



# **Campbell Park Parish Council**

## **Annual Report**

**2009 / 2010**

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## Chair's Foreword

Campbell Park Parish Council has continued to build on its work within the community over the past year, something which we can be proud of.

In working with partner agencies, we have been able to address various issues within the Parish, while the Council's committee's have ensured we focus on issues such as Planning, Environment and Community cohesion.

Over the past year, the Parish Council has funded a range of Community groups that operate within the Parish Boundary allowing them, not only to continue with the excellent work they do, but to ensure our residents benefit from that work.

We have continued our successful fun days – with increased popularity and will continue to do so. We were very pleased to fund an opportunity for 10 young people within the parish to a fun day in Willen. A project in partnership with Whitecap Leisure saw them spend a day canoeing and other outdoor activities. The young people were selected from schools within the parish for their hard work and thoroughly enjoyed themselves – undoubtedly a welcome break from the studying!

Fishermead has a new focal point in the form of a pirate ship. For some time the area had lacked good play facilities for the younger generation and we were very pleased to have been part of the project. The feedback has been excellent (from parents and young people alike).

Teaming up with the Open University, we have seen our residents take up courses to build studying confidence. The courses have ranged from Law to environment and contribute points towards further academic study.

The Banner project saw people of all ages in the Parish come together to help design banners that reflect each estate. The work paid off when the banners went up and people have been able to view their contribution to the project.

A cold evening saw the very successful 'SPARK' project take place – whereby residents came out to tour areas with glo-sticks. The cold evening didn't stop turn out and brightened the evening up for many!

The Parish Council continues to take the issue of social cohesion seriously; we recognise the diverse population we serve. Part of this has seen us hold meetings for specific ethnic groups – while others have been open to all. Serving a diverse population has its challenges, but our thoughts are clear: to serve our residents, it's also our duty to bring you together regardless of background – something we believe can only bring long term benefits for all our residents.

Visually, we continue to maintain areas of land – Oldbrook Green being one of them. Although it does not seem that long ago that we were covered in snow, we can now cast our minds back to it while looking at the bluebells or walking through the woodland walk that has been created in association with the

community payback team. The woodland walk is made up of wood chippings from tree pruning around the parish.

Continuing to add colour and life to the areas you live in, we are developing our bulb planting operation. You will recall from our newsletter 'HomeGround' where we reported on the planting of 2000 bulbs across the Parish. Our commitment to the environment does not stop there – the introduction of a 'tree management programme' will oversee and manage trees across the parish. It is unfortunate that some trees will be lost as part of the management programme, but rest assured – this is being done with a long term view in mind (perhaps to help out growth of other plants, and for trees taken down, we may well be planting new ones nearby).

Dog fouling continues to be a concern of many of you, and often a regular complaint to your local Councillor. I am pleased to say we have responded: with a further 10 dog bins installed across the parish, we have plans for another 20. The location of new bins will be decided by your local parish Councillor, so please get in touch if you have any suggestions on where they can best serve you, or your area.

While we do our best to pro-actively ensure dog mess is kept to a minimum we have also had to address the matter that some people choose not to use them! In doing so, several dog fouling initiatives have taken place and we have worked with Thames Valley Police as well as Community Wardens to identify problem areas for enforcement action.

On the subject of enforcement; rubbish dumping continues to be another hot topic that you, our residents bring to us. Where areas are identified, we can, and are doing our best to find the person doing it. On a more positive note, response times for clearing rubbish and litter are getting faster as we continue to thrive on the basis of keeping our areas clean. Please do your bit by ensuring rubbish and recycling is out at the correct day and time – and continue to let us know when and where you see rubbish blotting our estates.

Abandoned vehicles are not new to our estates. Working with housing officers, wardens and Thames Valley Police we have been pro-actively tackling the issue of abandoned cars head on.

Woolstone pond has gone through a period of cleaning and management. We are very proud with the results: great crested newts continue to thrive and the pond remains a symbol of rich bio-diversity as well as a local attraction.

Not everything we deal with as far as animals are concerned is pleasant. Rats have been a problem for some time in some area of the parish. We have, and will continue to work with Milton Keynes Council to address this issue. While it is a big problem in Milton Keynes in general, the Parish Council will do everything it can to stem the problem.

One of our biggest achievements this year has been the creation of a Business Plan, which sets the direction for Council over the next 5 years. In it we will be tackling issues such as rubbish dumping and dog fouling, while at the same time

addressing issues around social cohesion. We want the parish to be places that people enjoy living in.

Part of our continued vision is to ensure that community properties are transferred to the Parish Council, thus ensuring they are where they are accessible to the community that wish to use them.

The regeneration of Fishermead will undoubtedly have a big impact on the Parish, and I am pleased to say that the Parish Council has been a major contributor in shaping the project.

As we continue to ensure our focus is on the community we have asked for your opinion on what we can do with the Oldbrook Green and Woolstone Play area. Needless to say, residents have also contributed to shaping the work on regeneration. The feedback has been constructive and positive, and most importantly, has visual milestones; we can be judged by the look and feel of the areas in years to come.

Thanks go to both Members and staff of the Council, for it is their energy, enthusiasm and commitment that make me proud to be part of Campbell Park Parish Council.

I extend my thanks to those partners and individuals who have worked with us in the past year, without them, some of our work would not be possible.

This is an exciting time for the Parish and I, along with colleagues remain committed to serving the Parish with energy and enthusiasm.

Cllr John Goss  
Chair of Council

## **Parish Manager/Clerk's Report**

The following is a summary of significant achievements for Council during the last twelve months.

### **Councillor Complement**

During the year four Councillors had to resign for different reasons and, of course, we had the sad death of Yvonne Honeywell. However, through co-option, we have returned to full strength and it is hoped that this will be able to be maintained until 2012 when the next election is due.

### **Business Plan**

Production of the Business Plan for the next (now) four and a half years took some time and a lot of discussion but the Plan was agreed last year and work has begun on two strategic priorities. The Strategic Review Committee has been formed to oversee delivery of the plan and, currently, is looking at priorities to ensure that we do not try to do everything at once and, as a consequence, achieve little.

### **Staffing**

Another activity which took a while to conclude was the Staffing Review, allied to the Business Plan. However, it was completed and Council agreed the outcome which removed a source of anxiety from employees and allowed all to focus on the future and the Business Plan. The current establishment is 5.9 FTE (full time equivalent) but this may increase as a result of the transfer of the Springfield Community Centre.

### **Committee Structure**

The current committee structure was agreed to serve achievement of the Business Plan and, as reported above, the Strategic Review Committee was a later addition. There have been a number of working groups and sub-committees most of which will be subsumed into the new Communications Committee which was set up at the Council EGM in April.

### **Boundary Review**

This is another matter which has been around for a considerable time and remains a cause of great uncertainty. However it is hoped that there will be a conclusion before the end of the summer (unless, as this was written on 6 May, the result of the local elections interferes with this timescale)

### **Fishermead Regeneration**

It was always known that the timescale for the regeneration of Fishermead would be years not months. Progress is slow largely because of the challenge of engaging the local population but there is progress and the Fishermead Councillors are now looking at what should follow the work in Bossiney Place and Mullion Place pending development, with residents, of the Neighbourhood Action Plan

## Transfer of Community Properties

There is definite progress with the transfer from Milton Keynes Council of the Fishermead Community Centre. Challenges which the Parish Council will have to tackle include repairs to/renewal of the roof of the premises, reuniting the two halves of the building, how to manage bookings, how to provide janitorial services, employment of the existing cleaner/key holder, etc. However the transfer will ensure that a local community facility remains in local "hands". Currently there is no progress on the transfer of the Fishermead Sports grounds but it is hoped that this will happen during the year.

Via Community Development and Environment Committee Council is to be asked to determine absolutely whether to proceed with the possible transfer of the Woolstone Cricket Ground or not.

## Information Technology

During last year Council agreed to replace all IT equipment and appoint a new IT contactor to install and maintain that. Initial "teething problems" have been largely overcome and Council has an IT system which delivers that which is needed. The new Communications Committee will look at the next phase which will explore greater use of electronic technology for external communication.

## Parish Office

This has been another longstanding "sore" with no one being entirely happy with the accommodation arrangements for Members and Officers. However Council has now agreed to a re-organisation of the current building which makes the best use of restricted space to provide a better, if not ideal, facility for Members.

W T Dawson

Parish Manager/Clerk to Council

## **Communications / Consultation**

As the first tier of local government in Campbell Park we try to keep residents informed of what is going on. All Council and Committee meetings are open to the public. All agendas are published in the Council's notice boards, one in each estate and on the web site so that residents can see what business is to be done.

In addition the Council's magazine "Homeground" is published quarterly and, although inevitably, much is about the Council, increasingly we want it to be more about the Parish.

The Council has two web sites, the main one [www.campbell-park.gov.uk](http://www.campbell-park.gov.uk) and a youth site [www.campbell-park-youth.org.uk](http://www.campbell-park-youth.org.uk). Both contain information about the Council and its activities and also about events in and around the Parish of relevance to residents.

We are exploring using social networking sites such as facebook and twitter to enable us to communicate with our community using these new vehicles.

We are also working hard to achieve greater social cohesion across our very diverse Parish and we have met representatives of a number of ethnic groups and will meet them again in the summer.

## **Working in Partnership**

**C**ampbell Park Parish Council continues to work with many agencies/community groups across the city. These groups deserve to be acknowledged and thanked for the contribution they make to life in the Parish and we look forward to continuing to work with them.

Those with whom we work include:-

- Thames Valley Police particularly from Midsummer Police Station
- Numerous departments within Milton Keynes Council
- The Community Payback Team
- The Primary Care Trust
- Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) in the West and East of the Parish
- Milton Keynes Play Association
- Local Community Groups
- The Milton Keynes Council for Voluntary Organisations
- Other Town and Parish Councils within Milton Keynes
- The Central Milton Keynes Partnership
- Schools within our area
- Residents Associations
- The Community Safety Partnership
- Whitecap Leisure
- Lifestyle Guides
- Parks Trust
- Sure Start Centres
- Orbit Housing

## Councillors by Ward 2008

Campbell Park Parish Council covers the areas of:

Campbell Park: Fishermead: Newlands\*: Oldbrook:  
Springfield: Willen: Winterhill\*: Woolstone

\* non residential wards

Campbell Park Parish Council has 20 elected Parish Councillors who serve for a period of 4 years.

### Campbell Park Ward

Cllr John Harris	01908 608559	John.harris@campbell-park.gov.uk
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### Fishermead Ward

Cllr Martin Petchey	01908 605488	Martin.petchey@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Michelle Dudhill	01908 240913	Michelle.dudhill@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Darron Kendrick	01908 669067	Darron.kendrick@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Anthony Davy-Du Pris	01908 667120	Anthony.dupris@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Paul Williams	01908 604952	Paul.williams@campbell-park.gov.uk

### Oldbrook Ward

Cllr John Goss	01908 609804	John.goss@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Larry Harris	01908 675766	Larry.harris@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Mike Johnson	01908 692391	Mike.johnson@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Katherine Kent	01908 608559	Katherine.kent@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Mikki Thomas	01908 606130	Mikki.thomas@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Tom Fraser	01908 607271	Tom.fraser@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Isabella Fraser	01908 607271	Isabella.fraser@campbell-park.gov.uk

### Springfield Ward

Cllr Jackie Thompson	0774 221 7547	Jackie.thompson@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Colin Ennew	01908 608559	Colin.ennew@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Angela Fairgrieve	01908 394004	Angela.fairgrieve@campbell-park.gov.uk

### Willen Ward

Cllr Tanya Turner	01908 201490	Tanya.turner@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr James Turner	01908 201490	James.turner@campbell-park.gov.uk

### Woolstone Ward

Cllr David Pafford	01908 608559	David.pafford@campbell-park.gov.uk
Cllr Sandra Brimson	0788 157 7986	Sandra.brimson@campbell-park.gov.uk

## Staff

The Parish Council employs the following staff, all based at the Parish Office at 1 Pencarrow Place, Fishermead, tel. no. 01908 608559

Mr W T Dawson	Parish Manager/Clerk to Council
Mr D Warner	Estates Manager
Mr J McLinton	Environment Officer
Ms J Walker	Community Development Manager
Mrs E Webb	Administration Officer & PA to Parish Manager/Clerk
Mr M Mitchener	Parish Warden (part time)
Mrs D Sears	Accounts (part time)
Ms T Waistinridge	Cleaner (part time)