

# News

The Newsletter of Old Woughton Parish Council



Apple Day in Woughton on the Green Community Orchard

# Who's Who in the Parish

## OLD WUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

The Parish of Old Woughton is divided into 4 small wards.  
Details of your local Councillors are listed below.

### Woughton on the Green North



**Rob Grindley**  
Planning, Green Spaces,  
Transport

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**Roy Kenyon**  
Allotments, Finance  
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Liaison for Transport

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**Phil Nash**  
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Communications,  
OWIS/IT

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### Woughton on the Green South



**Ray Brown**  
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**Charlotte Hall**  
CHAIR

Finance & Budget,  
Planning, Liaison for Parks Trust,  
Communications

chall@oldwoughton.org.uk

### Woughton Park



**Vanessa  
Freeman Gwynn**  
VICE CHAIR

Liaison for MKCC and Parks Trust,  
Communications, Planning

vgwynn@oldwoughton.org.uk

**Geoff Long**

Dog & Litter Bins, Green Spaces,  
Liaison for Canal & River Trust,  
OWPC Representative – Welfare Trust

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### Passmore



**Mary Major**

Liaison for Parishes Forum,  
Noticeboards, Finance & Budget

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**Roshini  
Wickramasinghe**

Liaison for Canal & River Trust

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### Clerk

The Borough of Milton Keynes is divided into larger wards, OWPC is in the Campbell Park and Old Woughton Ward. Your ward councillors are:



**Vicky Mote**

CILCA QUALIFIED

Finance & Budget, Environment, OWIS/IT, Data  
Protection Officer, Responsible Financial Officer,  
Liaison for Parks Trust, Parishes Forum and MKCC

clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk



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**Nana Oguntola**

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**Paul Trendall**

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**Our Next Parish Council  
Meetings Are On Monday:**

13th November, January 8th & March 11th  
7.30pm.

VENUE: St. Mary's Church

### CONTACT US

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[clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk)

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Friends of  
Old Woughton PC

# Editorial

**So, here we are again then, hurtling towards the festivities – it seems only days since we were enjoying the beauty of Woughton through that exceptional autumn weather!**

The local landscape has been rather a feature for the parish council's work too and the centre spread records the enthusiastic participation of residents at this year's Annual Parish meeting, where MK City Council's Landscape Client Manager was a keynote speaker. The new contract has now started, of course, and already we can see improvements on the ground; we maintain an active interest as the changes bed in. There were also major changes on the recycling front and it is good to see the preparations of the Wheelie Bin Team paying off locally (see p.5).

On page 6, we build upon the MK Dons SET attendance at the June meeting by reproducing its current plans for the Woughton playing fields, where there is a noticeable increase in usage (hurrah!), but also litter (boo!). Extra bins and litter-picking have already been put in place by the SET as we write.

It is also the time of year for the OWPC annual budget consultation, do let us have your thoughts. The parish council maintains a 'steady as you go' approach for 2024/25, which acknowledges the difficulties that many have faced with cost of living pressures. Do make a note of the next Citizens Advice surgery at St. Mary's, which has been timed to help manage the season's additional demands (p8).

That's about it then for 2023 and it only remains for us to wish you and yours the most peaceful of seasons.

See you next year,

The Comms. Team

*Charlotte, Phil & Vanessa*

[communications@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:communications@oldwoughton.org.uk)



*The wildflower display outside St. Mary's*

## OLD WUGHTON PARISH COUNCIL

### *The Chair*

**It was absolutely fantastic to see so many residents at the Residents Meeting earlier in the year.**

A huge THANK YOU has to be given to the MKCC Officers, Recycling Team, DonsSET and Neighbourhood Watch who made this event so informative and productive. Indeed, it is clear that this format is one which we will adopt for this annual event, as it allows us to have a forum to focus on key issues that help our residents most.

As with the new MKCC Waste contract the new Landscaping contract is now in place and 'settling in'. We will look to see how delivery unfolds for us, ensure we have a good understanding of the specifications and scope of the new contract, and how this sits against our own aspirations and knowledge on the ground.

We look ahead to the new financial year and lay out a draft budget to not only continue our longer term strategy that ensures we can cover costs, and are also able to maintain an appropriate reserve to deliver well planned projects that support our community.

#### **We will continue to:**

- Support the most vulnerable ( Please see MKCAB outreach session info on page 8);
- Look to foster closer working with our partners and neighbours ( see page 7)
- Review and take a watching brief on Landscaping Issues
- Drive forwards (not too fast though!) our Speed Watch Programme!
- Shape further Community Events bringing the whole parish together like last month's hugely popular Apple Day in the Community Orchard (front cover)!

It is also a time that there are many changes and larger plans unfolding around us including the new 'City Plan', Boundary reviews and more. We will endeavour to keep you informed on these and ensure that every opportunity is given, where we can, for you as residents to have your Say! We may be a small Parish but we have a loud voice !! I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank our Clerk Vicky and all of our Councillors for their commitment and hard work.

Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and peaceful New Year!

*Charlotte*

### CONGRATULATIONS...



...are very much in order to Charlotte, who has been appointed by MK City Council to be one of its three representatives on MK Parks Trust. Landscape management is very important to our residents (see also centre pages), and so this is a very important relationship to nurture. Expect to hear more from Charlotte as she gets to grip with her new responsibilities.



**As the summer was getting underway, nearly a 100 partners, parishioners and councillors came together for two hours of information-sharing and challenge.**

Representatives from Milton Keynes City Council's Landscape, Waste and wheelie bin teams came to St. Mary's to respond to your questions about service delivery and up-coming changes to local services.

Other partners having stands included the MK Dons Sport & Education Trust (SET), which is the new management contractor for the playing fields, as well as Neighbourhood Watch representatives, sharing their renewed plans and materials.

Refreshments were served after we heard the keynote speeches followed by questions, and then it was time to circulate around the display stands in search of the issues specific to you.

Feedback to OWPC about the new format of the meeting has been very positive and, certainly, neighbours and presenters seemed in no hurry to leave despite the lovely warm evening. It is never too early to start collecting suggestions for next year's event, so do contact us: [communications@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:communications@oldwoughton.org.uk)

Meanwhile, here is a snapshot of the issues you raised from the floor, the answers we received, and the items to carry forward.

### **Q.1 Would the 'enhanced monitoring option' for devolved landscaping be parish by parish or altogether?**

*The 'third way' as it is sometimes badged, is a series of bi-monthly meetings with MKCC to enable greater focus on landscape works, involving all parishes, which opt to join. 13 parishes have so far devolved and there are 5 parishes that currently meet using the 'enhanced monitoring option'. There would be an additional cost to OWPC if the Clerk attends (Clerk Hours) at least.*

### **Q.2 Do devolving parishes receive funding from MKCC?**

*Yes, there is a sum equivalent to existing annual cost, which would transfer between MKCC and OWPC, which could be then re-contracted by OWPC. This was estimated at £13,000 @ for the whole parish. Whilst not devolved spend levels can be changed by any approved MKCC budget.*

### **Q.3 Where verges only are mown, does MKCC manage seed dispersal into adjacent gardens?**

No

### **Q.4 How is the electricity for the new contractor's fleet provided?**

*As part of MKCC's recycling functions at Old Wolverton.*

### **Q.5 Why is there no maintenance of W. Park Village 'Green'?**

*There is a metre-wide cut on all the Green's verges. Tree management can be explored in a joint site visit.*

#### **Woughton Park Issues**

A site visit to the new village green was made by MKCC's Landscape Client Services Manager over the summer and the following additional management will be put in place as the new contract beds in:

- regular mown grass areas to be increased up to the tree line to allow for better personal use
- grass from the tree lines back to the perimeter to be left long and mown 1 or 2 times per year.
- vegetation at the top end towards the canal between the steps and the sloped path to have more regular mown area and willow control to assist with sightlines and safe access
- verge mowing to be re-instated between the highway and the ditch between the Old School north to the village green.

### **Q.6 Why is there no tree or French drain management on W. Park Village Green?**

*Per answer 5 above, this can be reviewed in the site visit.*

### **Q.7 Why is ivy not managed (causes weakened overhanging branches especially into neighbouring gardens)?**

*MKCC has an ivy management policy, which does not include the routine control of ivy. This can also be reviewed through the site visit.*

### **Q.8 What will MKCC do about tree interference with my television signal?**

*There is no right to a TV signal, nor solar gain, for that matter.*

### **Q.9 Why is landscape not managed around road signs?**

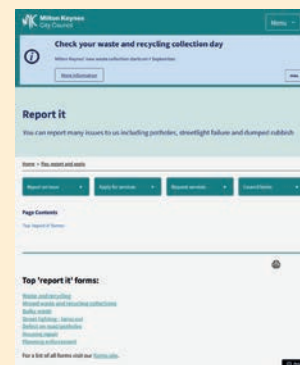
*Please use MKCC's 'Report It' service to notify problem instances.*

### **Q.10 What about having a 'Report It' service for all these issues?**

*MKCC's Report It service is widely available online, <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pay-report-and-apply/report-it>, or ring customer services on MK 691 691.*

#### **REPORT IT!**

What came across so clearly from the meeting is that local residents care very much about Old Woughton, both its physical appearance and its sense of community, making it a great place to live. We can all help to maintain these features by tackling anti-social behaviours head on and MKCC has an easy to use report service for all of its activities. Please do try it - you will be given a report reference and this makes it easier for the Clerk to follow up where a response is overdue: [clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:clerk@oldwoughton.org.uk)



# Parish Meeting 2023

## your interests

### Q.11 Are the original blue recycling boxes now redundant?

Yes. Please feel free to re-purpose them.

### Q.12 Are smaller wheelie bins available?

All wheelie bins are now a standard size. They do not have to be put for every collection.

### Q.13 Will all these bins be returned to their own properties?

The new waste contract has much tighter requirements and bins are expected to be returned to their properties. This will be a monitoring issue and the new collection vehicles will have 360 degree cameras to assist.

### Q.14 Can all complaints be made on-line (no phoning-in needed)?

Yes, via MKCC'S Report It service (see Fact Box).

### Q.15 What will be the frequency of collection (by bin colour)?

Green and Black collections remain weekly. Blue and Red collections will alternate fortnightly. Printed details will be delivered with the bin roll out.

### Q.16 Are we really going to recycle glass in plastic sacks?

Yes, where properties have been assessed and eligible for sacks rather than bins.

### Q.17 Who is responsible for clearing up after the crows?

The change to a fully binned system helps to reduce bird damage. Bin lids to be fully closed as this is important for the mechanism of the trucks.

### Q.18 My daughter lives in Woburn Sands, how does she make space for this?

Your daughter can ask for a review of her property.

### Q.19 Which bin is the right one for soft plastics?

It is not currently economical for MKCC to recycle these items, so place in Black bin. Alternatively, some larger supermarkets offer this service (e.g. the Co-op, M & S etc.)

### Q.20 How do the operators know there is an 'assisted collection' at a property?

There is an in-cab system which will notify the crew of this.

### Q.21 Where do you put shredded paper?

In the red bin (it must be clean and dry).

### Q.22 How will the service be monitored?

A more robust contract with rigorous performance targets and clear penalties for poor performance. Vehicles 360' cameras will help.

### Did you know....

Electrified vehicles on our Waste and Environmental Services Contract are powered by energy produced from the treatment of the black bins waste at the MK Waste Recovery Park in Wolverton. A private wire goes from the Recovery Park over to Depots in Colts Holm Road.

### Thank you!

- Rebecca Trowse – Commissioning Programme Manager (MKCC Environmental Services)
- Euan Darling – Client Services Manager, (MKCC Landscape)
- Kay Pettit – Programme Manager (Parish and Town Councils), MKCC
- Gennaro Corrado, Waste Services Transformation Team Leader, MKCC
- Amy Armstrong & Izzy Jones, Waste and Recycling Officers, MKCC
- Maralyn Smith, CEO, MK Dons SET
- Steve Lazell & colleagues at Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Watch



### What Happens Next?

OWPC is grateful to MKCC Officers for the clear explanations given on the night, especially where it was recognised that the answers wouldn't be universally popular. From the questions raised, OWPC will take forward the unresolved items, notably Qs 5, 6 & 7 via the site visit undertaken by the Landscape Client Officer and we will monitor progress through OWPC Full Council meetings. A watching brief on MKCC's Devolved Landscape programme will also be maintained.

The relationship between OWPC and the Dons SET continues to build - see their progress report overleaf - and we can expect more developments going forward.

OWPC has an open dialogue with Neighbourhood Watch colleagues locally and we will continue to keep that going.

See you next year



Additional litter bins at the Pavilion

## Pavilion & Playing Fields

### Annual Parish Meeting issues for the MK Dons SET

- Litter on playing fields, especially after events
- Additional poo bins at strategic entry points

### – Update from MK Dons SET

Many of you attending the Annual Parish Meeting took the opportunity to meet Maralyn Smith, Chief Executive of MK Dons SET, who had a display stand of material to take away. (photo?) Whilst there were questions about courses and summer activities, here the Facilities Management team write about plans further into the future.

It's been a busy time at Woughton. Alongside the ongoing use of the facilities by local sports teams and the community, we've also been working to develop the site. Here are some examples of our plans and we are always keen to listen to views from those living nearby - so please keep the contact details below for future use.

#### What's been changed in recent months:

- New booking process to increase understanding of: likely numbers of attendees AND vehicles; plans to manage parking and foot traffic; and contingency plans should fixtures be more popular than forecast (eg alternative parking locations and car park stewarding). Where the SET isn't confident the activity can be effectively managed the booking will be refused.
- On-going partnerships with regular users, rather than transactional use for one-off activities where the user is unlikely to feel same level of responsibility for looking after the site and consideration for the local area
- Improved communication with users - listening to what they need as well as communicating with them the requirements/considerations they need to stick to help manage impact of their activity/participants on the local area

- New grounds maintenance operator in place to improve the appearance around the buildings and car parks
- Additional litter bins as well as increased litter picking.

#### Significant Projects in development

- Switch to LED lighting on outdoor AstroTurf, to reduce light pollution
- Improved management of access to car park to reduce anti-social use in evenings (new barrier and expanding CCTV coverage/signage)
- Pothole repairs and silt/vegetation build up, which has reduced parking spaces

#### Facilities Team



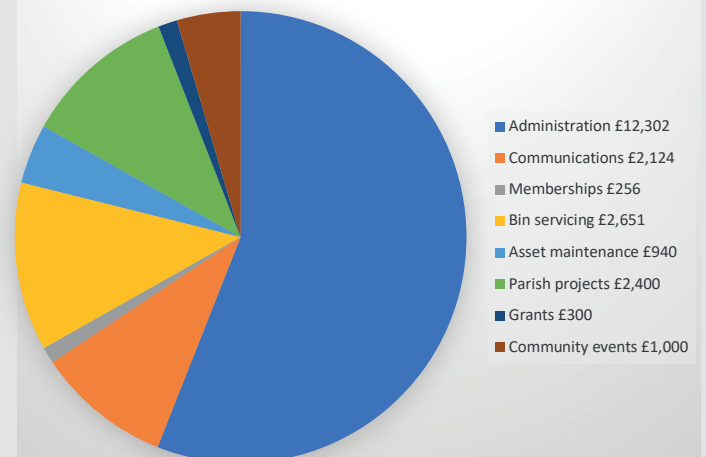
For enquiries about hiring a facility please use this link to access an online form (or scan the QR code).

#### DRAFT BUDGET 2024/25

Each year at the halfway mark, our Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) presents a “predicted” year-end spend in readiness for our more detailed budget planning for the following financial year.

At our next full council meeting on Monday 13 November 2023, our RFO will present an initial detailed draft budget for 2024/25 for council to consider and comment on. It will then be available for public consultation for six weeks in the meeting papers on the website. The Finance Working Group will also get together to discuss and agree a final recommendation, which will be put to full council for sign-off on Monday 8 January 2024, before it must be submitted to Milton Keynes City Council for inclusion

#### DRAFT Budget 2024/25 Planned Expenditure £21,973



# OWPC Calendar 2024 – an idea!

**To the undoubted disappointment of our loyal purchasers, the decision has been taken this year to hold fire on producing an OWPC calendar. The rising cost of paper, ink and printing in the middle of a cost of living squeeze, means that we cannot produce a competitive version that would cover its costs on a small print run.**

Meanwhile, 'personalised' versions have become increasingly popular and there are some very user-friendly products available now enabling more and more people to produce their own. If you would like to give this a try and you want to use OWPC images from our past calendars and/or newsletters, then please contact us and we will forward copies of these images for your use.

Send your request to: [communications@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:communications@oldwoughton.org.uk) or give the list to your local councillor (pictured on page 2) and do let us know how you get on!

## Speed Watch

Enforcement has done little to tackle speeding and is mainly effective only in areas around fixed speed cameras. Clearly more education is required and Speed Watch (SW) is one of the ways in which this is attempted at a local level. The system is managed by, monitored and acted upon by Thames Valley Police (TVP).

All SW operators are local volunteers who are required to undertake and pass on-line training run by TVP. OWPC has set up a SW scheme and, as at time of writing, four operators have passed the training. The group is currently identifying locations at which to operate SW sessions, these will be submitted to TVP who will authorise them using criteria such as line of sight and safety.

As stated, the aim is education, the SW group have no powers and simply submit data to TVP following SW sessions. TVP may decide to write to persistent offenders but there are no prosecutions based on our observations.

We would be delighted for more volunteers to join our group. Please join the OWPC volunteers list, stating you would like to join SW, by emailing [communications@oldwoughton.org.uk](mailto:communications@oldwoughton.org.uk) and we will send you details of how to access the training sessions.

Milton Keynes Old Woughton SW group.

# Didn't we do that already?

**Unbelievably, to many of our older readers there is to be another Electoral Review of the principal local authority for Milton Keynes – the now City Council.**

Triggered by the area's continued rapid growth, the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE), is currently reviewing the timetable for its local study throughout much of 2024. The issues to be considered are:

## What is an electoral review?

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England



The review is important to us locally since the Campbell Park & Old Woughton ward was only brought into existence through the last review and following intense lobbying for our current arrangements.

Whatever the proposals from the new review, it is certain that the overall number of city councillors will be increased and existing ward boundaries changed to reflect new areas of housing development. We will keep you briefed on the public consultation opportunities as soon as we have those dates. Meanwhile, if you would like to increase your knowledge of LGBCE reviews then go to: [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

KEEP IT CLEAN, KEEP IT GREEN



## Your 2023/24 waste and recycling calendar

New collection service starts from 4 September 2023

### When will my bins or sacks be emptied?

Weekly collections will continue for black and green bins.

Blue and red bins or sacks will be collected on alternate weeks, blue one week and red the next.

- ✔ The black bin is for rubbish you would usually put in your black sack
- ✔ The blue lid bin is for plastic, metal and glass
- ✔ The red lid bin is for clean, dry cardboard and paper
- ✔ The green bin is for food and garden waste

### On collection day, please...

- ✔ Put your bin out by 7am
- ✔ Ensure the bin lid is fully closed
- ✔ Return your bins to your property once emptied



2023/24	WEEK COMMENCING				
Sep	4	11	18	25	
Oct	2	9	16	23	30
Nov	6	13	20	27	
Dec	4	11	18	25*	
Jan	1*	8	15	22	29
Feb	5	12	19	26	
Mar	4	11	18	25	
Apr	1	8	15	22	29
May	6	13	20	27	
Jun	3	10	17	24	
Jul	1	8	15	22	29
Aug	5	12	19	26	
Sept	2	9	16	23	30
Oct	7	14	21	28	
Nov	4	11	18	25	
Dec	2	9	16	23*	30*

\* For more information on collection days over Christmas, please visit [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/collection-days](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/collection-days)

# UK Last Posting Dates



**- Don't be late!**

**Monday 18th December**

2nd Class, 2nd Class Signed For

**Tuesday 19th December**

1st Class, 1st Class Signed For

**Wednesday 20th December**

Royal Mail Tracked 48

**Thursday 21st December**

Royal Mail Tracked 24

**Friday 22nd December**

Special Delivery Guaranteed

(Guaranteed Saturday delivery for an extra fee)

For more info:

<https://royalmail.com/christmas/last-posting-dates>



*Happy New Year!*



If you would like to view an electronic copy of the newsletter just scan the code

**Advice Session**  
**Advice Session**  
**Advice Session**  
**Advice Session**  
**Advice Session**  
**Advice Session**  
**Advice Session**

citizens advice Milton Keynes

**Tuesday 5th December 2023**

Old Woughton Parish Council has teamed up with Citizens Advice, to provide some free advice sessions for local residents.

Citizens Advice Milton Keynes is a local charity that supports thousands of people in the area, every year, with a range of money, legal and personal problems.

If you need to talk things through, there's no appointment necessary, just drop in and speak to an adviser at **St Mary's Church** on:

**Tuesday 5th December 2023**  
**10:30am - 1:30pm**



## EVENTS

**Saturday 18th November 2023 - Litter Picking**

Meet on seat opposite Pub : 10.30-11.30

**St Mary's Church – 'Christmas Fayre'**

Saturday 2nd December, 2pm-4pm

**Ouzel Valley Park Run - 3K,6K or 10K**

Sunday 3rd December at 10am at the Woughton Playing Fields

**Citizens Advice Session (free) - St Mary's Church**

Tuesday 5th December, 10.30-1.30pm

**MK Winter Half Marathon**

Sunday 10th December

**Friday 26th January 2024 - Litter Picking**

Meet at the Passmore noticeboard : 10.30-11.30



**ST. MARY'S CHURCH SERVICES**

**Sunday 17th December**

10am Word and Worship with Christingle, 6pm Carol service

**Sunday 24th December**

No morning service at St. Mary's 11.30pm Midnight Communion

**Christmas Day**

10am Family Communion

**New Year's Eve**

No service at St. Mary's

(10am Parish Covenant Service at Trinity Fishermead).

Old Woughton News is produced by

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