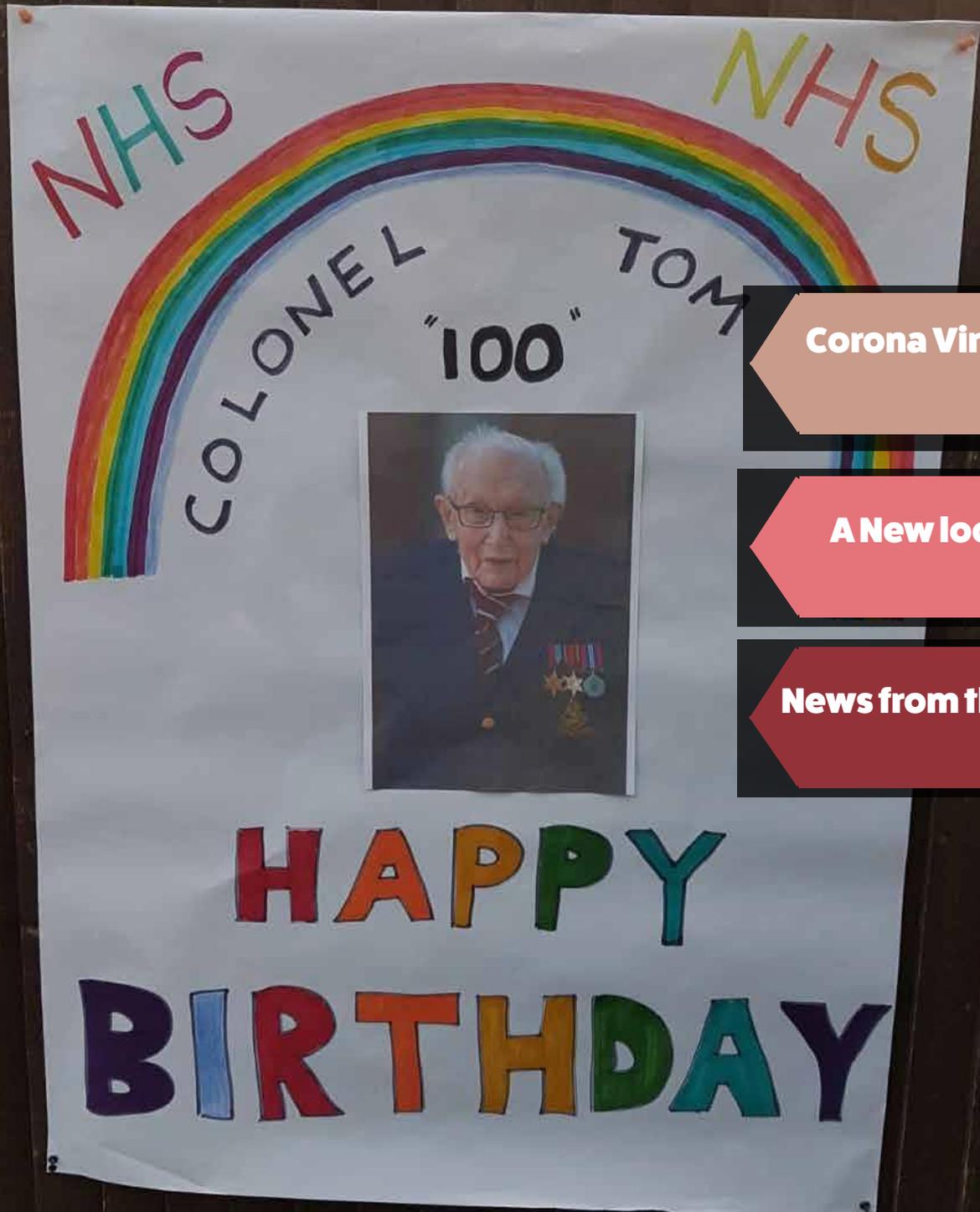


# MY WOUGHTON GAZETTE



SUMMER EDITION

JULY 2020



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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](mailto:reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk) | OPENING HOURS: Mon - Thurs 9am - 5pm & Fri 9am - 4pm

# Words from the Chair

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Well it's that time again, but a vastly different summer edition. Usually we list all the fun days and festivals that are coming up but this will be a hugely different summer this year. With gatherings not allowed and social distancing the new buzz words, we like most councils have cancelled them for this year.**

Instead we are preparing our offices for re-opening (when safe to do so). Community centres must wait a little longer. Some of our little residents have returned to school and others will return later in the year. Residents well-being has been on our minds, with Woughton Chalk and Chatter Natter being held on Zoom so that residents do not feel as isolated.



Some parents are feeling slightly frazzled with the added responsibilities of being teacher as well as parent. Children bored of being kept inside the boundaries of the home. Budgeting on a furloughed wage and family all needing more meals than normal. A very testing time. But Woughton Community Council IS still here for you. Giving out 1000 food hampers to families that miss the threshold of government help. Still dealing with advice for residents whether it be benefits advice, housing or any other subject you need help with... we are there. Usual phone number and even though most of our staff are still working from home, you will get through to them just like they were in the office.

**"Woughton has a good community spirit, helping, supporting each other through a very worrying time,"**



**Council Meeting held on Zoom**

It's great to see that the Household Waste & Recycling Centre appointment slots can be booked online now instead of hanging on the phone for over an hour. Some MK Council meetings are being held on Zoom so that residents still can see what is going on. Non-essential shops will be open from 15th June, so a little nearer a new normal. Flights have started again, be it all quite different like self-isolating at least one side of the journey. Air bridges being established and only time will tell if this will work or another lockdown....

The one thing that has shone throughout this gloomy time is that, like we already knew, but this has highlighted even more ... That Woughton has a good community spirit, helping, supporting each other through a very worrying time, and for that I'm grateful.

I am going to finish on a high note - that we can now at least, see family (albeit from a distance) instead of through a screen. We have lots of public spaces we can meet family so please be thoughtful and keep them tidy for all to enjoy.

Take care of yourselves and please stay safe.

**Cllr Sue Smith** Chair



# Words from the Leader

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## Well I didn't think that we would still be in lock down for another edition of the Gazette!

It doesn't seem that long ago since the last edition. I know that lock down has been a difficult time for many of us, being separated from our loved ones, the difficulties of doing shopping and of course those that have been poorly during that time. It really has been testing in lots of ways and I'm sure that there have been times when we all just wanted it to be over but you have all been brilliant, and you continue to make me proud.

I wanted you to know that we have been working hard to support our residents through the worst of times. We recently delivered our 1000th food parcel to our most vulnerable residents, our advice team have assisted many folk that have been furloughed, or sadly laid off. The team are always here to assist with any issues or worries you may be experiencing at the moment, and in the future. The wellbeing team are supporting folk that may be experiencing loneliness and isolation and other issues whilst locked down. The youth team continue to support our young people that will be finding things tough, not least the isolation that lock down can present, even in a house full of people. The fabulous **'Woughton Chalks'** project highlighted mental health awareness week and there were some lovely positive messages shared. The landscaping team are back out cutting grass and bushes that seemed to have doubled in size in the early days of lockdown! That's just the tip of the iceberg - many of my colleagues have been working hard on individual cases that are harder to resolve from home. We have all become 'tech experts' (I say that with my tongue firmly in my cheek of course!) but Zoom meetings have become the norm and it has been lovely to be able to share meetings with many members of the public, you can even join a 'Chatter and Natter' meeting on a Thursday (you do have to provide your own tea though!)

We also have a weekly **'Woughton Live'** on Fridays at 2pm on Facebook, a roundup of the week in Woughton and some light-hearted info just to lift the mood a bit. We have launched the **'Woughton Roll of Honour'** so if you



have a neighbour, friend or colleague who has made lock down just that little bit easier for you please let us know so that we can add them and celebrate all that is good about our community. All in all, it's been a very busy but positive time.

I am so proud of all the positive things that I have been hearing. The Thursday night **'Clap for Carers'** in Woughton were always amazing, the rainbows and positive messages I have seen in windows and on doors all look fabulous, we even had a balloon arch and a 'Banksy' style artwork on the side of the Bridge Academy on Coffee Hall. The way that you have all supported family members, neighbours and friends has been breath-taking and you should all be very proud of your efforts, as we definitely are.

**I would personally like to thank our staff, councillors, Residents Associations, Community Groups and organisations that have worked tirelessly within our parish to assist our residents, the smallest act of kindness can make the biggest difference**

There are many other 'thank yous' too; NHS workers, carers, teachers, the refuse workers, doctors, pharmacies, our local shopworkers, bus drivers, transport workers, volunteers, Food Bank and so many more - the list is endless. You are all amazing and thank you doesn't really cover it.

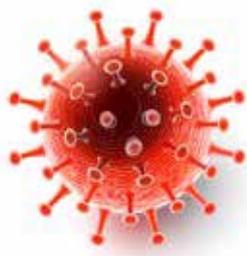
If I had the privilege of awarding medals, you would all be recipients but as I don't a great big **THANK YOU** to you all

It's hard to know how long the current situation will last and I believe we will all have to get used to a new normal in time but for now we must try to do all we can to prevent any increase in the virus so remember, we are not stuck at home, we are safe at home .

Keep your chin up and stay safe

**Donna Fuller** Leader





# COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS

## Update

### WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Firstly, a huge THANK YOU to everyone in Woughton who has worked, who has stayed home, who has volunteered, who has helped out, who has done whatever was needed to help overcome this pandemic. Whilst at the time of writing things are still unclear, what is clear is that the people of the parish have been amazing.**



Since the middle of March, things have been strange. Shops and schools closed, 'social distancing' is the new way of being, people washing their hands more than ever and masks becoming the 'must have' accessory for summer 2020. Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen things starting to move back to some sort of normal – on June 15th, non-essential shops opened again, alongside zoos, safaris parks and similar. Earlier in June, some children returned to school (although many didn't). And people were allowed to start seeing family and friends again, even if only outside and at a 2-metre distance.

But throughout this period, we have seen local people step up and support their communities. You will be able to read about some of these things in the 'News from the Estates' section, but we wanted to update you all on the things that have been happening and the plans for the 'recovery'.

### MARCH 2020



**At the start of this, Woughton Community Council took the step to close services, community centres and the offices.** This was before the official 'lock down', but the decision was taken due to the risks to our residents, our staff and our councillors. We were fortunate to have systems in place that meant that our staff could simply pick up a laptop and a phone and work from home – Paul,

our Bookings and Reception Officer, was able to continue to direct people to wherever they needed; our staff were working from their homes in bedrooms, lounges, dining rooms – wherever there was a space! We have officers working from Northamptonshire, Bedfordshire and across Milton Keynes and yet, when people rang the usual number, they could speak to our advice service, our wellbeing worker, the environment team. This is still the case – please do get in touch if you need to.

We also stopped our **Landscape Team** working, due to travel restrictions and safety issues. This did have some impact on the local area, with grass getting longer than usual and some of the final bits of 'winter' work being missed.

Local people sprang into action, offering help and support to others in the community. Shopping, prescription collection, social contact (at a distance) and generally making sure people were okay all happened naturally. This showed really early on the strength of the Woughton residents.

John Lewis also contacted us to donate a pile of items from their shops that was closing – this included chocolates, posh tea bags, biscuits and other things that had a short shelf life. We donated most of these to the Food Bank plus scheme, but also gave gifts to local NHS staff, police officers and others that were going the 'extra mile'.

### APRIL 2020



**In response to local need, Woughton Community Council set up food parcel deliveries in partnership with the Church, the local residents associations, councillors and volunteers.** This included delivering parcels from FareShare, a charity that also supports the Community Fridge, and other donations from residents and collections from shops. This helped ensure that those that were 'shielding', or isolating, those who were unable to get delivery slots with supermarkets and those that were unable to get food from elsewhere, didn't go hungry. Laura and Lorna from Beanhill Residents Association (who were only elected earlier this year!) alongside others on the estate, provided meals and parcels for vulnerable local people. Maggie, Elina and others from Netherfield Residents Association collected donations and have worked to distribute what is needed and LOADS of other people across the parish have worked to make sure people get what they need.

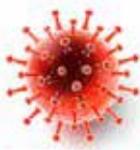
We redeveloped the website to provide information and

support options, alongside reviewing all our services. Our Youth Team moved 'online', with dance sessions via YouTube and youth clubs via Zoom. Our Advice service continued to support people over the phone, via email and using technology. Our Wellbeing service helped support online groups, offering social contact and helping to reduce loneliness.

And towards the end of the month, once the relevant safety measures were in place, we restarted the Landscaping. This included big changes to working practices – no sharing vehicles, no working within 2 metres of each other, staggered start and finish times to reduce risks at the depot. It has made it more tricky, but we think that this is how things will be for a while.

We also held the first ever Woughton Council 'virtual' meeting. There has been an emergency change to the law allowing us to do this and it went remarkably smoothly! You will now be able to 'tune in' to all our council meetings on our Facebook page or attend by requesting the Zoom login.

## MAY 2020

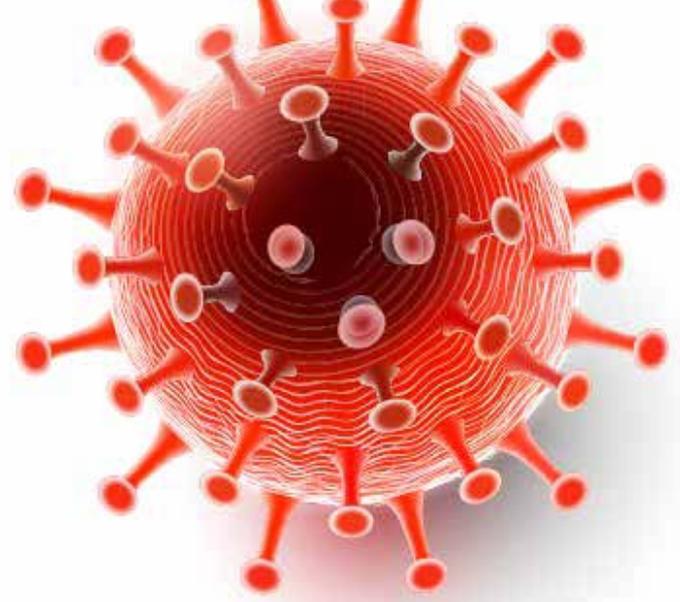


**We saw celebrations across the parish to commemorate VE Day, with fabulous decorations and parties taking place. This was on a Bank Holiday on a Friday, which was strange!**

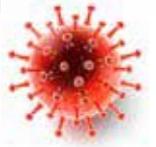
We held the 'Chalk about Mental Health' event as part of mental health awareness week, which saw messages of support chalked across the parish and helped raise awareness of mental health and wellbeing, especially important at the moment when so many people are isolated and anxious.

The 'Chatter and Natter' group moved online, with a Thursday morning catch up. Not the same without a bacon sarnie, but lovely to see everyone and have a catch up.

We held our first Planning, Licensing and Development Committee, discussing the application for a HUGE 5G mast on Peartree Bridge. With over 300 views online and a number of members of the public attending via Zoom, this was a brilliant example of local democracy, despite the restrictions upon us.

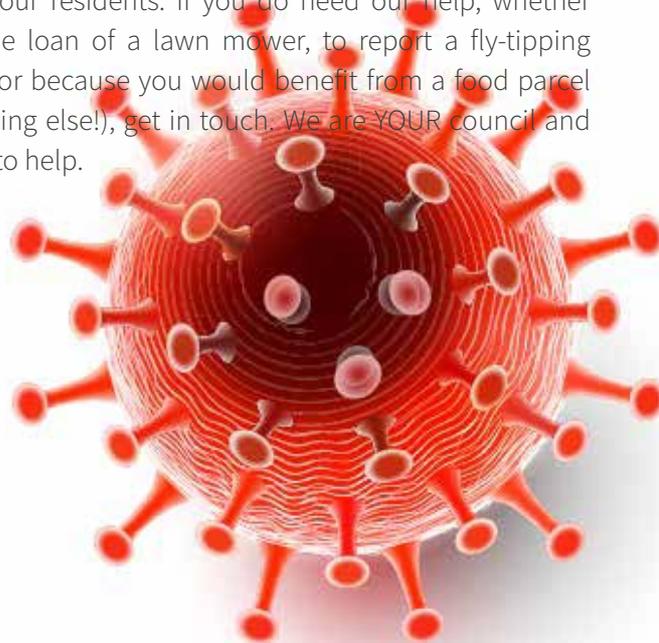


## JUNE 2020

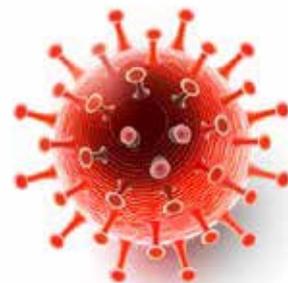


Schools started re-opening alongside non-essential shops, and we have seen over 1000 food parcels delivered. We held an online Residents Association Forum where we heard just how much has been happening across the parish. We saw that Milton Keynes was doing really well in terms of managing the pandemic, with low rates of infection (within the best 10% in the country) and the city started to move back towards some sort of normal. Single people were allowed to join another household as a 'support bubble' and we were allowed to start meeting groups of people outside.

We are committed to supporting our communities. We want to make sure we do it safely and protect the most vulnerable in our parish. Community Centres remain closed and our usual summer events cannot take place, but we remain here for our residents. If you do need our help, whether this is the loan of a lawn mower, to report a fly-tipping incident or because you would benefit from a food parcel (or anything else!), get in touch. We are YOUR council and are here to help.



## SUPPORT DURING COVID19... AND BEYOND



Woughton Community Council aims to help everyone within the parish when they need support. Our Advice Service is one of the only dedicated services based within a local council, backed up by our Wellbeing Service where a dedicated officer can offer advice and support to promote positive mental health. Our Youth service helps support young people and their families, with everything from sexual health to young parents' groups. And throughout the pandemic, we have continued to offer support, alongside the additional bits like food parcels and emergency funding to local groups.

Over the past few months, as Covid 19 has had such an impact on us all, we have seen so many other people, groups, and organisations spring up and help. From Joe Wicks doing PE online to resident's associations offering a lifeline to vulnerable residents, people have been wonderful.

You can find lots of information on our website at [www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk) where there are loads of links on the homepage.

### *Resources for Staying In – stuff to keep you busy at home!*

<https://www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/resources-for-staying-in/> - links to LOADS of things, from museums to Ted Talks, how to play a ukulele to live Zoo cameras. Keeping mentally well – how to look after your head and support others.

<https://www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/talking-about-coronavirus/> - covers mental health, autism, learning disabilities, carers and talking to children and young people about Coronavirus. Some really useful resources. Staying safe online – helpful hints for internet use.

<https://www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/internet-safety/> - helps parents and carers understand the challenges of managing the internet and the warning signs to keep an eye out for.

### *Bereavement and Loss*

Milton Keynes Bereavement Service provides support to those who have been bereaved and offers three free sessions of bereavement counselling over the telephone. After initial three sessions individuals can join a waiting list for further counselling if required. Telephone: 07483 308032 or visit [www.bereavementservicemk.org.uk/](http://www.bereavementservicemk.org.uk/)

Bereavement Advice Centre gives advice on the practical steps needed following a bereavement. **0800 634 9494** or [www.bereavementadvice.org](http://www.bereavementadvice.org)

**Cruse Bereavement Care Helpline: 0808 808 1677** and specialist information at <https://www.cruse.org.uk/get-help/coronavirus-dealing-bereavement-and-grief>

'**covid19Families – bucks**' is a new Facebook group that provides support to families who have lost someone to Covid 19. Search 'covid 19 families' on Facebook.

If there is something that you need help with, get in touch with us. Our advice service has loads of resources and can help you find the help you need. Contact **01908 395681** or [was@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:was@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

# A New Look for Sara

Peartree Bridge Residents Association are looking for your help.

**ENTRIES TO BE RECEIVED  
BY THE 31ST AUGUST**

Sara the Dinosaur on Peartree Bridge is a landmark in Milton Keynes. Having been there for over 40 years, every now and then, Sara needs a bit of a tidy up.

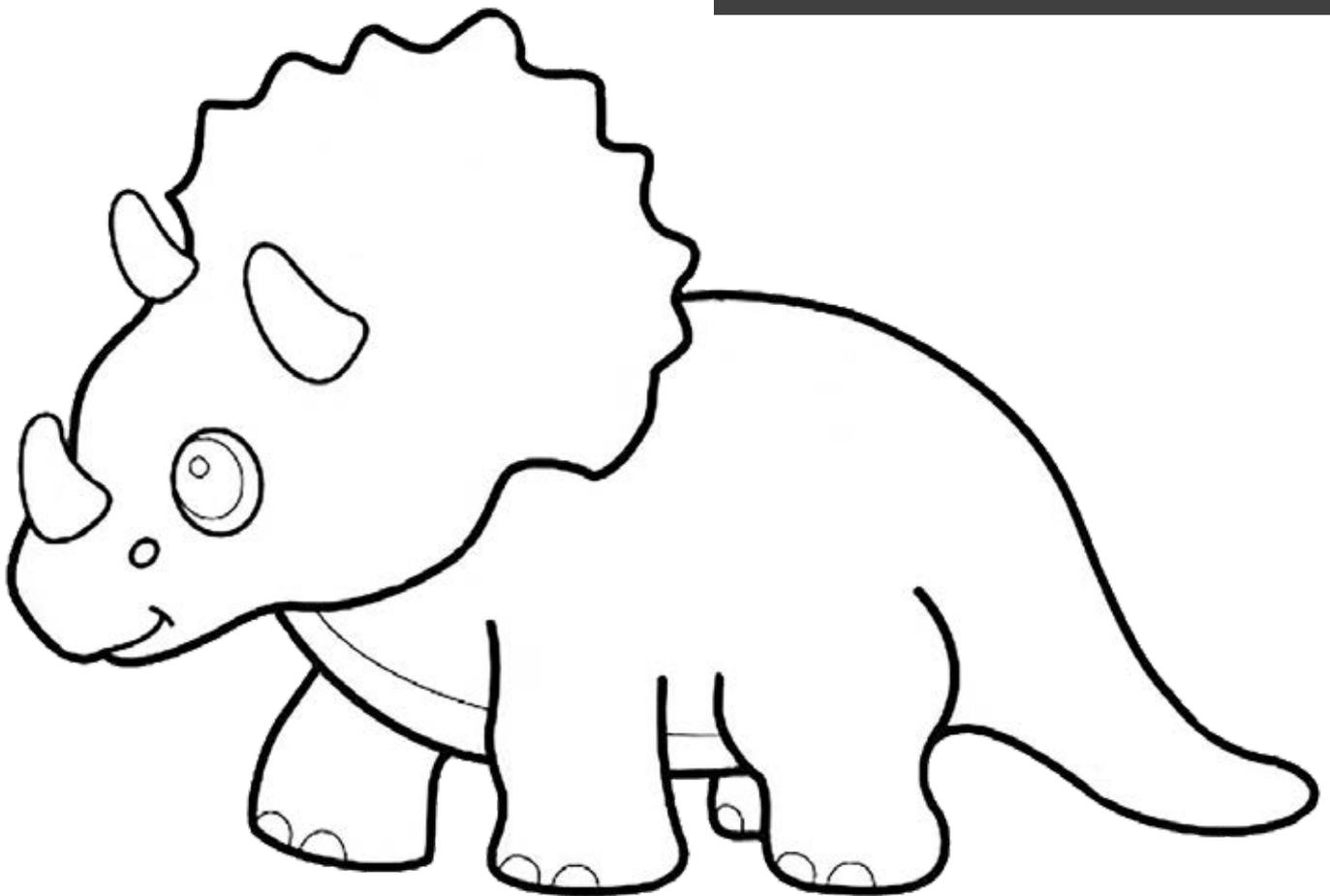
**How would you like Sara to look? What colours or patterns? Is there a funky outfit you would like to see?**

You can colour the picture below and either scan it or send it in to us. The best designs will go up on the Peartree Bridge notice board, on the Woughton website and Facebook and be sent to the Parks Trust for deciding on how Sara will look next time.

You can send your ideas to:

Reception  
[@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

or Woughton Community Council  
The Council Hub Local Centre  
Garraways Coffee Hall  
MK6 5EG



We have maintained weekly welfare calls to our most vulnerable young people & families

Delivered two Dance classes via Zoom every week

Made over 50 foodbank referrals and deliveries

Continued to support statutory services involved with our families

Liaised with our Primary about pupil welfare, community support and ensures our young residents are receiving their free school meals.

Continuously adapted current and plans for future service delivery

Worked with our schools to redistribute surplus school lunches to the elderly & isolated

Successfully signposted young people & families to external services

Worked with Young carers MK to support carers in Woughton

Maintained all Safeguarding & Child Protection standards

Kept in touch with all our known young people through social media & digital messages. Addressing needs as they arose

Created masses of online resources for all ages

Met with our Young Parents & LGBTQ+ groups via Zoom every week

Made over 30 Baby Basic referrals and deliveries

Created a VE Day celebration dance & resources

Celebrated diversity during PRIDE month by flying our flag and creating LGBTQ+ information pages for our website

**Everything IS very different & weird. Everything may appear closed but the Youth team are still working. And we've been busy!**

We have not been able to identify & respond to need in the same ways as usual but during Lockdown we have been privileged to continue working with & supporting our young residents.

Here's what we've been up to so far...

**You may be bored, feel isolated and frustrated - We are here to hear and support you. Get in touch - We would love to hear from you!**

Email: [tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)  
 Contact the team on Tel: 01908 392945 or the Youth Manager on 07983 590546

**Have a look at our website for more information & resources**

[www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](http://www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)





The **LGBT Foundation** is a national charity delivering **advice, support & information** to **lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans (LGBT)** communities.  
<https://lgbt.foundation>

**Everything may appear closed down, you may feel isolated but we are here... we do see you & we hear you.**

There are many organisations and bases for resources, information and guidance that you can contact. These year round organisations are still available, even during the lockdown

**Woughton Community Council works in partnership to support Q Alliance to provide LGBTQ+ Youth Clubs & support within our parish.**

Contact our Youth Manager or Q Alliance MK for more information Tel:01908392945



**gendered intelligence**  
 understanding gender diversity in creative ways

Support young people & families. Working together to increase understanding of gender diversity  
<http://genderedintelligence.co.uk/>



**Albert Kennedy Trust**  
 akt supports LGBTQ+ young people aged 16-25 who are facing or experiencing homelessness  
<https://www.akt.org.uk/>



**MindOut** LGBTQ Mental Health Service  
 Tel: 01273 234839  
 Email: [info@mindout.org.uk](mailto:info@mindout.org.uk)



**A national LGBT anti-violence & abuse charity**  
<http://www.galop.org.uk/>



**Q:alliance**  
 Offering support, information & advocacy  
<http://qalliance.org.uk/>



**Mermaids: Helping gender diverse kids, young people & their families since 1995**  
<https://mermaidsuk.org.uk/>

**MK Charity for MK LGBTQ+ people.**  
 Offering support, information & advocacy  
<http://qalliance.org.uk/>



**Woughton 'On the Road' - coming to an estate near you!**

Over July and August, we will be out and about with the trailer, providing a chance for you to come for a chat, collect dog bags, report concerns and let us know of any help or support you might need.

Check our Facebook and website for details.

# Socially Distancing Play Options for Summer 2020

Woughton Community Council



We cannot offer many of our usual activities this summer. However, with a little extra thought and preparation, it is entirely possible to create a programme of play activities that will be safe & conform to Government guidelines/ socially distancing rules. Activities will include sports/ physical, fitness, arts & crafts, games and other creative options. Participants will need to comply with the safety measures in place in these supervised sessions to take part. The proposal is to offer one session on each estate per week but to use these sessions to model safe distance play. Green area and pathway markings will be placed so that families can continue to use in the absence of Play ranger supervision too. We are also happy to support residents to set up their own street Playing Out initiatives & design more markings. (NB: this nationwide initiative is great but needs adapting carefully for the CV19 recovery period).

## **An A-Z of summer fun**

\*Aerobic Fitness \*All Aboard type games \*Arts & Crafts: drawing, colouring, painting, chalking, sticking, modelling \*Badminton \*Bingo \*Boxercise \*Bubbles \*Charades \*Circus skills \*Higher or Lower Giant Cards \*Hula-hooping \*Hopscotch \*Kerbie (utilising different coloured balls) \*Music Jams \*Musical Statues/ bumps etc \*No Goalie Penalty shoots \*Non-contact ball skills: Keepie up Football, Bat & Ball, Basketball \*No- touch Obstacle courses \*Pavement games Obstacle courses (activity challenges course drawn on pathways) \*Picnics (bring your own or 1 in 4 initiative) \*Pilates \*Pool \*Races \*Rock Paper Scissor variations (more active) \*Scooting/ Rollerblading/ Skating courses \*Seed planting \*Skipping \*Story Circles \*Street Dance \*Table Tennis \*Tennis \*Zumba

For information contact the Youth Team on 01908 392945. E: [Tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)



The Youth team have always worked closely with Baby Basics and regularly call on them for quality baby clothes, equipment, toys, books and sundry items for the young parents and families we work with. However, during lockdown, even though they have not been able to take in public collections and are working with a reduced team they have faithfully responded to the increased referrals we have sent. We have collected over 30 individually created orders and delivered them to our families. We have delivered cots, baby baths, clothes, toys, toiletries and nappies galore! Mel & Beula not only fulfil our orders but always do it lovingly and with a real desire to treat the recipients to the very best they can.

In April 'L' said " Thank you very much for dropping everything off. All of those clothes and stuff have helped me out so much and they're so lovely. I just wanted to let you know as well that my nan has passed away who's house I've been living in so things are very hard as well at the moment, so your help came when I needed it most. "

We couldn't support our families without our amazing community partners. Thank you Baby Basics, we love working with you. For information about any of our youth service or the support we offer contact:

[Tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:Tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

# News from The Estates

## Beanhill

**I wish to convey my thanks to all residents of Beanhill during this virus crisis. You have all shown what a community should be.**

People have come together to help support others, be it calling for a chat or helping getting shopping even giving out the odd toilet roll! The support within our community has helped many and I personally believe that many would have struggled without this help and support.

I would like to mention a couple people and organisations. Firstly, Beanhill Residents Association which, from the start, got out and about regardless of their own personal risk. Their aim was to do what could be done and that bit more. I feel that Beanhill is well supported by our Residents Association and I would like to convey my personal thanks for not just helping our residents but also me. They have done all the running around when I couldn't and have worked day and night to ensure people have support they needed.

Next Woughton Community Council which includes us councillors. Coming from Scotland I never had parish / community councils and it's times like this that prove their needs. Woughton Community Council recently won council of the year and you now understand why. Once the initial virus shock appeared and things went into lockdown the council and all its people got to work from the background. They pulled together to support Woughton and I would like to thank them for doing so and is proof why they won this award.

I would also like to mention The Moorlands Centre who have worked when allowed to help bring our community back together. They have done what they can during this crisis, and I feel I am glad we have such a place in our community. Breadline our local bakery and the team from day one has helped our residents in Beanhill and wider in Woughton, providing sandwiches and daily specials at very reasonable prices. They have also helped the Beanhill Residents Association in many ways, and I feel they have done a marvellous job.

Lastly and very importantly I would like to thank you, the residents, who after the initial shock have come together by helping each other and this in my opinion is what a great community should be like. You have shown great spirit and



resilience during this crisis. There are too many things to mention but I for one am proud to be a Beanie and I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to you all it's a pleasure to serve you as a local councillor and I wish you all my best take care stay safe and continue to do what beanies are good at helping each other.

Thanks. **Brian Hepburn**

## Coffee Hall

Coffee Hall has been the hub of lots of activity, with the council offices being based in the middle of the estate. The Residents Association have been supporting the **delivery of food parcels**, alongside estate walk arounds to identify and report any issues.



The highlight has been the weekly 'Claps for Carers', where the community has come together and shown their appreciation for those going the extra mile. And the celebrations for Captain Tom, on his 100th Birthday, were really special as you can see from the pictures.

## Eaglestone

### Eaglestone Clapping and Rainbows

Children of Eaglestone have been putting their artistic skills to good use, drawing brilliant rainbows which can be seen by anyone walking through the estate. The Thursday clap for key workers enabled residents to get enthusiastic using various items i.e. saucepans etc to make more noise.

### Councillors and ERA walkabouts

Luke Louis and Liz Simpkins have been walking around



## Netherfield

Due to the Pandemic our Easter bonnet and Easter egg hunt had to be cancelled, Netherfield did manage to put something on by posting our very own Easter Bunny, photographed in various locations on Netherfield on face book, the first 3 to guess the right locations won a prize, (It wasn't easy). We also had a best Easter drawing competition, there were so many great entries, everyone who entered won prizes. Maggie Ferguson went above and beyond in putting this in place at a moment's notice.

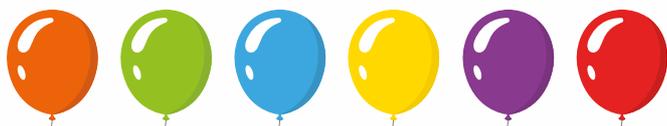


Eaglestone on a bi-weekly basis, talking to residents, reporting the fly tipping and environmental crime. These walks were initially to support vulnerable residents who have asked for help although it has been a good opportunity to get to know more about the issues surrounding Eaglestone.

We visited Everglades sheltered housing where we spoke with the warden and a number of residents. We had a chat with a lady recently out of hospital who found the lockdown and her health frustrating. If you see us, say hello.

Members of the ERA have also been out and about supporting vulnerable residents with shopping and medication collection.

### 100th birthdays on Eaglestone



Peggy 100th birthday on 31st May was celebrated by family and neighbours on the front grass area. Peggy has lived on the estate for 40 years and remembers the people who lived near her all those years ago. The front garden of her bungalow is always a joy to look at. It was a lovely sunny day and Peggy looked very young and happy holding her special birthday card from the Queen.



Netherfield have been very busy during the Pandemic by delivering food parcels, collecting items, Medication distribution, checking on vulnerable residents, following up on repairs, maintaining our community garden, and by obtaining a grant from Community Foundation we got 100 reusable/washable face masks with inserts made by a very talented Netherfield resident, to give out to the volunteers and vulnerable residents, Gloves and additional items to go in the parcels such as toiletries and cleaning products.



ERA are planning to restart our **regular litter picking events**. Although no date has been decided it is anticipated it will be sometime in August. Feedback from the residents are in favour of this due to the increased litter on the estate.

Before the current food parcel system was set up, our lovely residents donated enough items to make up 33 food parcels to give out and this was gratefully appreciated. It was also brilliant to see the lovely neighbours who went out to sing specifically for an elderly veteran on VE day as the day before while clapping for the NHS he didn't recognise any of his neighbours. Fortunately, the next day he had a day where he did recognise everyone thus creating a memory for the scrapbook his daughter is doing for him.



The support from councillors, Residents Association, Grand Union Church, Sean and Kevin from Woughton Community Council and our residents has been fantastic.



## Tinkers Bridge

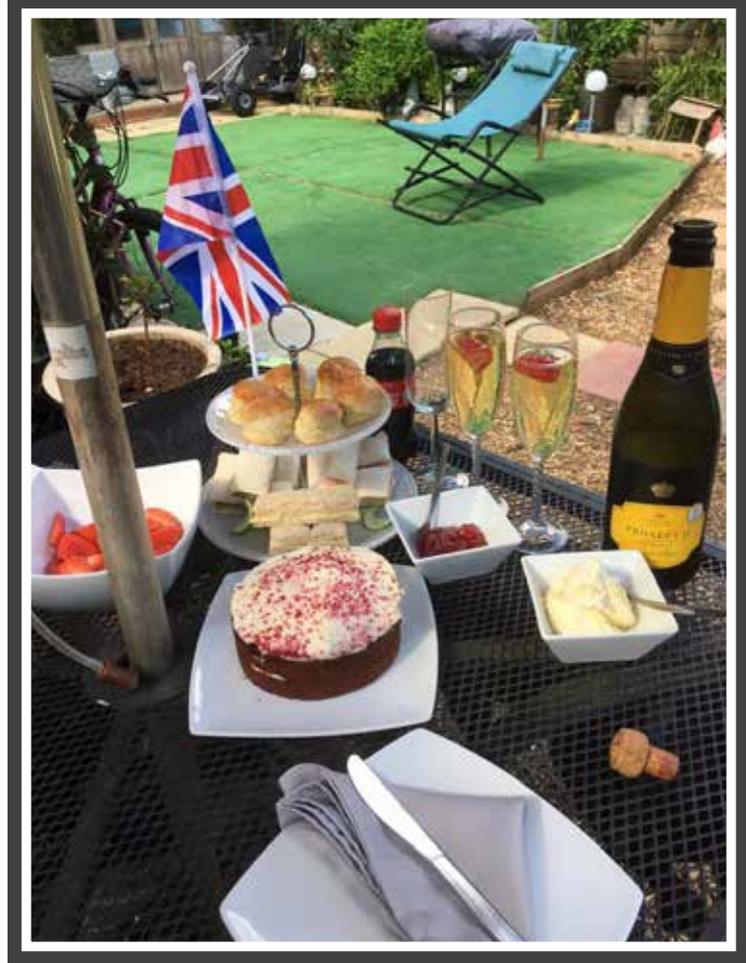
**Time marches on, the blossoms bloom in their turn with our passage through the year, the snow drops, bluebells, daffodils, tulips, blackthorn, apple, horse chestnut now the roses, poppies, foxgloves and irises.**

Already it's early June as I write this, and yet mid-March seems like only yesterday. Since then our community has faced an invisible danger the likes of which has not been seen in our lifetime. We have been asked to make dramatic changes to our daily lives, requiring huge personal emotional and financial sacrifice, some risking their lives, to protect the health of our population. With a very real toll on all our wellbeing as a result of our isolation and separation from close family and friends. So far, we have seen a real spirit of togetherness in our community behind following the government guidelines and they now seem to be having a real impact on the horrendous mortality figures nationally. We should all continue to follow Health England guidance and do everything else we deem necessary to keep our communities safe.

Since the last gazette on Tinkers we have had an online kids Easter activity, a number of residents had socially distanced tea and cakes in the street to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day and every Thursday we clapped for key workers. Our Residents Association is in the process of restarting our activities online and will hopefully have our newsletter back in print for July.

If we stick together as a community, as we have done so far, then I feel we will cope with whatever the future throws at us.

Cllr John Orr.





## Peartree Bridge

In early Spring many Peartree Bridge residents were dreaming of festivals on sunny hillsides enjoying their newly acquired marquee (courtesy of MKC). However the arrival of lockdown put those dreams on hold.

Despite facing many serious challenges during these unprecedented times, many residents have turned to the Facebook group Peartree Bridge Friends and Residents to offer one another support and kindness. Originally set up by resident Margaret McCulloch-Keeble, it is now the lively online 'hub' of Peartree Bridge with over 300 members.

### Peartree Bridge Good Neighbour Network

Since lockdown residents have displayed overwhelming generosity in their offers to help others, with many signing up to be volunteers with the NHS, AgeUK and Woughton Community Council. There have been numerous acts of kindness, including donations to charities, baking cakes, sewing facemasks and the decoration of the underpass (see pics). These are just a few of the many things that local residents have done, so thank you all.



### Peartree Bridge Conservation

Peartree Bridge is an area of natural beauty with abundant wildlife and biodiversity. The waters of the Grand Union Canal and Marina are rich in fish, with the banks hosting many nesting waterfowl, including swans, heron and even kingfishers. The Old Rectory is a listed building and its grounds provide habitat for protected species, including bats, newts, voles and toads. The green belts of Peartree Bridge are also home to badgers, foxes and hedgehogs.

For these reasons the Peartree Bridge Resident's Association have been working with Woughton Community Council, Old Woughton Council and Campbell Park Parish Council to expand our status as a protected conservation area, bringing additional protections to the space. We have helped reduce inappropriate development and hope to continue to work with partners to improve and support the diverse, nature filled estate we enjoy.



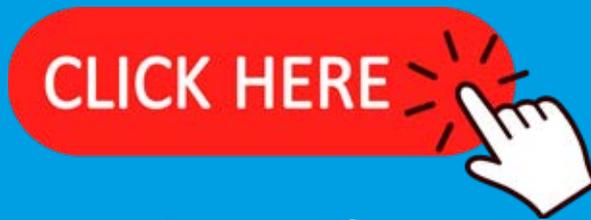
### Residents' Association AGM

We will not be holding any more face-to face meetings until social distancing measures have been lifted. We are in discussion over online meetings but not all people have the technology or confidence to use them, so these may

be phased in gradually. In September, as per tradition, the Committee will stand down and encourage new people to run the Association. It's good to have fresh faces and new ideas. If you need any help, if you'd like to get more actively involved in the Association or would like to contribute to, or be kept up to date with news, do please contact us at [peartree.chair@icloud.com](mailto:peartree.chair@icloud.com)

Stay safe and well, and here's hoping festivals will resume once again before the end of summer!

**Linda Corlett,**  
Chair, Peartree Bridge Residents' Association.



## New Website

Resident Darren Murphy has now set us up with a fabulous new website.

<https://www.peartreebridgeresidents.com/>

Do please send Darren any items of news or photos that you think residents might find of interest

[darrenmurphybug@gmail.com](mailto:darrenmurphybug@gmail.com)

The RA also has over £1000 in funds which are safely managed by our Treasurer Gill Connacher. If you can think of any community events, items or services we can spend the money on, do please let Gill know your ideas.

[gillconnacher@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gillconnacher@yahoo.co.uk)

## Let's 'Chalks' About Mental Health

**With the theme of Mental Health Awareness Week being 'kindness', we were blown away by the response to the 'Let's Chalk About Mental Health' project.**

Our Youth and Community Teams worked to provide bags of chalks for collection, encouraging people to chalk messages of kindness, support and understanding across the parish. And people really did!

With 1 in 4 people experiencing a mental health issue and with Covid 19 making things even harder for many, we need to ALL be part of the support for each other. Kindness can be a really simple thing – saying hello, picking up a newspaper for your neighbour, offering a hand with the gardening or simply just letting people know you are there for a chat when they need one.

Thank you to everyone who got involved. Thank you for everyone who does little acts of kindness. It really does make Woughton (and the world!) a better place.



**PLEASE NOTE THAT WHILST OUR OFFICES ARE CLOSED, WE REMAIN OPEN WHERE POSSIBLE.**



Youth



Advice



Wellbeing



Environment

OUR YOUTH, ADVICE, WELLBEING AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES ARE ALL AVAILABLE ONLINE / BY PHONE

**AND WE WILL TRY AND HELP WITH ANYTHING ELSE.**



**01908 395681**



**reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk**



We are pleased to be able to announce that we are once again able to offer our tool hire service. We are asking that all bookings are made over the phone to **01908 395681**, where an officer will take your details.

A Woughton Community Council officer will sanitise the item in line with Covid-19 guidance before delivering to you. The delivery will be contactless and socially distanced, they will leave a copy of the form you usually sign and collect it when they pick up the item you're hiring.

You can hire for 1 week but if you have finished your task before a week and want to arrange collection, *just call the number above.*

**DON'T FORGET -  
THIS IS A FREE SERVICE**

## **TINKERS BRIDGE EARTH PILE**

Tinkers Bridge has been suffering a nuisance pile of earth, building materials, rubble, branches and other unknown items for some time. The pictures shown are from May and October last year. This started as quite a small pile dumped on grass beside a path along one end of the estate. However, over time this has been added to by unknown residents, was becoming more and more of a blot on the landscape and creating a bigger problem for our Landscape team cutting the grass in the area.

Thanks to Milton Keynes Council and Serco, and at GREAT COST, this has now been cleared!

Can we please remind all residents that dumping like this is 'Fly Tipping' and if caught **CAN LEAD TO PROSECUTION, A FINE OF UP TO £50,000 AND A CRIMINAL RECORD!**

There are now plans to reinstate and beautify this area in keeping with other areas of the estate.



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

tel: 01908 395681  
email: [reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)  
Opening hours: Mon - Thurs 9am - 5pm and Fri 9am - 4pm.

\* All email addresses are as follows  
[@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk](mailto:@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk)

**EAGLESTONE**

 Pam Wilson 01908 607264 [pam.wilson@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:pam.wilson@jordan.coventry.uk)  
 Luke Louis 07434 658225 [luke.louis@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:luke.louis@jordan.coventry.uk)  
 Jordan Coventry 07340 308181 [jordan.coventry@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:jordan.coventry@jordan.coventry.uk)

 Liz Simpkins 0776828993 [liz.simpkins@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:liz.simpkins@jordan.coventry.uk)

**COFFEE HALL**

 Philip Hopcraft 07956 809969 [philip.hopcraft@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:philip.hopcraft@jordan.coventry.uk)  
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 Lauren Townsend 07599 886744 [lauren.townsend@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:lauren.townsend@jordan.coventry.uk)  
 Nick Scott 01908 606559 [Nick.scott@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:Nick.scott@jordan.coventry.uk)



**PEARTREE BRIDGE**

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 Ruth McMillan 07999 661632 [ruth.mcMillan@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:ruth.mcMillan@jordan.coventry.uk)

**TINKERS BRIDGE**

 John Orr 07365 92368 [john.orr@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:john.orr@jordan.coventry.uk)

**LEADENHALL**

 Shammi Akter 07848 982571 [shammi.akter@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:shammi.akter@jordan.coventry.uk)

**BEANHILL**

 Tina El-Shabrawy 07864 305560 [Tina.elshabrawy@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:Tina.elshabrawy@jordan.coventry.uk)  
 Brian Hepburn 07790 555593 [brian.hepburn@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:brian.hepburn@jordan.coventry.uk)

 Alan Williamson 01908 234821 [Alan.williamson@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:Alan.williamson@jordan.coventry.uk)

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 Maggie Ferguson 07703 619574 [maggie.ferguson@jordan.coventry.uk](mailto:maggie.ferguson@jordan.coventry.uk)

**NETHERFIELD**