Debit Instruction for payment of Business Rates, Flood Grant Application, Housing Application For Mutual Exchange, Library Events, Milton Keynes Council Current Vacancies, My Accounts Registration, MyAccount - Payment Form, Planning - Planning Application, Planning - Pre Application Enquiries



# Woughton wins the Council of the Year award



*Woughton Community Council was awarded the 'Council of the Year' award on 28th October, as part of the National Association of Local Councils awards ceremony. This award, presented by the Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire is given to the council that the judges and the public voted as the best and reflects the hard work of councillors, staff and residents from across the parish.*

The ceremony, which took place at Stadium:MK, was part of the NALC Annual Conference, which saw representatives from local councils across the country come together for two days, with HRH Princess Anne also in attendance.

## **Cllr Sue Smith, Chair of Woughton Community Council said:**

*'This award reflects the hard work from the council over many years. Councillors, staff, local residents and many others all help to ensure that we listen and respond to local people and being seen as the leader of all 10,000 local councils is a fantastic result.'*

Alongside winning the award, Woughton also delivered a workshop titled 'Investing in your community - how local councils are tackling austerity'. Milton Keynes is one of the few areas with parish or town councils covering the whole city and is viewed nationally as an example of how councils can work together. Accepting the award, Cllr Donna Fuller, Leader of WCC noted that the award came in the year that the city lost Cllr Kevin Wilson and dedicated the award to him, as one of the leaders in making MK a fully parished city and his dedication and influence nationally.

The judging panel felt that the range and quality of the services that Woughton provides were an example to other councils of what is possible, and the public agreed, voting Woughton as the winner ahead of Salisbury Town Council and Feock Parish Council from Cornwall.

The award shows how important the people of Woughton are – the value you place on the council and the role many of you play in making Woughton the fantastic place it is. A huge thank you to all who voted for us and for your continuing support in helping us to be the best council we can be.



## **Youth Groups**

Email the team for more details: [qyouthmk@qalliance.org.uk](mailto:qyouthmk@qalliance.org.uk)



[www.qalliance.org.uk/youth-groups](http://www.qalliance.org.uk/youth-groups)

Instagram : [q.youth.mk](https://www.instagram.com/q.youth.mk)

**Q:alliance** Youth groups are safe spaces for the LGBTQ+ young people of Milton Keynes to be comfortable being or exploring who they are. Our friendly, trained team offer support, advocacy and signposting for children & young people aged 8-25yrs at our three bespoke sessions.

- Q Junior: Saturdays 2.30-4.00pm for 8-12yr olds
- Q Youth: Wednesdays 6-8pm for 13-17yr olds
- Q Link: Thursdays 6-8pm for 18-25yr olds

Email the team for more details: [qyouthmk@qalliance.org.uk](mailto:qyouthmk@qalliance.org.uk)

[WWW.qalliance.org.uk/youth-groups](http://WWW.qalliance.org.uk/youth-groups) Instagram: [q.youth.mk](https://www.instagram.com/q.youth.mk)







# THE COUNCIL HUB

## CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES



MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER 12 - 5PM

TUESDAY 24TH DECEMBER - CLOSED

WEDNESDAY 25TH DECEMBER - CLOSED

THURSDAY 26TH DECEMBER - CLOSED

FRIDAY 27TH DECEMBER - 10AM - 2PM

MONDAY 30TH DECEMBER - 9AM - 5PM

TUESDAY 31ST DECEMBER - 9AM - 1PM

WEDNESDAY 1ST JANUARY - CLOSED

THURSDAY 2ND JANUARY - BACK TO NORMAL



THE COMMUNITY FRIDGE WILL BE OPEN ON

MONDAY 23RD DECEMBER - 6 - 6.30PM

AND THEN CLOSED UNTIL 3RD JANUARY





# BUDGET CONSULTATION AND PLANNING



**It is that time of year where we need to start thinking about the budget for next year and asking you for your views.**

*You have told us that you value the services we provide and have asked us to focus on some key areas: improvements to the landscaping and environment (estate improvements) and support to local people through our advice, youth and other services.*

## THIS YEAR WE HAVE:

- **Opened the Community Fridge**, sharing almost a ton of food each month and reducing use of landfill, with plans to develop this further
- **Invested in more staff and equipment for the landscape and environment team**, taking on a new apprentice and buying new equipment, to focus more on improving the estates – this will continue into 2020
- **Developed our Play Ranger sessions**, offering family play sessions in our parks and open spaces after school and during the holidays
- **Refurbished two of our community centres**, with two more that will be looked at over the coming months
- **Opened our Wellbeing Room**, providing a safe, welcoming space for people to access support and activities to promote positive mental health
- **Provided financial support, training and building space to Resident Associations** to enable them to support our really local communities

*And alongside all this, continued to deliver the services that are unique to Woughton – the Advice Service, youth provision, landscaping service and more.*

With Milton Keynes Council continuing to face funding cuts, it is down to Woughton Community Council to fill some of the gaps. Our part of the overall council tax bill is about the same as you pay towards the police. The rest includes some for the fire service and then the large part that goes to MK Council. For a Band A or B property (this is the majority of houses in the parish), the figures for 2019/20 were;

	<b>BAND A</b>	<b>BAND B</b>
<b>MKC</b>	921.10	1,074.61
<b>Fire</b>	43.05	50.22
<b>Police</b>	137.52	160.44
<b>Woughton</b>	143.41	167.32
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,245.08</b>	<b>1,452.59</b>

Last year, we increased our small part of the council tax by just over 6%, and following discussions within Full Council in November, the council is suggesting a 10% increase for the coming year. This increase sounds high, but is just over £1 a month for most in the parish (£14.34 per year for Band A, £16.73 for Band B) and means that we can keep pace with rising costs and continue to deliver the things you have told us are important.

## OVER THE NEXT YEAR WE AIM TO:

- **Continue to improve the landscaping and environment**, with new equipment and additional staff that we took on this year.
- **Develop use of the 'mobile office'** to visit all parts of the parish and enable residents to have more say on what we do and how we do it, alongside making access to advice easier
- **Continue to build upon the successful Play Ranger project**, offering more sessions in more places, especially over the holiday periods
- **Offer more training and development sessions for local groups**, including Resident Associations, so that they are better equipped to help support their communities
- **Develop new community growing spaces**, to make estates look and feel better, encourage wildlife and enable people to be more involved
- **Start work on the '5 Year Improvement Plan'**, focusing on changing some of the planting across the parish to reduce growth onto paths and gardens



We also need to be aware that we are likely to lose more money from MK Council next year, due to further cuts to their budgets. Whilst we have been prudent over the last few years to make sure we have a bit of a buffer, these cuts will mean either increases in our precept or cuts to our services in coming years. We will continue to campaign for fairer funding for Woughton.

**Your views are important as part of this decision.**

*How much should we increase our precept by?*

*Do you want to see our services continue?*

*Do you want to see more done within the parish?*

*Is CCTV important to you?*

*Do you want to see a 'Parish Ranger' employed to help improve the estates?*

Are there other things that you would like to see us doing, or things that you feel we can stop?

**Whilst we can't keep everyone happy, we do value your thought and ideas and they help the elected councillors in deciding the budget for next year.**

#### OPTION A

increase by 7.5% risking reductions to services

#### OPTION B

increase by 10%, to maintain current services

#### OPTION C

increase by 15%, to maintain and potentially expand existing / new services

#### OPTION A

**Annual Increase Band A**  
(90p per month) £10.76

**Annual Increase Band B**  
(£1.05p per month) £12.55

#### OPTION B

**Annual Increase Band A**  
(£1.20 per month) £14.34

**Annual Increase Band B**  
(£1.39 per month) £16.73

#### OPTION C

**Annual Increase Band A**  
(£1.79 per month) £21.51

**Annual Increase Band B**  
(£2.09 per month) £25.10

*Have your Say*  
**IN A NUMBER OF WAYS:**

**ONLINE**, by completing the survey  
(details at [www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk))

**IN PERSON**, at one of our Budget Consultation events

**BY POST**, by completing the form in the Gazette and returning to our offices, community centres or by passing to our councillors or staff members



## COMMUNITY FRIDGE



A simple solution to wasting less through the sharing of good quality food. We get surplus food (best before dates) from local supermarkets and allotments and share it out free to prevent food waste – no means testing, no names – it's for everyone!

**Woughton Fridges Opening hours:**

**Rear of Woughton Community Council Hub**  
**Garraways Coffee Hall MK6 5EG**

Monday	6 - 6.30pm
Tuesday	12 - 12.30pm
Wednesday	3.30 - 4.00pm
Friday	10.30 - 11am
Saturday	10 - 11am

**Netherfield Chapel Broadlands MK6 4YP**

Tuesday	5.30 - 6.30pm
Thursday	10 - 11am

Sunday (if donations available – please check Chapel door or Netherfield residents Facebook) 2 – 3pm

All other MK Fridges opening times and addresses can be found at [MKcommunityfridge.org](http://MKcommunityfridge.org)

For more details contact:  
**WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL 01908 395681**



# BUDGET PROPOSAL WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL 2020/21

Budget Heading		2019 / 20	2020/21	Notes
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
Affiliations		£2,800	£2,912	
Professional Services		£2,400	£3,840	
Audit Fees		£4,000	£3,677	
Capital Loan Repayment		£26,818	£26,818	
Community Events		£4,500	£10,000	Previously Carnival only
Cllr Ward Initiatives Fund		£3,800	£3,800	
Dog & Litter Bin Costs		£7,000	£10,000	Includes replacements
Events & Hospitality		£2,000	£2,080	
Communities and Environment Fund		£14,000	£14,000	
Grant Aid - Res Associations		£3,500	£3,500	
Insurance Inc Vans		£7,100	£6,328	
Meeting Places (Costs)		£35,000	£40,000	
Member Allowances and Expenses		£15,500	£15,500	
Newsletters, Websites and Communications		£9,540	£10,000	
HQ - Building Costs (regulars)		£10,000	£11,000	
Vehicles		£9,000	£9,360	
Branding		£500	£5,000	Includes safety wear update
Stationery and Amenities and services - HQ		£9,540	£12,000	
I.T		£37,014	£33,092	Reduced due to new contract
Training, Development and Conferences		£15,000	£15,000	
<b>ORGANISATIONAL COSTS TOTAL</b>		<b>£196,472</b>	<b>£222,907</b>	
<b>STAFFING COSTS</b>				
Pension costs		-	£63,452	Previously not separated
Employers NI Costs		-	£43,197	Previously not separated
HQ Staffing		£108,967	£115,164	
Youth Staffing		£94,697	£90,370	
Community Staffing		£115,107	£95,217	Following merger of teams
Landscape and Environment Staffing		£191,399	£185,442	Following merger of teams
Members Staffing		£21,416	£20,338	
Meeting Places Staffing		£50,839	£36,020	
<b>STAFFING TOTAL</b>		<b>£582,425</b>	<b>£649,202</b>	
<b>SERVICES COSTS</b>				
Landscape - Building costs		£4,800	£3,755	
Landscape - Services Budget		£25,000	£25,000	
Youth - Building Costs		£4,200	£4,082	
Youth - Services Budget		£5,000	£10,000	
Advice - Services Budget		£1,000	£1,000	
Environment - Services Budget		£1,000	£1,000	
Community Development - Services Budget		£2,000	£2,000	
Service Plan Delivery		£60,000	£44,360	
Emerging priorities		-	£10,000	To respond to urgent issues
<b>SERVICES DELIVERY TOTAL</b>		<b>£103,000</b>	<b>£91,198</b>	
<b>INCOME</b>				
Bank and Investment Interest		£5,000	£6,000	
MKC LTRS Grant		£153,419	£155,611	
Hire of Meeting Places		£50,000	£65,000	
Landscape Grant		£146,900	£146,900	
Precept		£513,806	£565,187	
Additional Income Generation		£30,000	£50,000	
<b>INCOME TOTAL</b>		<b>£ 899,125</b>	<b>£ 988,698</b>	
<b>Total Income</b>				
		<b>£899,126</b>	<b>£988,699</b>	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>				
		<b>£896,897</b>	<b>£988,308</b>	
<b>Surplus / Deficit (income minus expenditure)</b>				
		<b>+£2,229</b>	<b>+£391</b>	





## WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET CONSULTATION 2020/21

Please either complete this form and return it to our offices or one of our community centres, go online and complete this (link is <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FW8X7LL> or via our website) or come along to one of our face to face events at the Council Offices on Coffee Hall. You can also speak to one of our councillors or officers

Q1 - Do you wish to see Woughton Community Council continue to deliver the services it currently provides (youth, advice, mental health, landscaping, etc.)?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Q2 - Do you support the continuing focus on estate improvements, with additional landscaping, estate clear ups, reduction of fly-tipping and additional work to reduce litter, etc.?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Q3 - Would you support an additional rise to fund CCTV provision, focusing on anti social behaviour, fly-tipping, littering, etc.?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Q4 - This proposal would increase council tax for the majority of residents by about 30 pence per week, with less in many cases). Do you think that this increase is:

Too little ☐

About right ☐

Too much ☐

Q5 - Of the three options suggested in the Gazette article, which would be your preferred option?

Option A (7.5%) ☐

Option B (10%) ☐

Option C(15%) ☐

Q6 - Are there any other comments you would like to make with regard to the proposed budget, priorities for the coming year or other aspects of the councils work?

Please return to Woughton Community Council, The Council Hub, Garraways, Coffee Hall, Milton Keynes, MK6 5EG or to Netherfield, Tinkers Bridge or Coffee Hall Meeting Place or Eaglestone Activity Centre, by **January 6th 2020**.

**Thank you for your feedback**