

# THE BRIDGE 1

The newsletter of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association



*Dear fellow residents of Tinkers Bridge,*

*This is the first 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 plan for monthly editions, which will be delivered before the monthly TBRA meetings, and will advertise any forthcoming events for your calendar, with dates, times and locations.*

*This bumper first issue is published early in the month because we want to flag an important event on 14th December as well as the special Christmas TBRA meeting on Thursday 17th of December. See below for details of both.*

*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 Hallowe'en Disco? 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 January edition is 2nd January 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](mailto:m.r.oday@open.ac.uk). The editor's decision is final.*



*Merry Christmas!*

*The Editor*

## Diary of Events

### Join us on Monday 14th December 2015

Milton Keynes Council has a number of meetings that are open to the public, where council members talk about the Regeneration Plan. We have decided to go to some of these meetings to find out what is going on. The next one is the Cabinet on Monday 14th December from 6-30 to 8.30 p.m. at Milton Keynes Civic Offices. Regeneration will be a small item on a long agenda.

One reason for going to meetings like this is to show the Council that we mean business, so it is important that they can see that we are from Tinkers Bridge. We have had some T-shirts printed with the message, 'I Love Tinkers Bridge'. If you would like to have a T-shirt please let me know, including what size you would like. The T-shirts cost £6 each. Donations of between £5 and £10 are suggested. They have been bought by the TBRA but donations will help us to use our funds for other things to benefit the community.

**For further information or if you would like a T-shirt and/or a lift to the meeting, please contact Sheila.taylor9@btinternet.com or ring me on 07599 321448 by 12th December 2015**

## Monthly Meeting of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

Thursday 17th December 7-30 to 10-00 p.m.  
Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place, Marshworth



This will be a special Christmas get together with light refreshments, music, and a chance to talk about our plans to improve Tinkers Bridge as a place in which to live. The social 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.

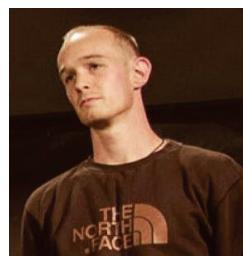


*John Orr, President of TBRA, and Gideon Clark entering the Christmas Spirit*

## Facebook

Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association is also active on Facebook. See Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL GROUP to keep in touch about local events and concerns.

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



[www.facebook.com/speak.up.milton.keynes](http://www.facebook.com/speak.up.milton.keynes) for the interviews so far. If you want to be involved please contact Gideon on [gideonclark.is@gmail.com](mailto:gideonclark.is@gmail.com). The contributions of residents of all ages are welcome.

## Christmas Activities

### Christmas TBRA meeting:

17th December 2015 See opposite box for details

### Christmas event for the children:

12th December 2015, 2-4 p.m.

Santa Procession through the estate; 4-6-30 p.m. Children's Christmas Party in the Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place. Contact: John Orr at 49 Brent.

### Christmas Day meal:

25th December 2015 - all residents of the estate welcome. Place: TB Meeting Place. Time: From 12 noon onwards. Donations of money and food, please, to Jenny Hathaway, 43 Old Groveway. Cheques should be made out to Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association. Contact as soon as possible: John Orr and Jenny Hathaway.

## Regular Activities

**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.

# 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.

## What First Steps is

- 1 First Steps is part of the nation-wide Community Rights programme funded by the Government until March 2016. Yvonne Field, First Steps Relationship Manager, works with nine of the 115 groups, including Tinkers Bridge.
- 2 It is intended to encourage neighborhoods and communities to get involved in community action. TBRA plans to use the First Steps assistance to develop a Community Action Plan.
- 3 There are three strands of assistance available from the First Steps Programme, including a grant, some time and advice from Yvonne, and access to special training days.

### PLEASE NOTE:

- 4 This is a **separate** activity from the development of the PlanMK, Woughton Community Neighbourhood Plan, and the Regeneration project, all of which are Milton Keynes based.
- 5 The ideas and initiatives that are generated by the First Steps TB community plan, however, will be fed into consultations about the Woughton Neighbourhood Plan and inform the MK Council in its decision making in regard to the RegenerationMK programme and PlanMK.
- 6 Individuals should still make sure that they submit the WCC Survey, and also contribute to the consultations about PlanMK.

## What TBRA has been doing

### First Steps Workshop, held on Thursday 29th of October 2015

On Thursday 29th October TBRA welcomed Yvonne Field, our First Steps Relationships Manager, to the Meeting Place. Yvonne ran a successful workshop designed to help us further our community plans for the future of Tinkers Bridge. Thirty people attended. We had a chance to get to know one another and also to engage in carefully designed activities. In one we developed themes for organizing our plan; in another we thought about (and wrote down) our individual

skills, and also what we could contribute to drafting and later implementing the plan.



*Yvonne divided thirty residents into groups 'cafe style' for a workshop on 29th October 2015.*



*Each group decided which features of Tinkers Bridge they liked and which features they thought needed improvement. These were then written down on different colour post-its. Yvonne and Sheila then grouped these thematically on the wall. The themes will help us to organise our community plan.*

## 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. 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 TB community plan - to ask residents their views. This has been distributed and the results are even now being analysed and fed into a draft community plan.

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

The Working Group is using 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.

**Chance to view this draft plan at the Christmas TBRA event on 17th December, 7-30 to 10 p.m., and to contribute your suggestions at a meeting in January.**

## 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.

One of the Co-Chairs of the TBRA Working Group helped to produce the diagram below to explain the relationship between all the various current initiatives.

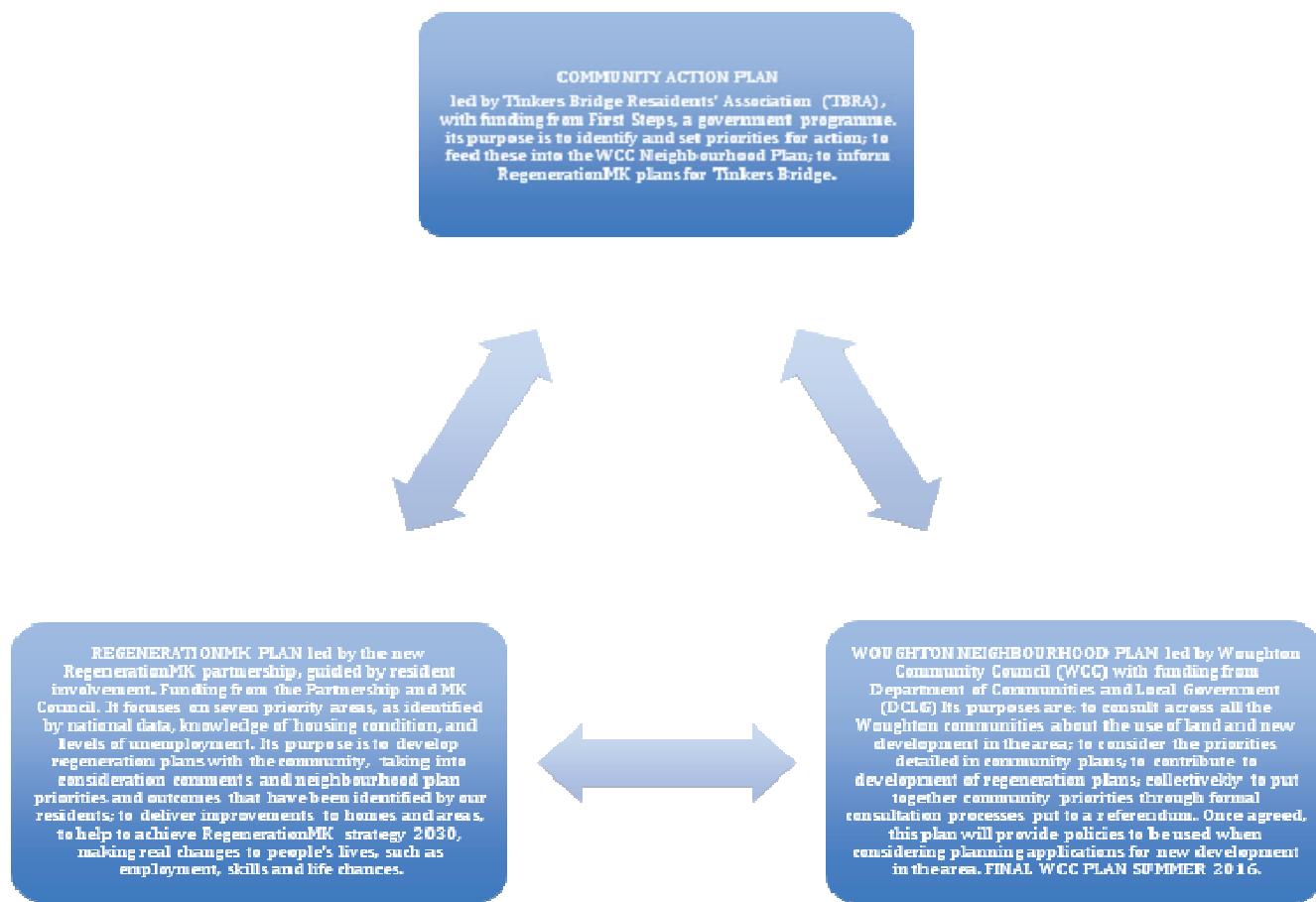


Diagram showing how the Tinkers Bridge Community Action Plan feeds into local government planning processes