

1 Castle Rose
Woughton Park
MILTON KEYNES
MK6 3BQ

20th May 2010

Campaigning for a New Parish: *Small IS Beautiful!*

Dear Householder, Neighbour, Friend,

On 17th March MK Council's Parish Review Working Group voted against the views of the majority of our Passmore, Woughton on The Green and Woughton Park residents who, in MK Council's consultation exercise, stated they wanted to separate from our current parish council arrangement. Rather than taking this lying down we can rise to this challenge. We have one opportunity to reverse this decision; we can support an amendment when the decision is voted-on by the full Council later in the summer. In order to have any chance of success, we need to mount a united front and propose a strong solution. I have therefore agreed to co-ordinate our campaign and the following have formed a group to assist:

Passmore: Phillip Acott (666258), Mike Blomley (677419), Barry Hampson (664182)

Woughton on the Green: Roy Kenyon (670598), Phil Wareham (671208)

Woughton Park: Tricia Humphries (664119), Tim Mason (609953), Susan Pugh.

We are campaigning to create a new small Parish Council that brings together Passmore with Woughton on the Green and with Woughton Park. Collectively, these areas are already recognised by MK Council as 'Polling District MD'. The boundary of our Polling District MD means that all our localities are already treated consistently, and as an entity, for three of our four tiers of democratic representation; to elect: (i) our Member of Parliament in the House of Commons; (ii) our MEP in Brussels and (iii) our Borough Councillors in MK Council. Oddly, it does not apply to the fourth, our current parish council arrangement.

Our proposed new small Parish Council would give residents direct influence over decisions affecting our localities; it would fulfil our chosen local needs and aspirations, develop solutions and see them through to successful conclusions, efficiently and at proportional cost. We would provide the services that residents want, in a way that cannot happen currently because we are just a small fragment of a much bigger parish where the voices of our 2 parish councillors are 'lost in the noise' of another 19. With a new small Parish Council we would have a clear channel of communication with MK Council through our Borough and our new Parish Councillors. In short, our proposed solution will at long last allow us to enhance our engagement with the democratic process. We sense that many residents want to work together, to create a future that benefits everyone. With your help we can succeed.

We aspire to be small, to emulate nearby Simpson Parish Council who have just 315 households. Our three areas would be a parish of 398 households. Simpson successfully established itself as a Parish Council in 1997 in the last Parish Review, bringing recognition by MK Council after many years previously simply running as a "Neighbourhood" Council. These numbers are a few of the local statistics that are helping us to shape our proposal to full MK Council – there are more on the Briefing Sheet overleaf.

The purpose of this letter is to seek your support and ask for your views on the needs and aspirations of our three localities. There's a very short separate questionnaire which we invite you to complete and return to me, or one of your local representatives, as soon as possible, but no later than Friday 11th June. Please respond, so that we have evidence of the number of residents who support our proposed change.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Humphries
Campaign Co-ordinator

BRIEFING SHEET - POLLING DISTRICT MD

DATA ARE DERIVED MAINLY FROM OFFICIAL STATISTICS & ARE SUBJECT TO OCCASIONAL UP-DATE: ALL COPYRIGHTS ACKNOWLEDGED

POPULATION — April 2010: population estimates from GP registration data

	TOTAL	Passmore	Woughton Park	Woughton on The Green
TOTAL	933	193	170	570
GENDER:				
Male	470	99	85	286
Female	463	94	85	284
AGE:				
Age Birth to 15	118	14	16	88
Age 16 to 74	755	165	143	447
Age 75 upwards	60	14	11	35

DWELLINGS — Totals are April 2010 CT Band data. E=estimates for 2009; awaiting fully validated data

	TOTAL	Passmore	Woughton Park	Woughton on The Green
TOTAL	415	76	77	262
TENURE:				
Owner Occupied	307 E	72 E	73 E	162 E
Privately Rented	63 E	4 E	0	59 E
MK Council Stock	10 E	0	0	10 E
Shared Ownership	12 E	0 E	1 E	11 E

COUNCIL TAX BAND: — April 2010 Council Tax snapshot

	TOTAL	Passmore	Woughton Park	Woughton on The Green
Band A	32	0	0	32
Band B	43	0	0	43
Band C	38	1	0	37
Band D	58	41	0	17
Band E	49	34	3	12
Band F	124	0	65	59
Band G	69	0	9	60
Band H	2	0	0	2

OCCUPATION — Awaiting data

	TOTAL	Passmore	Woughton Park	Woughton on The Green
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DEPRIVATION — Awaiting additional data

	Passmore	Woughton Park	Woughton on The Green
Index of Multiple Deprivation	Not separated	S19.8/R23	S13.5/R42

S=Score; R=Rank of 109 MK settlements; high Scores = high deprivation

MK's highest Score is 51.6-Netherfield = Rank 1; lowest 3.5-Olney; Average-14, Mode-12, Median-11

2007 data

“Small is beautiful”: Campaigning for Parish Status in Woughton on The Green, Woughton Park & Passmore

Residents' news letter 2 - July 2010

Welcome to another edition of the 'small is beautiful' news letter, which keeps you in touch with our campaign to gain our own Parish Council; one that meets our needs as local residents, that spends money wisely and brings our community together.

We're still listening to what you and other residents have to say; some residents have offered their help to our campaign (delivering leaflets, etc.). We are delighted to have your questions.

We're also carrying out a thorough audit of the area, right down to the location of every dog bin and post box. Don't let anyone tell you we're not serious about knowing this area inside out!

What's a Parish Council?

In England, Parish Councils are the first tier of local government. Subject to certain exceptions, they are elected bodies and have variable tax raising powers. Parish councils have the power to precept (tax) their residents to pay for their planned and budgeted routine operations and sometimes to carry out special projects. Typically, a Parish Council employs and pays a part time clerk for essential administrative work; elected members work for free on behalf of their community.

What's a Borough Council?

In our case it's MK Council; it is responsible for just about everything, roads, open space, policy development, granting planning consents, etc. Although Parish Councils are 'small fry' in terms of powers and responsibilities, they complement the role of a Borough Council.

Who else is receiving these News Letters?

All our Borough Councillors, certain MK Council officers who help inform our campaign, our neighbouring Parish councils and various other stakeholders ranging from the Fire & Rescue Service to The Parks Trust.

Can a new Parish help me solve local issues?

Yes, of course, and when we spot an issue that concerns a group of residents (as we already have), we'll speak to our local Borough Councillors.

The survey - so far

We've received 185 completed questionnaires from local households. Subject to confirmation shortly by MK Council that our estimate of vacant properties in the area is correct, we calculate that 47% of local households have replied; this is a magnificent response, with a very substantial majority in favour of our campaign. A detailed analysis is well on its way and we expect to have fuller results in time for the next issue in a few weeks time.

Did you know?

The village was originally just called "Woughton": the suffix was added in the Victorian era to distinguish the village from other nearby places with the same name; "On The Green" refers to the large grassy area that lay in the centre of the village: the traditional village green.

In the Domesday Book of 1086 Woughton on The Green was recorded as Ulchetone. This is an Anglo-Saxon name, which means Eoca's Farm. The village had gained its more modern name by the mid twelfth century when the manor was recorded as belonging to the Verley family.

By the time of Queen Victoria's coronation on Thursday June 28 1838, Woughton on The Green was a large village, due largely to the nearby Grand Union Canal, and later also to the railway, now the West Coast Main Line, that passed through to the nearby parish of Wolverton.

If you need a large print leaflet, please contact the editor: 07736393822

“Small is beautiful”: Campaigning for Parish Status in Woughton on The Green, Woughton Park & Passmore

Residents' news letter 3 - August 2010

Welcome to another edition of the 'small is beautiful' news letter, which keeps you in touch with our campaign to gain our own Parish Council; one that meets our needs as local residents, that spends money wisely and brings our community together.

To further help us understand the process of creating our own Parish, we've been busy reading 'The Parish Councillor's Guide', which is in its 12th edition and was first published in 1922! This book is the bible of Parish Councils and we've assigned someone to read all 243 pages.

Bees, and everything you didn't know about honey

You can hear the buzz in the air - it's the bees, of course, soaring on their foraging missions to collect the rich harvest of nectar and pollen from around our areas. We now have three hives on the allotments and at least two more at residents' addresses in Newport Road and along The Green; and we hear of plans for more to follow. Our local honey production is flourishing and we'll soon be able to buy 'Woughton on The Green Honey' that's set to earn us recognition as a 'bee-friendly village'. Honey is widely acclaimed to have medicinal properties; we hear that 'local' honey can de-sensitise hay fever sufferers to their locally airborne pollens; it has a history in treating wounds and, now, it is even being evaluated as a treatment of cancer. You can buy it in the jar; or you can buy it as 'Combe Honey' - simply serve in thin slices on fresh strawberries and raspberries, with a little cream - you'll never want another sweet, not even at The Ritz! And, just to think, it comes to your door direct from the producer - call for details.

Allotments

We spent a few hours at the allotments and can report that they are very well run by a committee that has nothing to do with Woughton Community Council. Neither we nor they see any issue with the proposed new Parish Council.

The allotments are a fantastic community resource, offering a relaxed and controlled environment in which to grow your own food, flowers or even rearing chickens and enjoying free range eggs! The historic maps of Woughton on The Green village demonstrate that there's a long tradition of allotments associated with the village. The allotments are brimming with enthusiastic tenants who will find time to help others learn about the process of growing their own produce, managing land, or simply providing a tour of how eggs end up in boxes.

Missing man hole covers

You may have noticed that some of the manhole covers have been stolen from Woughton Park and Woughton on The Green. The culprits of this act are clearly thoughtless individuals who have no regard for the public money required to replace them, nor the safety of residents who, whether pedestrian, cyclist or driver, may be placed at risk. If you see anything suspicious, get out your camera 'phone and pass some photos to the Police (or we can do it for you).

Liabilities

Sadly, some residents have been told that if we were to create our own Parish, we'd inherit huge liabilities (such as staffing costs) from Woughton Community Council. We'd like to clarify this by stating this is **not** true. The liabilities we'd inherit are typical of any Parish - allotments (which are entirely self sufficient), a Parish Hall, etc.

The survey - so far

We've received responses from approximately half of all homes in the proposed new Parish. We'd still like some more responses so if you haven't responded to our survey, we again invite you to do so; there's a copy overleaf - simply tell us when it's ready for collection, please?

And we've analysed our electoral roll and council tax list; more news in our September edition.

If you need a large print leaflet, please contact the editor: 07736393822

“Small is beautiful”: Campaigning for Parish Status in Woughton on The Green, Woughton Park & Passmore

Residents' news letter 4 - October 2010

Welcome to another edition of the 'Small is Beautiful' news letter, which keeps you in touch with our campaign to gain our own Parish Council; one that would meet our needs as local residents, would spend money wisely and brings our community together.

Progress of the Campaign

In Spring, MK's 'Boundary Review Committee', who were tasked with reviewing Parish boundaries, recommended no change to our boundary, which is when residents got together and formed this campaign group to demonstrate that the views of the majority should be respected. It is expected that the Boundary Review Committee will present their recommendations to the full Council on the 19th October.

The campaign group has completed its survey of our households; over 90% of you who replied were in favour of change – this is an incredible vote of confidence in our vision for a new democratic and accountable Parish, run by a council of local residents to meet the needs of all local residents.

Many respondents took the trouble to give their views: these overwhelmingly expressed the desire to form a smaller, more democratically accountable Parish in an area that is culturally cohesive. People also felt that in an age of increasing austerity, the new Parish would be able to make a strong contribution to 'Team Milton Keynes'.

We are represented by two Borough Councillors on Milton Keynes Council: we have already presented our case to Conservative Cllr. John Bint; he is planning to either submit or support an amendment to the Boundary Review Committee's recommendations at the Council meeting on October 19th that fully endorses our desire to form our own Parish comprising Passmore, Woughton on The Green and Woughton Park.

We are currently finalising a written Proposal which we will submit to Councillors. We have also approached LibDem Cllr. Sam Crooks, our other Borough Councillor, and he has agreed to present our Proposal to the LibDem Group in advance of the meeting.

Residents are encouraged to show their support by attending the Council meeting on the **Tuesday 19th October at 7.30pm** (Council Chamber, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East, CMK). Naturally, the results of the survey very clearly demonstrate that residents want their own Parish, but this additional show of commitment would serve to bolster our proposal. Residents are welcome to speak to the Chamber if they wish to do so (please make a Council Officer aware on arrival).

The full Proposal is a 'chunky' document. If you wish to receive a management summary, please contact me below.

Allotments

It has been suggested that if we form a new Parish, current allotment holders who reside outside the boundary of our new smaller Council would no longer be allowed to keep their patches. This is **not** true. We would be very happy for the current holders to stay, and furthermore, we are committed to working with the Patch Allotment Association to welcome people from surrounding Parishes that have yet to set up their own allotments.

If you need a large print leaflet, please contact the editor: 07736393822

John Baker, Editor: jbaker@dryfish.org.uk
Adams Lodge, 8 Baskerfield Grove, Woughton on The Green

“Small is beautiful”: Campaigning for Parish Status in Woughton on The Green, Woughton Park & Passmore

Residents' news letter 5 - December 2010

Dear Resident

Welcome to this edition of the 'small is beautiful' news letter, all about keeping you in touch with the campaign to gain our own Parish Council; a parish that considers the needs of all residents, businesses and users of amenities fairly. I am your new editor and I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards, Lorraine King, Editor

Progress of the campaign

We understand that there was some confusion in the different messages you received after the meeting, so we would like to clarify the current position.

What happened at the Council meeting on 19th October?

A number of us spoke in the debate on your behalf to put across the views expressed by you and your neighbours, through the survey. When it came to the debate and the eventual council vote, both Labour and Liberal Democrat councillors voted, en-masse, with party against the proposal. We were later advised that the voting was decided before the meeting and that any points made fell on deaf ears – for now.

There was overwhelming support from the public gallery and a number of councillors in the chamber. Although not enough councillors supported us at this stage, a very clear message was put across. This was enough for us to gain the opportunity to put our proposal again.

What next?

The council have agreed that our proposal is to be heard and decided upon by the end of October 2011. However nothing further will happen until after the local elections in May 2011. A review group will then be formed by the council in order to consider our proposal together with one presented by the residents of Campbell Park.

What can you do?

Right now we would like to hear from you, what would you like to see in your parish? Talk to your neighbours and anyone who uses the facilities in Passmore, Woughton Park or Woughton On The Green. Most importantly please keep reminding us of any involvement you would like to have, we may not have called upon you yet, that is because we have barely begun. It is really important that the campaign team know we have your support, after all this is about you.

The full 42 page proposal document

This is now available for you to have your own copy either printed or by email. A summary of the document is on the reverse of this newsletter. Why not have a read and then decide whether you would like your own complimentary copy of the full document?

To request your complimentary copy, please provide the following information to me, by email or pop a note in my letter box.

Name

Address

.....

Email Address

Please tell me what format you would like:

- PDF version by e-mail or
- Printed copy delivered to my address

For a large print version of this leaflet please contact me

Lorraine_King@hotmail.com

Adams Lodge, Baskerfield Grove, Woughton On The Green

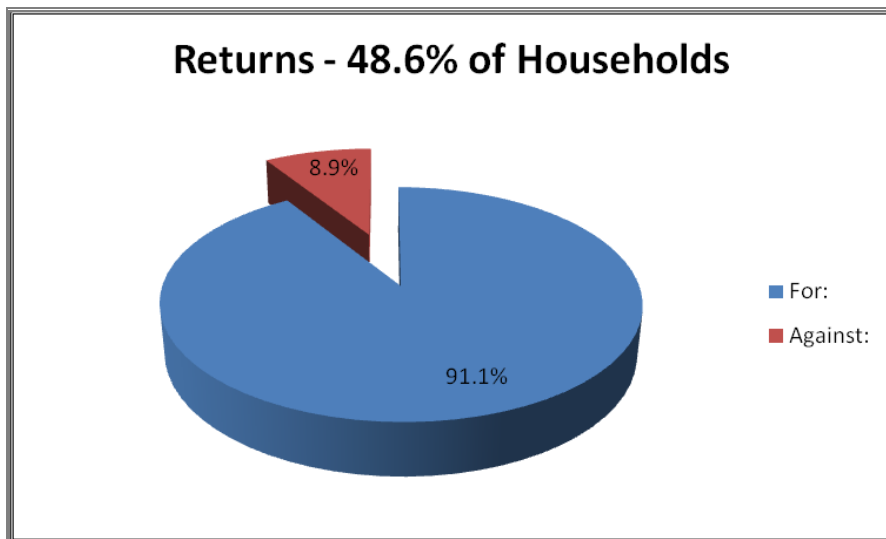
Small is Beautiful Campaign Summary & Recommendations

This proposal is put forward on behalf of the residents of Woughton on The Green, Woughton Park and Passmore by a small working group drawn from the same three areas.

The proposal seeks the Council's approval for these areas to be granted Parish status; this would create a new parish of similar size and demographics to several other Milton Keynes parishes, such as Loughton and Simpson & Ashland.

Our "Community Vision" describes the collective views of the many residents who richly responded to the group's letter and questionnaire to all households in our areas during May and early June this year. And once we had launched our campaign, our regular communications stimulated considerable, positive feedback.

Their mandate is clear and unequivocal, "Small is beautiful!" they roar back to us. They provide a rich agenda for action to nurture and enhance their home domains. They also wish to join with the rest of the larger MK community in shaping the bigger picture in a challenging social and economic climate that is set to dominate the national psyche for some years to come. In presenting our proposal we must emphasise that our campaign group does not consider itself to be a 'parish-in-waiting'; nor does it seek to circumvent the due democratic process.



Our research endorses the headline numbers that emerged from the research that Democratic Services reported to the Council's Parish Boundary Review Group on March 17; it more than amply responds to the then observed lack of community vision that was a feature of that research.

The creation of a new parish would enable it to focus on developing the environment in a sustainable way. It would not only preserve and support the balanced diversity of the area but also allow us to concentrate increased support on those older, more vulnerable residents. It would allow the new parish to adopt a financial management approach that was in-tune with the greater need for economy as well as the needs of its residents. It would strengthen democracy in the areas concerned and fashion a clear-minded, self-reliant parish that would be an asset to the Milton Keynes community.

We, the overwhelming majority of the residents of Polling District MD, ask that the Council urgently considers this Proposal for parish status.

Moreover, we recommend that the Council approves our request and allows us to vest a new parish without delay.

Andrew Humphries

Campaign Co-ordinator

andrewhumphries@ukonline.co.uk

“Small is beautiful”: Campaigning for Parish Status in Woughton on The Green, Woughton Park & Passmore

Residents' news letter 6

Dear Resident

Welcome to this edition of the 'small is beautiful' news letter, all about keeping you in touch with the campaign to gain our own Parish Council; a parish that considers the needs of all residents, businesses and users of amenities fairly. Thank you to those of you who got in touch following our last newsletter, your comments and support are what drive the campaign.

Regards, Lorraine King, Editor

Progress of the campaign

Things are constantly moving and changing at the council. We were pleasantly surprised to hear that the boundary review is being kick started now in order to ensure that the final outcome is produced by October 2011.

What next?

As we noted in our last letter, the review will consider two separate issues; the first is our campaign to create an independent parish; the second is the boundary of Central Milton Keynes Parish and whether to include the Campbell Park Grid Square.

What is the campaign team doing now?

We are preparing the submission for the review and doing everything we can to express your views to the decision-makers. Thanks to your comprehensive response to our survey, we know your views on the matter. It is possible the council may ask for your views again, so please continue to show your support by responding if asked.

The campaign team is actively looking for more members to ensure we are fully representing your views. If you would like to know more about this then please contact Andrew Humphries on 01908 664119 or andrewhumphries1@o2.co.uk

Your opinion counts

You may not be aware that Woughton Community Council has recently twice asked for residents views. The first was on improvements to local areas and the second on whether to increase taxes. In both cases very few residents were aware of the request.

Your campaign team wish to have an effective and thorough way of ensuring that you can easily express your views to us on all things Parish. This is about the long term, as your parish is created and active.

What is the best way for you to express your views?

Your team have considered this carefully and the following options are available:

- Email one of the team
- Text Messaging
- Pop a note in the letterbox of one of the team
- Telephone one of the team
- Feed my views back to a nominated street representative

Your campaign team also wish to understand how they can most effectively communicate with you. You will continue to receive the campaign newsletters and when the next one arrives it will contain all the details of the new campaign website, keeping you continually up to date. Your campaign team are also planning to hold open meetings, again we will provide details in the newsletter.

For a large print version of this leaflet please contact me

Lorraine_King@hotmail.com

Adams Lodge, 8 Baskerfield Grove, Woughton On The Green

**“Small is beautiful”: Campaigning for Parish Status
in Woughton on The Green, Woughton Park & Passmore**

Residents' news letter 6

Which is the best way for you?

Please let your campaign team know how you would like to communicate with them and ensure that what you want is heard and acted upon. Right now there may not be anything you wish to share, please still let us know the best route as in future something may come up for you.

To let us know your views please contact us by one of the following;

Email me Lorraine_King@hotmail.com

Drop me a note at Adams Lodge, 8 Baskerfield Grove, Woughton on the Green

Telephone one of us	Woughton on the Green	Roy 670598	Lorraine 201918
	Woughton Park	Susan 605789	Tim 606953
	Passmore	Mike 677419	Barry 664182

As always please let us know the following information;

Name.....

Address.....

Mobile Telephone.....

Email Address

My preferred ways to share my views and receive information are;

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Email one of the team | <input type="checkbox"/> | Please tick all that apply |
| Text messaging | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Pop a note in the letterbox of one of the team | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Telephone one of the team | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Feed back my views to a street representative | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Use a website | <input type="checkbox"/> | |
| Attend an open meeting | <input type="checkbox"/> | |

I am interested in finding out what is involved in being on the campaign team

For a large print version of this leaflet please contact me
Lorraine_King@hotmail.com
Adams Lodge, 8 Baskerfield Grove, Woughton On The Green