

# Our Team



Steve McNay Council Manager



Samone Winsborough RFO / Operations Manager



Brian Barton Committee and Member Services Officer



Chrispina Odunewa **Business Support Officer** 



Lorna Williams Caretaker Manager



Paul Garth **Bookings and Reception** Officer

### Community Team



Julia Bandy Community Services Manager





Tom Kerr Community Advice Officer



Sue Varley Mental Health Community Officer



Lorraine Essam Environment Officer (North)



Julie Baines Environment Officer (South)

### Youth Team



Tash Darling Youth Manager and Safeguarding Lead



Gemma Simmons Youth Development Officer

#### Youth Workers

Mark Wheeler Tammy Rath Claire Morgan Chrispina Odunewa Emma Pearson Charlene Carr

Tasha King Charlie Lowe **Donna Winters** Natalie Williams Jess Flowers **Emily Darling** 

### Landscaping Team



Ian Tegerdine Landscape Manager and Health and Safety Lead

### Community Centres Team

Jean Asquith Wendy McLeod Stacey Hoey Sarah Hedges Cathy Garrett Charlie Lowe



Vinny Haddock



Landscape Operative Landscape Operative



Paul Johnson



James Appleby Landscape Operative

# Words from the Deputy Leader



Well, summer is almost over and autumn approaches. I hope that you all managed to get out and enjoy the sun in some way. As we near the close of the year our thoughts here at WCC turn towards next year and setting our priorities. Over the summer we have been collecting your thoughts about what you would like to see us focus on - there has been a survey both on line and in print and many councillors have been out and about at fun days and similar events talking to people. I would like to thank all of you that have taken time out to speak or reply to us. It's vital that you have your say so if you haven't already please do. There are similar themes emerging and some trends that apply to certain estates but we are determined to do the best we can for all. Of course we will continue to deliver the services that you have already told us are important to you, but it is equally important that we develop and grow some newer initiatives alongside that to benefit as many members of our fantastic community as we can. More info on Page 12.

The staff and councillors are already working hard to deliver a full calendar of events through the autumn and up to Christmas, many working with our partners in the community, your residents associations, community groups and many others. This all allows us to stretch our budget further and ensure that we get the best value for money for Woughton that is possible. Look out for news of them on our Facebook page, notice boards and in this issue of the Gazette

and consider this an invitation to them all.

The flooding at the beginning of the summer affected many residents badly. We too were affected when the water flooded our Youth service building on Jonathans. The building is still undergoing repair works but our youth service continues to deliver all of the groups as close to normal as possible. We are also working hard with MKC to look at ways of doing as much as we can to prevent it happening again and looking at ways to minimise the impact, if by any chance it does. I hope that those of you that were affected are getting your homes back to normal now. I was out that night and I witnessed the amazing community pulling together and I know that it still continues to do just that.

Finally, you may have noticed that the usual author of this column has been replaced by myself for this issue. Kevin Wilson, the leader here at WCC and ward councillor for Woughton and Fishermead, has been unwell of late and I know you would like me to wish him a speedy recovery on your behalf so Get Well

Soon Kevin, the keyboard awaits! Hope to see you at an event soon

Donna Fuller DEPUTY LEADER



# Words from the Chair woughton community council

The record-breaking summer is over, and the leaves are falling from the trees. I hope you enjoyed the lovely weather and managed to have a day or two on the beach. Already we have the Christmas countdowns on social media We have lots of events going on, Christmas fayres and winter warmers, so keep a look out for details.

If you fancy becoming a Community Councillor, please remember to let us know as we will be having pop in evenings to discuss and inform what's entailed and expected. Elections are in May 2019.

Congratulations to Peartree Bridge Resident Association, which is the newest of our Resident Associations. Now all our 7 residential estates have Associations to represent them.

We say good bye and good luck to Sarah, one of our

Advice Officers as she ventures "up north "to pastures new and thank her for all she did for residents.

Most of our residents are back in their homes after the floods in May and hope it won't be too long for the remaining ones. We would like to thank Mears for their support and hard work getting people sorted so quickly. If anyone is still having problems, please do not hesitate to contact your local Councillor.

It just leaves me (to be the first) to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy new year. I hope to see you at one of our events,

Take Care

Cllr Sue Smith CHAIR WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Autumn is truly here!

Apple Day which took place this year on 29th September saw lots of kids (and some adults) have a brilliant time squeezing every last drop from apples that had been collected from our estates.

With both the hand press (pictured) and a NEW hydro-press (which uses water pressure to squeeze the apples – brilliant!) in operation, alongside our Landscape Manager providing hot dogs and craft activities too, everyone went home with full tummies and cartons of locally grown and produced apple juice (which was wonderfully tasty!).

Watching the excitement when children got to shred the apples and then squeeze them to see the juice coming out was great – a reminder that our area has LOTS of produce just waiting to be scrumped! With apples, blackberries, sloes and lots of other stuff growing it is well worth a wander round with a bucket and something to hook things – crumbles and pies all round.





Facebook
page is a great
way to keep
up to date with
all things



Woughton events that are taking place, news from the parish and opportunities to get involved. We are also really happy to share posts from other people and groups, so pop over to

www.facebook.com/woughtoncc/ and give us a 'like' and a 'follow' and we'll keep you updated.

# World Mental Health Day

Each year, World Mental Health Day takes place on 10th October. *This year, the theme is 'Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World'*.

Young people growing up today face a whole heap of different challenges than previous generations; online harassment and bullying, violence in video games and war and conflict constantly in the news, pressure at school to achieve in a way that is more significant than ever and fewer of the 'safeguards' that previously existed (no 'jobs for life', housing that is unaffordable, a social care system that is creaking at the seams). Substance abuse and self harm levels rising.

And at a time when people are most likely to develop mental health issues, there is little help or knowledge and people don't know how to support. If someone has a broken leg, or a diagnosis of cancer, we send cards and offer sympathy. If someone is experiencing a mental health problem, many of us try and pretend it isn't happening, or see it as somehow less valid.

1 in 4 people will experience a mental health issue. Half of all mental illness begins by the age of 14. 75% by the age of 25. It is essential that we start helping young people to understand, build resilience and offer help, support and care when it is needed. But it's not just young people who need a hand – mental health affects us all in some way or other, so we need to look at how we, as a whole community, can help.

Woughton Community Council is pleased to have appointed a mental health lead for the parish to support this work. As part of the 'Woughton Cares' initiative, our new officer will be working to provide advice and support, groups and activities and 1:1 mentoring for local people who may benefit from some additional help and can't find it elsewhere. Working with partners in the health service, local charities such as Mind BLMK, Rethink and YIS, we hope that we can make a difference, however small, to help everyone have better mental health.

#### Contact Sue for more information;

sue.varley@woughtoncommmunitycouncil.gov.uk or 01908 395681



# 10th October WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY



### Mind-BLMK



#### SUPPORTING BETTER MENTAL HEALTH

Mind BLMK are very pleased to have worked with Milton Keynes Council on World Mental Health Day and supported their Mental Health Challenge MK to get people talking about mental health. The aim was to encourage as many people in Milton Keynes as possible to join in with the activities that were going on across the area, and also help to organise some of their own. We were at Marks and Spencer MK1 on World Mental Health Day on 10 October and spoke to lots of local people about the support we can offer. As we celebrate our 40th year, the mental health and wellbeing of our local community has never been more important.

### To help raise funds towards our work, please text BLMK01 £2 to 70070.

Should you wish to support us by hosting your own fundraising event, please contact our Fundraising Manager,
Hayley Coomber, on

hayley.coomber@mind-blmk.org.uk or call 0300 330 0648.



#### You are welcome at Your **Residents' Association** meeting.

Do you have any suggestions for improvements on the estate, or for activities and outings?

Come and let your voice be heard at 7pm on these Wednesdays:

#### **Dates of meetings:**

10 October 2018 9 January 2019 10 April 2019 10 July 2019 9 October 2019

21 November 2018 13 February 2019 8 May 2019 NO meeting in August 11 September 2019 13 November 2019

19 December 2018 13 March 2019

12 June 2019 11 December 2019





FREE Coffee, Tea and Mince Pies in the Eaglestone Centre

on SATURDAY 17 NOVEMBER 2018

from 1.30 to 4.00 pm

**Indoor games including Table Tennis** 

Quiet place to chat over a warm cuppa

# Dates for your Diary

27/28th Rock Hunt On Beanhill 29th Discos On Coffee Hall And Beanhill

#### November

**5th** Operations Committee Council Hub Chamber (6pm)

5th Community Fridge Launch The Hub, Coffee Hall

**7th** Divali Event Council Hub and Gurdwara (see page 13)

9th Children's Remembrance Parade Woughton Memorial, Coffee Hall (see page 14)

**11th** Remembrance Day Woughton Memorial, Coffee Hall (see page 14)

**12th** Full Council Meeting Council Hub Chamber (6pm)

16th Winter Warmer Event Eaglestone Activity Centre (see page 6)

17th Beanhill Bazaar Moorlands Centre

**19th** Services Committee Council Hub Chamber (6pm)

#### December

**1st** Coffee Hall Festive Funday outside Council Hub

**3rd** Policy and Resource Committee Council Hub Chamber (6pm)

**15th** Tinkers Bridge Christmas Event **TB Meeting Place** 

17th Services Committee Council Hub Chamber (6pm)

19th Festive Tea Dance Council Hub (see page 8)

#### **Week Commencing 17th December**

Youth Service Christmas Celebrations (Parish Wide).

For more information about any of these events, please check our website or Facebook.

# A New Venture for Woughton Is Getting Near

Food waste is a big issue in the UK... The average household throws away £470 worth of food every year. Most food waste in the UK (4.1 million tonnes) is avoidable and could have been eaten had it been better managed. Meanwhile in Milton Keynes 1 in 5 children are living in poverty.

One solution to this problem are Community Fridges, a tried and tested solution to stop good food ending up in the bin. The fridges enable residents and businesses to share surplus quality food that would otherwise be wasted. Food is donated by stores and individuals, and residents can take what they need. These projects are being supported nationally by the Hubbub Foundation, an environmental charity

#### Anyone can access the Fridge - the purpose is to prevent food being wasted, not to alleviate poverty.

MK Community Fridge at present is two fridges and one freezer located in the foyer of The Old Bath House Community Centre, Stratford Road, Wolverton. The project was launched on Saturday 1 July 2017 and in its first 6 months has diverted more than 6 tonnes of food from the bin to the people of MK.

We are very excited to announce that Woughton Community Council will open another Community Fridge at The Hub on Coffee Hall on November 5th.

Opening hours to start will be Monday between 6 - 7 pm, Tuesdays between noon and 1pm, Wednesday between 3.30 and 4.30pm and Fridays between 9 -10 am.

The fridges are set up to be used without assistance and can be accessed when there are users in the building.

> If you would like to know more, or wish to volunteer, please contact the office on 01908 395681 ask for Lorraine, Julia or Tash

#### MILTON KEYNES COMMUNITY FRIDGE





# Woughton Community Council Afternoon Tea Dance



Wednesday 19th

December 2018

2.00 pm till 4.00 pm

**Live Singer** 

Coffee Hall Meeting Place



To book your place please contact us on 01908 395681



£2 payable upon entry

#### Spotlight on Coffee Hall COFFEE HALL COUNCILLORS





Cllr Donna Fuller

Cllr Nick Scott

Its been a busy year for us as councillors, we have attended numerous meetings and events with a wide ranging focus, including Residents meetings, meetings about housing issues, regeneration, parking, trees/leaf drop, festivals, community safety, anti social behaviour and many others. Some, like parking and traffic issues, will be ongoing for months to come. Others are not so difficult to ease. We attend every **RA meeting** to report back so if you have a particular interest come along and ask us, the meetings take place on the last Friday of every month (except for August and December).

I must mention the night of 27th May when the rain came in unprecedented quantities. I had my first call at around 8pm and I didn't get home again for 24 hours. It was an awful night, many residents were totally flooded and many more partially. I went to some of the worst affected properties and spoke to many more folk at the reception centre set up by MKC as well as those I just met out and about on the estate. Even though it was a truly horrible night and the following days were equally as difficult, my overriding memory has to be the way that the community pulled together; neighbours helped each other to clean up, others offered furniture, some did odd jobs but everybody did something. I have always been proud to represent this area but never more so than in those following days.

The Coffee Hall Residents Association celebration day took place on 4th August and the glorious weather meant that it was a well attended event. Its theme was to commemorate the 100 years since the end of WW1. As well as the stalls and refreshments, there was a lovely lady entertaining us by singing topical songs while we sat and enjoyed tea and cake and had a natter...not a bad way to spend the day!

Coffee Hall benefits from having the Community Council Hub on our doorstep and the weekly events







Cllr Thillai Visvendran

that run from there, I will mention a few - Chatter and Natter coffee morning takes place on a Thursday for all residents of Woughton, with breakfasts cooked to order and there is always a councillor there to listen to any concerns. Crafty Birds Craft Club on a Thursday afternoon and coffee mornings at Christ the Vine on Friday mornings are also regular weekly events.

The Youth Hub is at 95 Jonathans and although it is not running at full strength as the building was one of those flooded, all of the clubs are still running from temporary homes.

The Residents Association are organising a coach trip to Littlehampton on 27th October for the firework display and torchlight parade, always a good day out. Come along to the lantern making and light walk that takes place to join in the Diwali celebration at the Sikh Gurdwara. Our lovely friends there are inviting us to join them for some food and fireworks on the 7th November. There are also the two Remembrance parades organised by the Royal British Legion, with the children's event on the 9th November and the usual Sunday event on the 11th. The children's event is really a lovely morning so please try to attend. Then Christmas will be upon us again with the Residents Association and Christ The Vine Christmas event taking place on 1st December, with this year to be bigger and better than ever over two sites. I've heard a rumour that there will be festive donkey rides as well as the usual stalls and entertainment, not forgetting the presence of the fella with a white beard in a red suit!!

We are always around and about in the community so stop us for a chat or call us, we like to hear from residents, good or bad.

CLLR DONNA FULLER on behalf of Coffee Hall Councillors.

### YOUTH PROVISION

Our Youth Team deliver a minimum of 14 projects across the parish every week. All completely free.

We are excited to introduce our first weekend project: 'Streets of Woughton' Dance classes starting on <u>Saturday 13th October</u>



Play Rangers are now playing out after school every day, near you

\* Coffee Hall \* Beanhill \* Tinkers Bridge \* Eaglestone \* Netherfield \*

Targeted services are staffed by trained, friendly youth workers

**Q Alliance Youth** weekly @ Coffee Hall Community Centre **SEN Youth Club** @ Coffee Hall. Professional Referrals only

**Food Project** is taking referrals for September.

Young Carers MK @ Eaglestone Activity Centre. Contact Young Carers MK directly

#### **Current open access general weekly provision**

Monday: Netherfield Juniors 9-12yrs. 5.30-7pm. Seniors 13yrs+ 7-8.30pm

Tuesday: **Eaglestone Seniors** 12yrs+ 5.30-7pm.

Wednesday: Tinkers Bridge Juniors 8-12yrs 4.15 –5.45pm Eaglestone Juniors Yrs 4,5,6. 5.30 –7pm

**Young Parents** 12.30-2.30pm at Moorlands (some days offsite)

Coming soon: Music Café 6.30-8.30pm @ Milton Keynes College

Play Rangers to Leadenhall.

Please contact; Tash Darling t: 01908 392945/ 07853 590546

e: tash.darling@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk





Woughton Play Rangers were a phenomenal success over the Summer holidays.

We offered sessions every week, across the five days and in every estate on the parish.

We had **413** children and young people come out to play. Many parents came too, making the sessions real family activities.

We ran, climbed & bounced. played Football, Cricket, Badminton, Tennis, Snakes & Ladders, giant bubbles and Hide & Seek. Built dens, slack lines, aeroplanes, ceramic coasters, modelled clay, coloured, cut and stuck and more!

Everyone had such a great time so we are going to be running every day after school this winter.





ALL NEIGHBOURS FROM OTHER ESTATES VERY WELCOME!

For more information please contact Tash or Gemma on 01908 392945/ 07983 590546 or email us @

gemma.simmons@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

www.woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk

# 7our Bridges 7estival

Following the success of the Four Bridges Festival earlier this year, plans are taking place for 2019.

The Festival will be held on **Saturday 13th July 2019**, taking place on Two Halls Park in Coffee Hall. We are looking for bigger and better with new Craft Stalls, demonstrations, more food and drink, more activities and a new 'wellbeing zone', with pamper sessions and a chance to do some lovely relaxing things.

We are looking for people and groups who want to be involved, including:

- Local groups who would like a stall (charities, local companies, community groups, crafters or similar), either to raise funds or provide information
- Local bands, singers or performers who would like to be on the main stage

## We asked - You told us

As you will have seen in the last edition of The Gazette, we have been asking for your views on the services that we provide, what you value most and what you would like to see us do more of. A huge thank you to everyone who responded – we have had over 160 responses to the survey and many more comments on Facebook and our website offering opinions.

People from each estate got involved (even the industrial estates) and offered a wide range of suggestions, with everything from providing buses to relaying roads (both of which we would love to do, but currently this lies with Milton Keynes Council).

People said that they valued the work we do around the environment, landscaping, our youth service and the community support we provide but were less enthusiastic about our events (carnival / festival) and our Grant Aid programme, despite the fact that these support thousands of local people each year. The feedback about priorities for the coming year were very similar – environment, landscaping, youth and community support.

There were a number of specific issues that came up from lots of respondents; improvements to play parks,





- Food stalls hot / cold / healthy options / whatever you would like!
- Volunteers to help out on the day

#### Get the date saved in your calendars now

- it's going to be a fantastic event.

Please get in touch by mailing

events@woughtoncommunitycouncil.
gov.uk

and keep up to date on plans via Facebook - search 'Four Bridges Festival'



more help in dealing with anti-social behaviour, more work on litter, fly tipping and landscaping and to improve the situation with traffic and parking. Fewer people, but still a significant number, said that they would like to see us provide more support for older people, provide more activities for children, improve pathways and offer ways that people within the community can get more involved with making Woughton an even better place to live, work and play.

The feedback offered will all contribute towards our Service Plan for 2019/20 and help us to develop a budget that focuses on these priorities. Whilst we can't promise to do everything (some things are simply too expensive, some things are not within our legal powers), we can say that we will continue to work with you, with our partners and other agencies to focus on the things that are important and to support the people of Woughton.

Your support is greatly appreciated



# Diwali Celebrations



### 7th November 2018

Coffee Hall Meeting
Place

**6pm-7pm Craft Activities** 

7-7.30pm Walk to Gurdwara

7.30-8.30pm present Cookies enjoy FREE Refreshments

8.30pm Fireworks





To confirm your place, please call Woughton Community Council on 01908 395681



#### Royal British Legion - Jubilee Branch

This year is a special remembrance year, marking 100yr anniversary of the end of the Great War 1914-1918.

We are holding our annual **children's parade** on **9th November 2018** at 10am. Again like each year we have estimated over 1000 children will attend and the BBC and the media will also be here again with the salute being taken by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant.

On the **11th November** it will be our **Sunday parade**, mustering at 10am, all will be welcome to join us.

WOUGHTON PARISH MEMORIAL CHRIST THE VINE CHURCH COFFEE HALL

REMEMBER OUR GLORIOUS FALLEN

For any more info contact Andy on 01908 663373

Please note that there will be some road closures to enable this event to take place and that the WCC offices will be closed throughout the day

### Rubbish Advice

The problem of fly tipping and the illegal dumping of rubbish keeps rearing its ugly head. Areas of concern on most of the estates in Woughton are the alleyways and garage areas behind the houses, although the problem also occurs in front of properties. Dumping in these areas not only looks horrible and blocks access, but also gives the rats somewhere to nest and live.

If items can be bagged, either in black bags or clear recycling sacks, they can be put out on the normal collection day. Any other items need to be taken to the tip or you can arrange for a collection by Milton Keynes Council.

To contact MKC to arrange a **bulky waste collection** please call **01908 252570** and they will give you a quote for the collection.

Alternatively, you can use the **online report-it service** which will automatically generate a quote and give you a date for the collection.

The items to be collected MUST remain ON YOUR PROPERTY until the day of collection, otherwise



you could be charged with a fly-tipping offence for which you could receive a hefty fine and/or a criminal record.

For advice on how to correctly dispose of any of your household waste, please contact either **Milton Keynes Council** on **01908 252570** or call **our office** on **01908 395681** where we will be happy to advise!



# Woughton Advice Service

#### **Moorlands Family Centre**

Dodkin Beanhill
Appointments available Monday
01908 679819

#### **The Grove Surgery**

Farthing Grove Netherfield
Wednesday drop-in 4:00pm-6:00pm

#### **Hedgerows Family Centre**

Langland Road Netherfield

Appointments available Tuesday

01908 239000

#### **Drop-in or appointments**

Woughton Community Council Hub Ring 01908 395681 or 07525 808657

# Free confidential advice and support, a non judgemental listening ear



# Our Community Centres-Venues for you





Woughton Community Council manages four community centres across the parish; Eaglestone Activity Centre, Netherfield Meeting Place, Tinkers Bridge Meeting Place and Coffee Hall Meeting Place. These centres are used for a wide variety of things – meetings, faith groups, sports, youth activities, dog training and all sorts of parties (including space suitable for bouncy castles!). We also currently have space for pre-schools or playgroups if you are looking for affordable spaces to provide these activities.

We offer lots of options to ensure that the centres are suitable for your use; projector and screen, catering equipment, chairs / tables, play equipment and gazebos, if you want to use the outdoor spaces too (all our centres, except Coffee Hall, have enclosed gardens or patios).

We are in the process of updating and upgrading the centres so that they offer real value for money for local people – we deliberately keep the rental costs as low as possible, so they can be used widely. These improvements include provision of wi-fi, internal decoration, revamping the equipment and improving the outdoor spaces.

The centres also include small offices that can be rented on a longer term basis to charities, companies or other enterprises. These can be offered fully furnished and provide a great 'first step' for groups that need some space, or as a base to work from. Offices are available at Eaglestone, Netherfield and Tinkers Bridge.

If you would like to talk to us about renting an office or want to make a booking for one of our centres, please ring **Paul** on **01908 395681** or email **reception@woughtoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk.** 

