

THE BRIDGE 2

The newsletter of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

TINKERS
BRIDGE
Residents Association

Dear fellow residents of Tinkers Bridge,

Here we are again with the second issue of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association (TBRA) newsletters. It is an important moment for the future of our estate. We hope you'll like this additional way of communicating about local events in our community. We advertise any forthcoming events for your calendar, with dates, times and locations.

This issue is published early in the month because we want to flag the working group meeting on 14th January as well as the special TBRA meeting on Thursday 28th of January. See below for details of both. Look out also for the first recipe in Slow Cooks' Corner!

We'll consider residents' contributions for future issues, depending on space availability and suitability. Here are a few suggestions. Do you have clear photographs of Tinkers Bridge football team or of the various Christmas events? Have you a short poem about Christmas in Tinkers Bridge? Do you want to start a club? The deadline for submission of short items for the February edition is 1st February 2016. Please submit the item, your name, address, and email address and telephone number to either no. 36 Brent or 14 Marshworth. If you send a photograph or a cartoon, please send the same information and also provide a caption and, if at all possible, a clear scan of the photograph as a jpeg file to m.r.oday@open.ac.uk. The editor's decision is final.



Happy New Year!

The Editor

RegenerationMK

On 21st December 15 members of Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association attended the Milton Keynes Council Cabinet meeting where the award of the contract to Mears was discussed. Five of our members asked questions and another made some comments. This was a great turn out. and we were congratulated on our brilliant questions. We were assured that the aim was to improve life for people on the seven estates and that regeneration would be 'community led'.

The award of the contract to Mears as a Regeneration Partner was approved by the Cabinet so now we need to see how they get on. As part of this, we will try to attend other meetings where Regeneration is discussed. **We do not yet know when and where this will happen but there might be some discussion at Cabinet** (next two meetings 11th January and 8th February), and at Executive Scrutiny (12th January and 11th February). I will keep an eye on the agendas. **If you would like to attend these meetings or if you would like a T shirt please contact me - Sheila.taylor9@btinternet.com or 07599 321448.**

Monthly Meeting of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

Thursday 28th January 7-30 to 9-00 p.m.
Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place, Marshworth



This will be a special meeting dedicated to consultation about the Tinkers Bridge Community Plan. Under the terms of our First Steps grant, we have to submit a final plan for Tinkers Bridge in February. The Tinkers Bridge Community Plan is in first draft. It is based upon your answers to our survey. This is your chance to talk about our plans to improve Tinkers Bridge as a place in which to live and to help us make the final plan reflect your wishes. The consultation will be preceded by a very short TBRA business meeting (7-30 to 8 p.m.) The draft First Steps Community plan will be available for inspection. There will be a big welcome for all Tinkers Bridge residents.



Rasa L. Photography

John Orr, Chairman of TBRA,

Diary of Events

January Activities

Drop-in for advice at Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place, Mondays 9.0 -11 a.m...until further notice:

Helen Hawkins of WCC has agreed to hold this advice session each week for a trial period, starting Monday 4th January, Come along with your problems.

TBRA Working Group Meeting for committee members

14th January 2016 7-30 to 9-30

TBRA meeting:

28th January 2016 See opposite box for details

Regular Activities

MOBILE LIBRARY OUTSIDE MEETING PLACE

Friday 15th and Friday 29th Jan from 10-15 to 10.45 a.m. during term time from 6-30 to 9 p.m.

RAINBOWS' AND BROWNIES' GROUPS meet in the TB Meeting Place every Tuesday during term time from 6-30 to 9 p.m.

ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP meets in the TB Meeting Place on Thursdays during term time from 4-30 to 6 p.m.

Contact: Cassandra and Cheryl on the night and look at Facebook Page: Tinkers Arts and Crafts

FOOTBALL PRACTICE on Sunday afternoons at Colne Park from 2-30 p.m. Contacts: John Orr and Gideon Clark or turn up.

Gideon Clark has been interviewing and photographing Tinkers Bridge residents for the SPEAKUPmk project.



If you want to be involved please contact Gideon on gideonclark.is@gmail.com The contributions of residents of all ages are welcome.

Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association Initiatives

TBRA is anxious to improve Tinkers Bridge for its residents. It successfully applied for a First Steps grant to help it to do this.

Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association: the Working Group and its responsibilities

TBRA has decided to use the First Steps assistance to develop a Community Action Plan.

TBRA has commissioned a Working Group of residents who have volunteered to draw up the community plan. The Working Group reports to the TBRA Committee. Volunteers are welcome, but must commit to regular attendance.

Contact: Lesley Berry on 0794 1498762 or 25 Hatton

Tinkers Bridge Survey Questionnaire

As a start the Working Group developed a short First Steps survey questionnaire to elicit feedback for the

Brief Reports

Council Cabinet Meeting

On 21st December 15 TBRA members attended the MK Council Cabinet Meeting regarding RegenerationMK. We were congratulated on our brilliant questions and our T-shirts! We were assured that the aim was to improve life for people on the seven estates and that regeneration would be 'community led'. The meeting was reported in The Citizen.



TB community plan - to ask residents their views.

What next - a plan to improve Tinkers Bridge in line with YOUR wishes

The Working Group used your answers to the Tinkers Bridge Survey to help it to draw up a draft plan for improving Tinkers Bridge as a place in which to live. We need YOUR views of this plan before it is finally submitted in February

We will be consulting you about this draft plan at the January TBRA event on 28th January 7-30 to 9 p.m., Please come along.

Our response to RegenerationMK

TBRA voted by 20 to 1 against any plan to regenerate Tinkers Bridge using demolition and/or compulsory purchase. We hope you signed the **TBRA Petition** to add *your* opposition to any such plan.

Christmas Social 17th December 2015

The December TBRA meeting this year took the form of a highly successful and enjoyable Christmas social. The TBRA working group provided delicious refreshments and Henry Britton entertained us with lively music on his guitar. There was much discussion of the community plan.



Christmas Meal

Christmas Parade

Cleaning up the estate

Doubtless you will have noticed how much better the estate looks since our volunteer environmental team, led by Ron Ellis, organized a kangaroo run waste collection, in collaboration with SERCO, and also cleared the estate of a huge fall of autumn leaves. Our thanks to them all.

How to complain to Milton Keynes Council

1. Prepare what you want to say BEFORE you telephone
2. Have a note pad and ballpoint pen beside you when you call
3. Phone 01908 691691 and ask for the department you want
4. Ask for a reference number and note it down along with the date and time of your call and the name of the person you spoke with. Keep these details and refer to them in further complaints about the *same* issue.

Make sure you report any falls and/or injuries caused by poor maintenance of the estate roads and pavements. Note down the date, place and cause. Please also inform us if you suffer a fall and /or an injury on the estate, owing to uneven paving, potholes, broken roads and pavements etc. Contact: Nicky.johnson@open.ac.uk or at 36 Brent.

Mr Fix-It

David Lee hopes to organize a Fix-It facility for residents. The idea is that any resident can bring along faulty items that they think can be repaired and, if possible, assistance will be given in diagnosing the fault and repairing it. This could involve lending tools for the job and know-how, or repairing the item for the resident for collection the following week. If you could help with this project please contact David on dnl@f2s.com

Lazy Cooks' Corner

Cooking in a slow cooker saves time and electricity. Pop the food in, set the timer and leave the meal to cook while you get on with other things. Many dishes can be left cooking for 8 or 9 hours without further attention. Meat is tender. Meals won't burn. Pots wash easily. What's not to like?

Almost any food can be cooked successfully in a slow cooker but ordinary recipes have to be adapted a little. There are a few simple rules:

Don't use as much liquid as you would if cooking in an ordinary oven or on the hob.

Don't use as much seasoning as you would if cooking ordinarily. Add salt to taste when the meal has finished cooking.

Don't overload your casserole dish. About two thirds full at most.

Once you've started cooking the food, don't remove the lid until the end of the cooking period (or when told to do so in a recipe.)

Recipe for chicken thighs with soy sauce, ketchup, and honey

Ingredients

Between 4 and 10 boneless and skinless chicken thighs

(for a family size slow-cooker)

4 liquid ounces of tomato ketchup

4 liquid ounces of low salt light soy sauce

3 liquid ounces of runny honey

Minced garlic (if liked)

Level teaspoon of dried or chopped basil

Method

Prepare the chicken thighs by cutting out the bone and the skin. If you prefer to leave the skin on, brown the chicken pieces in a pan for a few minutes.

Mix the tomato ketchup, soy sauce, honey, garlic and basil in a bowl.

Place the chicken thighs in the slow cook casserole. Pour over the ketchup, soy and honey mixture evenly. Put the lid on the casserole, checking that it is on tight and leave it on throughout the cooking period. Turn the heat down to its lowest setting.

Set the timer on the slow cooker for 6 -8 hours putting it in the slow cooker at 11 a.m. ready for serving any time between 5 p.m. and 7 30 p.m.

I serve this meal with rice and a fresh green vegetable such as broccoli. There is plenty of liquor to pour over the chicken and rice.

Want to save a bit? Need a loan? Join a Credit Union

There's no better time to try to get your finances in order than in the New Year.

Swan Credit Union is designed for anyone who is resident in or works in the Local Authority area of Milton Keynes or some other local postcodes.. Become a member, save regularly according to your means on a monthly basis, and apply for ethical and affordable loans. The safety of your savings is guaranteed by the government. You can even open a special Christmas savings plan, where your savings are absolutely safe. For details see <http://www.swancreditunion.org.uk>

Social Media: Face Book

Join our Facebook Page: Tinkers Bridge Official Group

Tinkers Bridge Community Plan

Letters to the editor

Parking permits

Dear Editor,

The recent questionnaire showed a large support for resident parking permits, which surprised me as I do not see such a scheme as suitable for Tinkers Bridge. Those schemes work well when the problem is due to people from other areas parking in a residential area, but this is not the problem on Tinkers Bridge (except perhaps when there is a very big event on at the Stadium). A residents' parking scheme requires extra work, identifying all the vehicles belonging to residents, providing suitable passes for visitors, and enforcing the parking regulation. Can your readers explain to me why they think such a scheme would be desirable?

Yours faithfully,

David Lee