

{Small is Beautiful}

Campaign for independent parish status for Woughton On The Green, Woughton Park and Passmore

www.sibc.org.uk

Residents Newsletter #8

Dear Neighbour

Welcome to your latest newsletter. Firstly a correction from newsletter 7: any 'resident' of the area may become a parish councillor and you don't need to be a homeowner. Thank you to those of you who questioned and pointed out this mistake.

Much has happened since the last edition in March; so here is as much as we could fit in; for more details please get in touch with me or a member of the team or go to www.sibc.org.uk. I have particularly enjoyed meeting so many of you on your doorsteps and in the residents meeting on 12th April. Regards, Lorraine King - editor

Residents meeting

Around 100 of you attended the residents meeting at St Mary's Church on 12th April. There was someone there from almost every street in the area; so you and your neighbours were well represented. John Moffoot - Head of Democratic Services at Milton Keynes Council - also attended as a specially invited guest. The team gave a brief presentation and then most of the evening was spent sharing views and asking questions. You were able to meet the team and your neighbours; and based on the feedback we have received this was the part you most enjoyed. Copies of our presentation and handout are available on the website www.sibc.org.uk or for a printed copy ask one of the team.

Our thanks go to Norma and Brian Baldwin; who hosted on behalf of St Mary's Church.

Just some of the things you suggested are listed here:

- Children's play park - Lucas Place
- A 'no entry' sign by the tree at Newport Road leading to the Green
- Resolve problem of access from rear of houses in Lucas Place to the recreation ground
- Traffic calming measures in Lucas Place
- Resolve problem of camping on Sports field & associated car parking during festivals
- Salt & grit bins for Passmore
- Coffee mornings in the village hall
- Activities for children in the area
- Pruning for the community orchard

The cost of running our own parish

The campaign is principally focussed on building community spirit and representation for residents. A number of you have expressed an interest in the costs involved. At this point we can only give you a very broad outline of the basic costs because our needs might change in the future. We estimate that the cost of supporting the allotments, servicing the dog bins and providing parish administration is somewhere between £10,000 and £15,000 per year. This represents a Band D precept of between £21 and £31 per year. The team know you want services delivered with the minimum overhead costs.

On the doorstep

During April the team went round and knocked on every door in the area. We managed to speak to over half the households. You have confirmed your views on the campaign and the support is still overwhelming. The results will be published in our updated proposal and in the next newsletter.

For a large print version of this leaflet please contact: editor@sibc.org.uk
Adams Lodge, 8 Baskerfield Grove, Woughton On The Green

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A sense of community

Every time we speak to you, you share your views on the campaign and the local area. Views are diverse and varied but there is one clear message that comes through: you care about the area you live in and the community you share it with. This sense of community was really present at the residents meeting and is a core part of the campaign.

The community governance review

This is the name of the council run, panel that has been created to respond to our campaign for our own parish and the campaign by residents of Campbell Park to move parish. The panel comprises seven Milton Keynes borough councillors and is managed by John Moffoot and Paul Robinson, from the department of democratic services at the council.

On the 29th, 30th March and 14th April the review panel met: the first two meetings were to hear the proposals and views of the residents of Campbell Park and Woughton Parishes respectively; the third was to agree the process by which they would conduct the review.

We attended all three meetings and represented the campaign on your behalf. All meetings are open to the public and we have been advised to expect the next one in July. We will continue to let you know about these meetings so you can attend if you wish.

Important - your action needed

The review panel will write to all the residents in the areas concerned during the second half of May 2011. You will be asked to complete a questionnaire asking if you want change or not. It is vitally important that you support the campaign by completing and returning your questionnaire by the due date. This is separate to the information the campaign have already gathered, as the review panel want their own new survey completed.

We will be presenting our updated proposal to the review panel on 19th May. Please contact us before 14th May if you have any further suggestions, comments or views that you wish to include. The final document will be available on the website www.sibc.org.uk or for a printed copy please ask any member of the team.

Keep in touch

Questions, suggestions and views can be directed to any member of the team

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