

TINKERS BRIDGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING 24TH September 2014

Attendees : John Orr, Ron Ellis, Cheryl Wales, Amy Wales, Letita Pearson, Barbara Willers, Paul Hurcombe, George Lanigan, Vincent, Andrew Hathaway, Jenny Hathaway, Alison Wright, Rebecca Brown, Tracey Peters, Nicky Fulton

Apologies : April Rennie, Nicky Johnson. Apologies from John for being un-prepared due to a previous meeting.

Chairs report: Football has started on Sunday afternoons at 2.30pm in Colne park. It is an unofficial kick about for all ages, all welcome. Gideon from the modern Jesus army is leading this with help from Graham, Matt and John. Moving forward we will be incorporating training sessions before the start of the kick about.

Street dance numbers are growing again and the kids are progressing although funds are running low.

Arts and crafts is going very well, very popular and going from strength to strength. Congratulations from the chair.

1. Tracey Peters(Council manager) and Nicky Fulton (Service Delivery Manager) from Woughton Community Council came along to discuss 3 points : Landscaping, MK Regeneration and the councils Neighbourhood Plan.
Landscaping : Woughton Community Council will be taking over the landscaping contract for the woughton area from the MK councils current contractors from the 1st of November. WCC have taken this opportunity as they believe they can be more responsive and reactive to local landscaping and needs in the woughton area (covering seven estates, Eaglestone, Netherfield, Beanhill, Coffee Hall, Leaden Hall, Peartree Bridge and Tinkers Bridge and two commercial areas Redmoore and Bleakhall).
WCC will be directly employing a manager and two staff. Purchasing equipment and renting a storage depot. They

will be responsible for grass cutting, hedge trimming and any landscape based issues within the Woughton area. The trees will remain the responsibility of MK council. Leaf fall, conkers and fruit lying on the pavements are classified as litter and are the responsibility of Serco. Any queries, questions, complaints and recommendations for areas of landscaping will go through WCC who will have a dedicated e-mail address and the office phone lines. WCC have admitted that current landscaping standards are far from perfect and this backlog of work needing doing will take time to work through. The team will work with residents to put a program of works in place. It is a mission statement of WCC to devolve responsibility to residents where practical so if in the future we wish as a community to take a bigger role in managing our estate WCC may be able to help with equipment and/or training on equipment.

2. MK Regeneration is a program from MK council whose aim is to raise money for regeneration from “investors” through the sale of land for development. Regeneration will be coming to Woughton in a big way. This is for four estates one of them being Tinkers Bridge.

MK council is in the process of selecting an “investor”.

Residents are being sought to represent the estate on this selection panel.

It was stated by the chair that he and Ron Ellis had already attended two MK regeneration resident consultations where it was revealed that there was no actual money for regeneration other than money raised from investors. Also that it meant in essence that estates had to sell off their green spaces to raise this money. The chair stated that the council has neglected Tinkers Bridge for many years and that Tinkers Bridge has been paying council tax and rent into the Milton Keynes council for forty years and its about time they at least maintained the estate never mind regenerate it.

3. Neighbourhood Plan : Woughton Community Council has taken the decision to undertake a Neighbourhood plan. The idea of this is for the community to decide where new developments are to be planned. This enables the community to protect itself against planning applications by

developers that are against the communities wishes. This plan can take up to two years to complete and could cost as much as £200,00 although some funding is available.

Resident involvement will be sought and is essential as the plan has to be put to a referendum of the people of Woughton. The government wants more houses to be built and has placed obligations on towns and cities all over the UK to achieve certain targets for numbers of houses to be built. The residents association is currently working on its own neighbourhood plan for Tinkers Bridge.

4. Street clean ups : Another day was spent clearing shrubbery and ivy from Congreve and the entrance to the estate by Tesco's. Volunteers from the modern Jesus's army from Northampton and Milton Keynes asked if they could help out on the estate with a project. In all eighteen ton sacks were filled with cuttings and taken down the dump. It was noted that this was organised at short notice and that the street clean ups should be regular, well planned and well publicised
5. Gardening club : To build on the start we made with the raised beds and to tie in with the landscaping. To promote growing our own food in our gardens and community spaces. To teach kids gardening and to promote healthy food for all. To have a plan to remove unwanted trees and shrubs and to replace trees with more suitable species e.g. Magnolias. Residents to be consulted about the landscaping in the vicinity of their property for the residents neighbourhood plan. Maybe groups of neighbours for each part of their street.
6. Nicky Johnson stood down from her role as secretary of the association due to family commitments. The association thanked Nicky for all her hard work and time she had given to the role and wished her well. John Orr nominated Cheryl Wales for the post of secretary, seconded by Ron Ellis the meeting voted six in favour and one abstention.
7. Andrew and Jenny from the modern Jesus's army updated the meeting on the Hope UK event being planned in partnership with the association for the October half term. Around ten young adults (11 - 17 years) will be helping out

on projects on Tinkers Bridge. Planning of projects is ongoing.

8. Other points were discussed: That a regular newsletter was needed urgently to help communicate the association's activities to encourage more residents to have the opportunity to get involved.

The theme for the lights festival is to be remembrance of loved ones. Each light is to celebrate a life.

Over the next 2/3 weeks Ron Ellis will be checking all the street lights are in working order any faulty ones will be reported to the council. Any resident can report a faulty street light to the council by quoting the number on the street light.

Tinkers drop in: Teresa is still off ill, Vicky is covering. Drop in is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings. There is a notice up for input on how to shake up the drop in and to use the meeting place as much as possible as it's a valuable asset.

9. Date of next meeting 30th October 2014
Meeting closed