

TINKERS BRIDGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

MINUTES OF MEETING 30TH October 2014

Attendees: John Orr, Ron Ellis, Cheryl Wales, Carly Wright, Harry Wright, Sam Heggarty, Bill Fuller, Carmela S, Paul Seabourne, Barbara Willers, Paul Hurcombe, Vincent, Gideon Clark, Wayne Clements.

Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all.

Apologies: Apologies received from April Rennie, Kirsty Rennie, Nicky Johnson.

Minutes of previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting(24th September) were approved by the meeting

Chairs report: Hope MK events took place on the estate. Organised by a group Milton Keynes churches it involved children helping out on community projects around the city. The group on Tinkers helped out by renewing the bark dressing on the beds outside the Tesco shop and meeting place, by weeding and replanting the raised beds at the meeting place and in the community garden, by tidying up the garden at the meeting place and helping with pumpkin carving.

The chair expressed thanks on behalf of the association, the community and himself to Pete for all his hard work landscaping, helping with the Hope MK event and looking after the parks.

Thanks also expressed to Ron Ellis for all his hard work clearing leaves, reporting faulty street lights and tidying Buckby park.

Thanks also to Paul for all his hard work litter picking and landscaping

Thanks also to all of the unsung hero's on the estate who help out their neighbours and the community.

Street dance on Wednesdays at 4.45pm - 5.45pm at the Tinkers Bridge meeting place with a new instructor.

Arts and crafts is doing well. Food from 4.30pm to 5.30pm good prices. Events from 5.30pm – 7.30pm. Approx 30 people attend every week.

Sunday football kick about from 2.30pm approx 30 kids and four adults attend regularly. A donation of £120 has been received from a local business to be put towards funding equipment. Gideon is in charge and he will organise this.

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