

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Residents of Tinkers Bridge

We now know that Fullers Slade will be the first estate to experience whatever Regeneration holds for us. Instead of giving us a timetable telling us estate by estate when we can expect Regeneration, YourMK has listed Woughton as an 'area'. This means that we do not know in what order our estates will be listed after 2020. This is contrary to how we were 'promised' we would be informed.

Otherwise the few volunteers on Residents' Association are busy trying to plan for some nice summer events. We can apply for funding for some of these but they won't happen unless we have some other volunteers to help out to

make them happen. Once again, we are asking for any of you reading this newsletter to offer to become more involved in estate life. We particularly need a person to type up the Minutes of our Residents' Association meetings - **type them up from neatly written notes** and email them to a committee member for circulation. That would be a great help as we are struggling with this task. Phone Nicky on 07736325073 or Kathy 07523427073 email: thebridge@tinkersbridge.org.uk. You can also contact us through the Tinkers Bridge FaceBook -page.

<https://www.facebook.com/> and search Tinkers Bridge OFFICIAL GROUP

The Editor

Monthly Meeting of the Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association

Thursday 25th May 2017,

7:30 to 9.00 p.m.

Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place,
Marshworth

GRANTS UPDATE

Voting has now ended for the Tesco Bags of Help grant. Thanks to everyone who put their blue tokens in our box. We will not know till the end of May if we have got £1000, £2000 or £5000. This grant is for improving the environment on our estate, including by replacing the wood on the planting boxes. We also have generous grants from Woughton Community Council and Councillor Hannah O'Neill for this purpose, so watch this space for plans to get on with the work. If you would like to help build the boxes or to "adopt" a box please let us know.

We will be applying for three grants from Milton Keynes Council this year. The first is our Healthcheck, where the Council looks at how the Association is run. If it is happy we will get a grant to help with the general running of the organisation. After that, we can also apply for two more grants for events and activities.

We can also apply for grant aid from Woughton Community Council. As well as the planting box funds mentioned above, last year they also awarded us a grant for the running of our Celebration Day in January.

Here are some ideas about events and activities that residents have said they would like:

- A Fun day/Dog show
- A summer coach trip
- A Pantomime trip

For each of these activities the Grants sub-group needs to work with one or more people who are willing to help with the planning. If you are interested in any of these ideas, or have some suggestions of your own, please contact us. Without this help, the activities will not go ahead.

Phone Nicky on 07736325073 or
Kathy 07523427073 email:
thebridge@tinkersbridge.org.uk.



THE REGENERATION PROCESS – MAY 2017 UPDATE ON YOURMK

DECISION ON FIRST AREA(S) FOR REGENERATION

The information on the schedule of regeneration was given out by YourMk below on 26th April in spite of being asked to give a complete schedule of all estates by the council. The regeneration programme in Milton Keynes is a 15 year programme. That means that Tinkers Bridge Residents may not find out about this estate until 2030. YourMK will start engagement work in Fullers Slade in July 2017. Following this work, it will begin engagement in the rest of the areas, in the order set out below.

AREA	ENGAGEMENT STARTS	PHYSICAL WORK STARTS
Fullers Slade	2017	2019
Lakes; Serpentine Court	2017	2019
North Bradville	2018	2020
Woughton	2020	2022



We want to support Fullers Slade as it starts its consultations for regeneration. Join the facebook page 'Regeneration Watch MK'.



When you move, you do not automatically get added to the electoral register. If you aren't registered to vote, to vote in the general election on the 8th June you must register before the 22nd May. **RESIDENTS WILL ALSO HAVE TO BE REGISTERED TO VOTE WHEN IT COMES TO VOTING ON THE PLANS FOR REGENERATION OF THE ESTATE.**

It is quick and easy to register on line at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote. You just need your National Insurance number and date of birth.

For help registering or if you want any more information contact the Milton Keynes Council Electoral Registration Department on: 01908 254706

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Emergency First Aid £50 per person

20th May 2017 10am – 4pm (Ref: A6E400XA)

To book onto the above course or find out more information including concession pricing call Community Learning MK on: 01908 556 760, or visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/clmk

Report Writing: 'Writing high quality and better reports' will be the focus of a new training session hosted by HQN for MK Housing Tenants Scrutiny Panel. The panel would like to extend an invitation to association committee members interested in improving their report writing skills.

Spaces to this brilliant training course are extremely limited. To register your interest please email: Get.Involved@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk

EDITOR'S COMMENT

As Tinkers Bridge Residents' Association has a policy of monitoring the meetings of the MK Council meetings which might be associated with any aspect of Regeneration, four of us went to the Housing and Community Committee of the Council on Thursday 4 May, 7pm, at the Council Chamber. There was also a group from the Residents' Association of Fullers Slade. No other estates were represented. If we do not make our collective voices heard the Council and YourMK will proceed as they think fit. It is necessary – and your democratic right – to make your voice heard.

We were invited to sit with Councillors and Officers and to participate fully in the meeting by the Chair, Councillor Williams. The meeting was to examine the Housing policies contained in the draft version of Plan:MK – which sets out policies and a strategic direction for MK's development to 2031. Plan:MK represents the Council's preferred approach based on evidence and consultations from 2014 and 2016. It will affect how YourMK plan the regeneration process. The plan has been prepared by a councillor working group from *all* political parties.

The Chair made it possible for Fullers Slade and ourselves to ask questions about the relationship of Plan:MK to Regeneration and vice versa and to give our views and those of our residents on a number of the policies in the Housing section of the plan. It was clear that our presence and our input made a big difference to the discussion and the recommendations the Committee made for changes to the document. Help us fight for justice, come to our meetings on the last Thursday of the month and/or join us in attending the council meetings. **Make sure that Tinkers Bridge has a big voice!**



PLAN:MK This plan is the new local plan for MK to 2031. It sets out a vision and a strategy for the future. It lays out the council's preferred policies and cover issues that affect your life, such as housing policies. It will inform the regeneration. Have a look at the individual policies for example HN9. Suggestions from the public (**You**) will be taken into account up to 9th June. 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.

<http://miltonkeynes.objective.co.uk/portal/planmk>.

Or send your comments: 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 is 12 noon on Friday 9th June**

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

TBRA WORKING GROUP MEETING for committee members only: 7th June 2017 7:00–9 pm at The Link, Charles Warren Academy.

TBRA MONTHLY MEETING at the Meeting Place: The Monthly meeting is on Thursday 25th May 2017 at 7:30pm.

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 Warren every Tuesday during term time only. *Rainbows* 5–6 pm; *Brownies* 6–7:30 pm; *Guides* 7:30–9 pm

EDGEROWS FAMILY 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.

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

CAFE Fridays, 9–10 am & 11–1 pm



ABOVE: FLYTIPPING IN THE ALLEYWAY OFF COLNE BETWEEN 53 AND 55, BY THE BROOK.

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.



BIN CUPBOARDS

Some of the bin cupboards are full of rubbish that needs removing. Doors are broken, some have no doors. If you are a council tenant or a housing association tenant YourMK will repair them but you need to phone them to get it done (see left). If you live in a privately rented home, please ask your landlord about repair.



If you need help contact Ron or John, the Residents Association Environment Team have offered to help.



PARKING ISSUES

Parking issues are causing

problems on the estate. Please don't park in front of someone's car port, even for a few moments.

Driving on to green areas destroys the surface, which could lead to damage of services below the soil such as gas, electric and water pipes. It also makes it difficult for our landscaping team to cut the grass, especially if there are deep ruts.

COOKS CORNER

SUMMER SLOW COOK: MOROCCAN LEMON AND OLIVE CHICKEN FOR FOUR

INGREDIENTS

- 1 sliced brown onion.
- 500 grams of peeled potatoes. Halve these and then cut into 5cm pieces.
- 4 chicken legs (or 8 chicken thighs) with skin on. Cut four slashes into the skin (2 on thighs).
- 2 tablespoons full of olive oil or another oil such as vegetable oil.
- 400 ml of chicken and white wine stock.
- 1 unwaxed lemon.
- 2 crushed garlic cloves.
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger.
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper.
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon.
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander.
- 85 grams of green olives
- 2 teaspoons of clear runny honey
- A handful of fresh parsley.
- Greek yoghurt.
- Salt.
- Pepper.
- Your choice of couscous, rice, or flatbread.

METHOD

- Heat the slow cooker
1. Put the potatoes at the bottom of slow-cook pot and season with salt and ground black pepper
 2. Season the chicken; heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a frying pan; fry the chicken for just 5 minutes each side till coloured golden brown. Place on top of the potatoes.
 3. Grate the zest of the lemon. With a knife cut four thin slices from the lemon and then squeeze the remaining fruit juice into a cup or saucer.
 4. Add the zest, onion, garlic, ginger, black pepper, cinnamon and coriander to the chicken fat and juices in the frying pan. Fry for a minute. Add the lemon juice and the chicken stock to the pan. Bring to the boil. Pour the mixture over the chicken and garnish with lemon slices, olives and 1 tablespoon of olive oil.
 5. Replace the lid and cook the meal for at least six hours on low.
 6. Drizzle with honey and top with yoghurt and chopped parsley before serving with couscous, rice, or flat bread.



NATURE NOTES

SWIFTS AND SPRING

The Spring months are March, April and May. After the Spring Equinox on 21st March the nights start getting lighter and there are many opportunities to view British wildlife. Climate change has meant that many flowers bloom earlier than they used to. Daffodils are now associated with February and March whereas they once were April flowers. The Hawthorn that blossoms creamy white in the hedgerows used to be called 'May-tree' because it bloomed in that month but now it often appears in April. Scientists and conservationists are very keen to chart climate change of this kind. Why don't you help by keeping a wildlife diary in which you record when you first see a particular flower, bird or animal each year? By doing so you become a phenologist! You can then compare the years as they pass. This year look out for the first swifts flying in from Africa,

Swifts are amazing birds. They spend almost their whole lives on the wing. They catch insects as they fly. They even mate in flight. Recently they have suffered a great reduction in numbers - partly owing to the use of insecticides but also owing to the difficulty they have in finding suitable nesting places. You can help by constructing or buying a swift nesting box and attaching it below the eaves of your house. If you attend school or college you could ask your teachers about constructing and putting up swift nesting boxes. You can also ask the Milton Keynes Council to insist before granting planning permission on builders creating nesting places in new builds. This can be done by using 'Swift bricks' or by building in nesting boxes.

Do you want to explore further?

Try

www.whentowatchwildlife.org/Year

www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/Spring

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/bird-and-wildlife-guides/a-z-of-a-wildlife-garden/atoz/m/may.aspx>

www.swift-conservation.org

**HAWTHORN FLOWERS (RIGHT)
AND BERRIES (BELOW)**



PICTURES:
WWW.WIKIPEDIA.ORG
TEXT ROSEMARY O'DAY

