

THE BRIDGE 17

The newsletter of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association
April 2017

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TINKERS
BRIDGE
Residents Association

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Residents of Tinkers Bridge

At long last, on 26th April we should have details of the regeneration schedule. And not before time, I hear you say! From this date, the first estate(s) will begin their year of consultation. Read more about it, and see a schedule of community drop ins, in the Regeneration update section. I am sure it will be a hot topic at the Meeting on the 27th as well.

The weather is glorious as I write this, and spring is in the air. Some of the gutters on Tinkers Bridge are reflecting the spring weather and sprouting a veritable meadow of wild grasses and flowers. Did you know that YourMK has agreed responsibility for the gutters on council houses, so if yours is sprouting, ring



YourMK (number above) and get it cleared! Leaving them blocked, leads to a lot of the flooding problems that we have been experiencing on the estate. Another problem that YourMK has been able to solve are the ridge tiles. If you have loose or broken ridge tiles, **let them know** and they will replace them. **Plan:MK**, the master plan for all of MK has also produced a draft for the next 5 years and all plans for regeneration will follow its policies. Make your voice heard - see the section on Plan:MK.

of Help scheme from Tesco is still going and is in the last week for voting with the little blue tokens for Tinkers Bridge. You don't have to buy a bag, to get the token, but you do have

to ask for them. The Tinkers Bridge slot is on the right of the three slots. **The Editor**

CHAIR'S LETTER

This month I want to take the opportunity to pay tribute to all those who have worked so hard over the years to make Tinkers Bridge a better place to live. I want to thank them for all the Christmas parties, valentine's discos, summer fun days, dog shows, seaside trips, Halloween parties, Easter events, street clean ups, bulb planting, quiz nights, bingo nights, the landscape volunteers who look after our community flower beds & landscaping, the volunteers who ran our street dance club our arts and crafts club, our yoga club, our kids football club, the volunteers who run our first steps working group and helped survey our residents and draw up our community's action plan, the volunteers who write print and deliver our newsletter, the volunteers who write up our minutes, look after our accounts, apply for grants and funding, attend council meetings on our behalf and keep us informed. To the volunteers who run the rainbows, brownies and guides. To all the unsung heroes of our community who everyday help out their neighbours in so many ways that we never hear about. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart. **John Orr, Chair TBRA**



Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association Meeting

Thursday 27th April 2017,

7:30 to 9.00 pm

**Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place,
Marshworth**

Much of this meeting will be taken up with a discussion about the decision released on the 26th April by YourMK on the regeneration project. (see page 2)

THE REGENERATION PROCESS – APRIL 2017 UPDATE FROM YOURMK

DECISION ON FIRST AREA(S) FOR REGENERATION

On 26th April we will be able to communicate where regeneration work will start. This is an important step in regeneration but it is important to remember that this will not be the start of any building work.

Instead this will be the start of our process of community engagement.

We will spend time speaking to residents in the first area(s) to create the vision and plan for where they live. This process is called Master planning and will take around a year to develop with residents.

For the areas where we will not be working first, we will also give a timetable of when they will go through a similar exercise.

We still won't have all the answers

When we communicate the first area(s) there will still be things that we don't know and questions we can't answer.

We will not know at this stage if demolition will occur. We will only know this once the plan has been approved following a year of consultation with residents.

Instead we will be able to share more details of how we will work with residents and how you can be involved in the process. We will also be able to share a timeline of this work.

In July we will have detailed information for residents about the process.

COMMUNICATION WITH RESIDENTS:

- Residents living in the area(s) that will be engaged with first, will receive a letter explaining what this means and



how they can be involved. This will arrive between 27th and 29th April.

- All of our Communicators will receive an update on 26th April, either via email or face to face, that will outline the process and next steps in their area.
- We will use social media to share this information to those who follow us on Twitter and Facebook.
- The Community Team will be available at their regular times within communities to answer questions residents may have.
- We will launch an updated website with information about the first area(s) and next steps, as well as updated FAQs here www.yourmk.co.uk

COMMUNITY DROP INS

YourMK will hold community drop in's from 26th to 29th April for those who want to speak to them. See below:

Rowans Family Centre , Moorfoot, Fullers Slade, MK11 2BD	Wednesday 26 th April	2-6pm
WCC Offices , Local Centre, Garraways, Coffee Hall MK6 5EG	Wednesday 26 th April	4-6pm
Spurgeon's Baptist Church , Drayton Rd, Bletchley, MK2 3RR	Thursday 27 th April	9:30-11:30am
Rainbow Children's Centre , Kingsfold, Bradville, MK13 7BQ	Thursday 27 th April	1-3pm
Hedgerows Family Centre , Langland Rd, Netherfield, MK6 4NP	Thursday 27 th April	4-7pm
Rowans Family Centre , Moorfoot, Fullers Slade, MK11 2BD	Friday 28 th April	6-8pm
Hedgerows Family Centre , Langland Rd, Netherfield, MK6 4NP	Saturday 29 th April	9am-12pm
Bradville Hall , 24 Mercers Drive, Bradville, MK13 7AY	Saturday 29 th April	2-5pm

PLAN:MK YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Between **Friday 17th March and 9th June 2017** you can read Draft Plan:MK (Draft Plan:MK Consultation document at the Council's Civic Offices and in all the libraries in the Borough.

Send your comments:

- Online via our consultation portal: <http://miltonkeynes.objective.co.uk/portal/planmk>
- Via email: Plan:MK@milton-keynes.gov.uk
- In writing:
Development Plans, Civic Offices, 1 Saxon Gate East,
Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ
The closing date for comments is **12 noon on Friday 9th June 2017.**



The policy on affordable housing for the whole of the city does not include properties to buy. The whole of the 1% requirement for MK laid down by the government for affordable housing will be in the rental sector. Mk is providing 33%

of affordable rental housing up to 80% of the market rents through housing associations. No starter homes as required by the Housing and Planning act 2016 are provided. **This means that in the event of compulsory purchase, no comparable affordable homes will be available to buy only shared ownership options meaning you will have to pay rent. It also means that it will be difficult for young Milton Keynes people to get onto the housing ladder.** There are efforts to keep the rental housing exempt of the right to buy scheme. (pp123)

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

TBRA WORKING GROUP MEETING for committee members only: 12th April 2017 7:30–9 pm at The Link, Charles Warren Academy.

TBRA MONTHLY MEETING at the Meeting Place: The Monthly meeting is on Thursday 30th March 2017 at 7:30pm.

FUN QUIZ NIGHT:

There will be a quiz night at the meeting place Mon 8th May 7–9pm. **FREE ENTRY!** Make a team of four or come along on your own. Prize for Winning Team. Refreshments provided. No unaccompanied children.



REGULAR ACTIVITIES

WCC DROP IN ADVICE SESSIONS first Tues of every month until further notice 11 am–1 pm No appointment necessary. **NB:** Woughton Community Council Offices are now open at their **brand new offices at 44 Garraways, Coffee Hall** in the local centre next door to the Vine Church.

RAINBOWS', BROWNIES' AND GUIDES' GROUPS meet in the TB Meeting Place every Tuesday during term time only. **Rainbows** 5–6 pm; **Brownies** 6–7:30 pm; **Guides** 7:30–9 pm



FLY TIPPING

If you find any fly-tipped waste, graffiti, dog fouling or fly posters or see anyone tipping or doing graffiti please tell WCC about it.

Waste dumping, fly-tipping, dog fouling and graffiti are a problem in Milton Keynes. The



council has many legal powers to address these problems but we do need your help. You can report issues by telephone during office hours or online at <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/report-or-request-it>.

If you can give as much information as possible it would be helpful – descriptions, registrations and time of day etc. but only if it is safe to do so. **Do not put yourself at risk.** Ring 999 if you feel there is immediate danger to yourself or others. If you are reporting an environmental crime, you will need to give us your name and address, so that we can contact you for more information if we need to. We treat all information about you in complete confidence and we don't tell the culprits who has given us the information.

Fly tipping costs all of us, either through increased council tax or cuts in other services, so we all need to be vigilant. *Lorraine Essam.*



HEDGEROWS CENTRE

01908 239000
Mondays, 9–10 am & 11:30 am–3 pm Cafe and children's activities

CAFE Tues, 10–11:30 am
Baby Clinic; 10:30–3 pm

MUCKY PUPS FOR BABIES & CHILDREN Weds 10–11 am

AEROBICS Thursdays, 12:15–1:30 pm £1 a session. (No crèche) 12:30 to 2:30.

FAMILY

ART COURSE for those with mild to moderate depression: Thurs 12:30–2:30

CAFE Fridays, 9–10 am & 11–1 pm

STOP LOAN SHARKS
Intervention . Support . Education

NATIONAL TRADING STANDARDS
Illegal Money Lending Team England

“Swan Credit Union exists to provide affordable savings and loans through our local Community Banks and we value very highly the work of the England Illegal Money Lending Team in tackling loan sharks. We recognise that this type of crime hits vulnerable people very hard, and using recovered proceeds to support the work of Credit Unions is imaginative and dynamic. I am confident our existing and potential members will be grateful for this support and will be encouraged to use the valuable service that we all provide.” *Steve Eyre, Chair of the Swan Credit Union*

The first 50 people to join Swan Credit Union before 30th June and save £5 per week for 3 months; will be awarded with a £25 savings boost straight into their account.

To report a loan shark call the 24/7 confidential hotline: **0300 555 2222**. Text a report to **078600 22116** or Visit the website **www.stoploansharks.co.uk** E-mail: **reportaloanshark@stoploansharks.gov.uk**

COOKS CORNER

WINTER INTO SPRING: SPANISH OMELETTE



Spanish Omelette (or Spanish tortilla) is an excellent recipe to have in your collection. You can either stick to the genuine Spanish original, which contains just potatoes and eggs, or ring the changes with a variety of ingredients such as onion, cheese, red peppers, sweet corn, chorizo. Its quick to cook and you can serve it hot or cold. It's useful as a picnic food, cut into slices. It can be included in your lunch box. It can help fill up that gap between the end of school and an evening meal. Add salad and you've got a satisfying main meal.

EQUIPMENT

small Frying pan with a well-fitting lid; whisk or fork; mixing bowl

INGREDIENTS

1 medium Spanish onion (Peel, cut in half and then thinly sliced into half-moon shapes)
200 g of small potatoes peeled and sliced into thin rounds; dry gently in a clean tea cloth
Large pinch of salt
Ground black pepper
1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil

METHOD

Heat till hot 1 tablespoonful of olive oil in a small frying pan. Toss the potatoes and the onion layers gently in the oil until coated. Add the salt and black pepper. Turn the heat down low and place the lid on the pan. Cook for 10-12 mins. Turn over after 6 mins.

Meanwhile crack 5 large eggs in a bowl and whisk with a fork or a whisk. Add the tender cooked potatoes and onion to the eggs and mix well till they are coated with the egg.

Put the pan back on the heat and add the remaining 1/2 tablespoonful of oil. Heat up. Add the egg, potato and onion mixture. Turn the heat down low. Cook the mixture for 20-25 minutes without the lid. Every so often use a knife or the handle of a spoon to push the edges in all round. Once almost all the liquid egg has disappeared either turn the tortilla over to cook for 2 minutes more or simply cook the mixture under the heated grill for two minutes.

Serve warm with a salad for a main meal or cut into slices and eat cold.

Variations: Before you start cooking find all your left over vegetables, cheese and chorizo from the fridge. Cut them up small so they won't take long to heat up or cook. Add leftover vegetables etc. to the pan half way through the final cooking (after 10 minutes). Distribute evenly so everyone gets a mouthful. I like grated cheddar cheese, chopped red, orange and green peppers, sweet corn

kernels, cut up greens, tiny peas, parsley, coriander, pieces of chorizo.



NATURE NOTES

This month I'm going to turn my attention away from our beautiful birds to our gorgeous wildflowers. Remember do NOT pick wildflowers. Look out though for these jewels of the countryside and keep a journal of the ones you see. You can illustrate the journal with drawings and/or photographs and include the plant's name and details.

Good websites for identification purposes are <http://www.wildflowers.co.uk> or <http://www.countrylife.co.uk/Land of Hope and Glory: British Country Life>, and, for woodland flowers, <http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/woodland-wildflowers>

Here are just some of our wildflowers this month: .

Bluebells (especially in the woods) (April and May); Bramble; Meadow Buttercup (April and May); Red Campion (May); Lesser Celandine (March and April); Chicory; White and Red Clover (May); Cowslip (April and May); Cow Parsley (April and May); Daisy (April); Dandelion (March and April); Dog Rose; Forget-me-not (April and May); Foxglove (May); Hedge Garlic (May); Herb Robert (May); Honeysuckle; Lily-of-the-Valley (May); Marsh Marigold (March, April and May); Primrose (March and April); Ragged Robin (May); Scarlet Pimpernel (May); Germander Speedwell (March); Wood Anemone (April); Violet (April)

Modern types of farming threaten wildflowers, just as they do birds. So why not give up part of your garden to cultivating wild flowers - you can buy these cheaply at a local garden centre either as seeds or as young plants. Rosemary O'Day, (Committee member extraordinaire!)

THE ENVIRONMENT TEAM

TBRA would like to thank Martin (supervisor) and the payback team for the work they have done over the last 4 weeks and thank you to Lorraine Essam and Ian Tegerdine for organising the work. The wood chippings from the trees and shrubs have been used around the estate. Once again thank you from the Environment Team.

Terry and Derek are doing a great job on the raised beds. They also been working hard clearing alleyways and helping on the Community garden. The Brownies and Rainbows also have a wonderful display – well done girls! The beds outside the Hall and Tesco are also in bloom with tulips and daffodils – a lovely Spring display!

Ron Ellis Environment Officer, Tinkers Bridge Residents Association.