



As another New Year unfolds the Parish makes sure...

The work goes on

CAMPBELL Park Parish Council is at the grass-roots end of local government – and in a unique position to benefit the people living on its patch.

And while it can and does do big projects it also gets involved in a welter of not so big things which, when added up, make a BIG difference to the quality of local life.

The front and back page of this issue list just a few of those things. We make no apology for giving them that prominence as each will be important to some of the people whose parish precept portion of their council tax goes to CPPC.

● **The popularity of Oldbrook Green's football kickwall has given CPPC a challenge it is only too happy to meet.**

Originally installed as part of major leisure facility improvements by CPPC, it was predominantly funded by grants.

It has proved fantastically popular with the result that grass around the kicking area became a muddy mess.

But that has been cured by, with joint-funding from CPPC and MK Council, the laying of an all-weather surface which should last for years.

● **Thank you everyone who responded to the Parish Boundary Review.**

The majority of replies supported CPPC's position and the information was presented to MK Council's parish review group which will present its recommendations to the full Council on a date yet to be fixed.

It is unlikely that the proposed amalgamation of CPPC and Central Milton Keynes Town Council will proceed. However it is hoped that the overwhelming wish of Willen residents to remain part of Campbell Park will be respected.

...and on for better places



Above: happy people taking part in 'Glow in the dark' (see page 2). The event was a by-product of the Fishermead regeneration project (page 5) which is intended to help shape the future of that estate. It is important that local people take the opportunity to have their views heard.

● **CPPC and the Parks Trust have been consulting Woolstone residents about the possibilities of updating the green area beside the Cross Keys Public House to a village green.**

Great interest has been shown and design approved. The project depends on external funding which has been applied for, so fingers crossed.

● **Springfield, Fishermead and Oldbrook have had their number of dog poo bins doubled by the Parish, bringing the total to 21.**

According to recent surveys waste left behind by dogs is the single biggest environmental concern of most people, and there is a clear need to raise awareness of the need to 'pick up the problem'.

The most straightforward cure is to train dogs to go at home.

If that doesn't work, pick up the problem: bag it, bin it...or take it home.

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QUALITY
PARISH
COUNCIL

And on the lighter side - a Happy New Year to all our readers!

Estate glows in the dark!



One very wet, rainy November night Fishermead lit up – for all the right reasons – and positively glowed in the dark.

More than 100 local people of all ages met at the ship on Kernow Crescent, determined to enjoy the Glow in the Park Parade despite the weather and demonstrating the area's vibrant community spirit.

And they did, with myriads of lights shining to create a brilliant beacon in the dark. The procession left the Crescent and followed a route around the estate, picking up more lights from Frank Howe Court and Orbit Housing.

At each stop, a section of the story of Johar was told by the children. With drums banging and people cheering it was a fun, noisy event which ended up back at the Kernow play area for a brilliant finale.



Then it was into the Trinity Centre with food, tombola, dancing and other events, allowing the soaking wet participants to dry out.

With the event organised under the umbrella of the Fishermead regeneration programme thanks must be given for the hard work put in by SPARKS, the artists and all the different partnerships involved, including support by the police who ensured everyone's safety.

Graffiti Busters

Call MK Council help-line 01908 252570 to report graffiti in YOUR neighbourhood.

Or go to www.milton-keynes.gov.uk and access a simple online report form via the street-care page. Reports will be placed on a register and dealt with.

Offensive and or racist graffiti will be removed on the first Friday following the report.

Shop that dumped trolley

If you see a supermarket trolley dumped in your area, please call and tell the Parish on 01908 608559 or report them direct to MK Council on 01908 252570.

The Parish is trying to overcome the problem of trolleys being dumped, by working with various supermarkets which are trying to restrict their being taken by using various methods – including wheels which lock if taken away from the premises.

Anyone dumping a trolley faces a £75 fixed-penalty fine.

On the other hand, reporting 'strays' might just improve your chances of finding a trolley ready and waiting next time you go shopping.

OFFICES

Anyone wishing to write to the Parish Council should send their letters to
Campbell Park
Parish Council at:
**1 Pencarrow Place,
Fishermead, Milton
Keynes, MK6 2AS**
Tel: MK 608559 Fax:
MK 694248
email:admin@campbell-park.gov.uk

WE want to deliver on YOUR ambition of cleaner and safer neighbourhoods!



Over a year ago CPPC began forming a business plan and reorganising – based on the functions you want us to do today – building on our recent successes and breaking from the organisational structures we have inherited.

Cleaner and Safer Neighbourhoods is one of the primary functions you want from us.

Now we are ready to roll out the first part of a strategy establishing a basic standard deal for our streets.

Step one should take around six months to complete, and we are breaking it down into logical steps to fund, roll out and embed into Campbell Park Parish Council's normal daily functions.

Step one concentrates on the parts of the streets where our front doors are, the parts we move along as we're going from A to B, the street fronts.

Dealing with alleyways and back areas will come later, as will landscape, roads and foot-paths, underpasses, bridges and graffiti ect.

The main complaints fall into into three groups:

- Keeping rubbish/litter out of sight/disposed of properly
- Keep gardens in order
- Keep cars and other vehicles properly parked.

OK, so what are we going to do about them?

We will: ■ Conduct regular visual audits to collect evidence of where offences occur

■ Make contact by letter, leaflet or in person with those who may be responsible for the offences.

■ Endeavour to deliver useful information helping people not to commit offences or face enforcement action.

■ If necessary pass on evidence to police and MK Council to help enforcement action.

CPPC has 20 councillors, a Parish Warden, Estates and Environment personnel and very important partners. The two Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) for Campbell Park East and West have about 30 volunteers and work as a liaison between local residents, police, CPPC and MK Council, residents associations and others including the fire and rescue service and major property owners and businesses in the area.

That is a big resource, and CPPC will provide professional, administrative and human support to change our neighbourhoods.

CPPC has no enforcement powers: we cannot fine or prosecute anyone for violating these three main headlines...but we can collect information on problems and offences, help police or MK Council, and help inform residents so enforcement action is not necessary.

Most importantly we can help residents take action to change their street and neighbourhood by relying on a basic deal which we support as your local council.

For that to work we need you to get involved too. We need help keeping visual audits up to date and delivering leaflets etc.

And we need you to help collect information about ongoing problems in your street and to keep track of action being taken to stop them.

There is also another way we need your help. We need you to come to our meetings as we roll out and deliver this strategy.

Please come and listen to us debate these issues and make decisions on your behalf.

Tell us what you think and make formal deputations to us if you feel it necessary. That way you can lead a discussion with us over whatever you think needs to be said and done. All our meetings are open to the public and every agenda includes a place for public involvement.

There are two important meetings every month for such issues: Council meets every second Tuesday of the month (where final decisions are made). The Community Development and Environment Committee meet

every fourth Monday of the month (this is where ideas are formed, and most of the detail about them is debated).

NAGs meet every month for Campbell Park East and West areas (more ideas and detail are discussed at those meetings which are the best places to be if you want to meet Parish and MK Councillors and officers, police officers and others who take to the streets to make a better neighbourhood for yourselves.

There is a calendar of all such meeting dates at www.campbell-park.gov.uk

SO FINALLY THE DEAL IS

■ You and your neighbours have the right to live in clean and attractive streets. If you don't do anything to harm that right, we and your neighbours won't do anything to stop you.

■ If your neighbours harm that right, we are here to help you and the authorities deal with that problem.

But to do that we need you to get involved with us proactively.

We look forward to hearing from you and to SEEING you.

Cllr Mikki Thomas

Cleaner Safer Streets Champion,
CPPC



Original picture by 'Banksy' – seen by Mikki as “a criticism of local councils everywhere”





What improvements would you like to see?



Help wanted



Do you fancy a 'little' job making a big contribution to the community?

There are vacancies for school crossing patrol people around Giffard Park Primary, Green Park, Loughton Manor First, Peppar Hill, Portfields Combined, Shenley Brook End, St Mary & St Giles CE Aided Junior, St Thomas Aquinas Catholic Primary and Willen Primary schools.

The posts pay £6.29 per hour for five hours per week, term time only (half hour in the

mornings and the same in the afternoons) and the job involves assisting children and others to cross the roads safely.

Candidates looking for job-share are welcomed, and appointments will be subject to enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks.

You need to be medically fit, have good road sense, excellent communications skills and be committed to safeguarding children.

Want to know more? Call Jessica 01908 254221 or Jacqueline 01908 252248.

And forget all the rumours...Fishermead is NOT going to be pulled down!



Lee Mooney (left) talking with Fishermead people

Questions and answers with MK Council regeneration team member Lee Mooney on the coming facelift planned for Fishermead.

Q: Is it true that the estate is to be demolished?

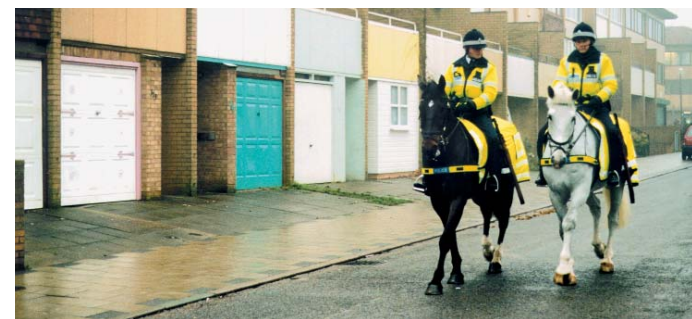
A: NO! It is amazing how fast rumours start and then become urban myth, but in this case the stories are just that...myths.

We are looking at a wide span of topics – ranging from condition of buildings and green spaces to really important issues such as health, employment and education, in fact anything and everything which improve quality of life for local residents.

Q: When will the decisions be made on what needs

to be done?

A: We want to develop something called a Neighbourhood Action Plan (NAP) by working with residents to prioritise what they want to



Above & below: like most places Fishermead has its good and not-so-good aspects



Parish gives local school a £10,000 helping hand

CPPC has given £8,000 – plus an earlier £2,000 donation – to Willen School to help pay for a new play area soft surface and lots of equipment to go with it.



Deputy head Anne-Marrie Villiers said: "This is fantastic for everybody. The new area will transform playtimes," and school association chair Jane Young said: "It will be much safer and nicer than what we already have."

CPPC chair Cllr John Goss said: "Where we can we will help local schools to have the best."

Local CPPC ward member Cllr Tanya Turner added: "It has been a real transformation. The whole project cost around £20,000 with the school raising the rest from local businesses.

"It includes a safety surface, log fort, tyre swing and several other items. We hope the children will have lots of healthy fun with it for years to come."



Above: remember 'On the Verge' in '08 – when local people worked with artists to express their estates' identities?



see happen on Fishermead.

A steering group is being established to oversee this on behalf of the people who live on the estate, and we need more local people to become actively involved with that group.

Q: How can people do that?

A: Through workshops which we will be running during January, February and March in the coming year and which will be advertised around the estate and build on the work of those held last summer.

Those meetings will be used to show the progress in production of the NAP, and how we are responding to residents' concerns and feedback.

We are also looking to run more events like last year's 'Glow in the Park'.

Such occasions give residents opportunity to get together,

have fun and meet people and organisations working on the estate.

Q: Are there any other ways those people who want to can get involved?

A: Yes. We have just started a communications group – so if anyone has an interest in publicity, planning and organising events, or wants to gain hands-on experience of doing so, please let me know.

If you want to contact Lee Call 07900 135909 or email lee.mooney@milton-keynes.gov.uk or call in to see him when he is at CPPC's Fishermead offices on Thursday mornings

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Please come along and see how the Parish Council conducts its business. Meetings of the council are held on the third Tuesday of each month, starting 7.30pm, at the Oldbrook Centre, Oldbrook Boulevard, Oldbrook. Visitors are welcome to come and see what goes on.

The next meetings are on Jan 19, Feb 16 and March 16

Motorised pests are endangering people

By Parish Warden Mitch Michener

During the latter part of last year there was a spate of incidents involving youths, on mini-motos and motorcycles, who were using the bridleway near the canal in Woolstone.

Walkers, cyclists and horse riders, who frequently use that area, were endangered by those offenders.

Police officers responded to our reports and the neighbourhood policing team spent many hours trying to apprehend the culprits but, sadly, have met with only limited success because the design of the redways and pathways enabled the offenders to escape detection.

We have also found dumped stolen motorcycles in the wooded areas adjacent to the canal, which is another form of nuisance, so if you see any suspicious activity around the canal through Woolstone, please report it to the police on their non-emergency number – 0845 80505 505 – or the Parish on 01908 608559.

Still with the canal, CPPC is pleased to see that, following extensive consultation and site meetings British Waterways has finally carried out repairs and painting to the three bridges over the canal in the Woolstone-Springfield area. The problem had been a concern of ours for some time, and hopefully BW will continue with a regular maintenance program. We will continue to monitor the area.

So what's in your garden?



Over the past seven months I have seen some wonderful things within our Campbell Park Parish which help to make this a nice place to live and work.

When sorting my own garden, in the early spring, we found a mother hedgehog with five babies nursing (pictured) and to help her we put out bowls of cat food and apples (we did not touch the babies as we did not want them to leave).

We saw them develop and leave the nest with mum at the end of June, and have been feeding them so that they would not have to go to the front of the house and face the dangers of the road outside.

We put food out for the birds in the early spring so

that it was there for all the young.

We saw hedge sparrows, blue tits, thrushes and many more.

As soon as they fledged (became capable of looking after themselves) we cut down the food so that they would learn to look for their own food.

There were a large number of bees on the flowers this summer, and we had two dragonflies – and with their bright blues and reds and clear wings, they looked good around the pond with the other insects.

We would like to hear if any interesting wild life visited your gardens in 2009, or comes along this year.

Cllr Katherine Kent

School Wig Wags (the industry term for school warning lights) have not been working in Fishermead Boulevard for some time now – vitally important lights which are supposed to warn drivers that children may be crossing around the Meadfurlong and Penwith schools.

Following numerous phone calls and emails, I have been assured that the road safety department of MK Council was about to install new units on many sites throughout Milton Keynes, and that Fishermead is high on the list. Once again readers can be assured that we will chase this issue.

Fly-tipping has been an issue on both Oldbrook and Fishermead of late, and residents have been identified and the enforcement team at MK Council has issued enforcement notices...with a view to following up with fixed penalty notices.

A positive result of that action has been a decrease in the amount of fly tipping throughout the two estates concerned. We will continue to watch the situation carefully and I urge residents to report any incidents of fly tipping to the Parish.

Think about NEXT Christmas now - it could be a good idea

Got a financial hangover from the festive season? Then maybe opening a credit union account now could help you avoid the same pain come next January.

MK Credit Union is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers, and has a Christmas club which people can join for as little as £1. Depending on your savings history with the club it can then make loans of between £50 and £5,000. Call 01908 525086 or visit www.mkcreditunion.org.uk

If you would like information about what is going on in the Parish emailed direct to you, please send an email to admin@campbell-park.gov.uk

If you are doing the school run (or walk)... Please don't be a traffic dunce

By PC Jason Rowe



Complaints to police – about those doing the school run – have been increasing again of late.

Most involve inconsiderate parking and driving, and could be avoided if those responsible showed a bit more thought for others.

Obviously parking can be a bit limited with the ever increasing number of people using cars to do the school run, however there are places to park which do not involve abandoning vehicles on pavements, verges or in the road...

Using them may mean walking a few extra metres, but that's what you need to do if you don't get one of the highly sought-after spaces near the school gate!

Neighbourhood police teams visit local schools to encourage people to minimise risk of avoidable 'accidents' to themselves and others.

If you are not among those who already behave responsibly:

PLEASE DO NOT

- Drop off/pick-up children by stopping in the road. It is potentially dangerous and needs to stop NOW.

Not only are you holding up traffic, but near to schools children will be crossing – and restrictions on



their visibility caused by you stopping, even if for only a few seconds, is a risk we cannot accept.

- Don't obstruct school gates or crossing points (even for a quick drop off/pick up). It is dangerous.

PLEASE DO

Use school crossings/lollipop patrols. They help children cross safely and learn road safety.

Parents routinely dash across with their children – only feet from a lollipop person and between cars which have stopped. Are they REALLY in that much of a hurry?

Remember: all the rules of the road apply on the school run.

If your children aren't in an appropriate seat with their seat belt on – *you are likely to get a fine!*

Cause an obstruction – *you are likely to get a fine!*

On the phone and driving – *you are likely to get a fine!*

That may sound harsh, but child safety is extremely important to officers, and should be to you too.

Be considerate, be thoughtful and be warned...we are about and will be watching.

Winter-ish? Think sunflowers!

It may be cold, wet and horrible winter outside – but that's no reason not to have warm thoughts inside.

Why not plan to brighten up your garden and neighbourhood by planting some sunflower seeds in the early spring?

And if yours, helped by a bit of TLC, grow bigger and nicer than those around you, send some pic-

tures in to the Parish office. They could just end up on the CPPC website as examples of how local people do their bit to brighten up their Home Ground.

And growing them can be great fun for children, too.



Don't be sorry... be safe

Beware of bogus callers

When someone knocks at your door make sure you know who they are before letting them in

IF IN DOUBT KEEP THEM OUT OPERATION RESOLVE

THAMES VALLEY POLICE

Thames Valley CRIME STOPPERS 0800 555 111

CALL THE FRIDGE-BUSTERS

DON'T dump your old fridge, washing machine, cooker or freezer

domestic white goods taken away for FREE

Call MK Council environmental helpline on 01908 252625

or email to: emailservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Campbell
Park
Parish
Council
Caring within
the community

HOMEGROUND

The magazine for
where YOU live

issue of January 2010

Campbell Park Parish Council is a 'grass roots' council looking after many day-to-day services affecting people living in Oldbrook, Fishermead, Springfield, Willen, Campbell Park and Woolstone.

It normally consists of 20 members – ordinary people serving their communities – and is non-party political with members concentrating on grass roots matters which can make such a big difference to, and improve life for, local people.

Bridge face-lifts welcomed by users

Recent work has produced significant improvements to two overbridges linking Fishermead and Central Milton Keynes.

The bridges, at the north ends of Pencarrow and Porthleven Places, have been refurbished, work which has included application of a waterproofing system, relaying the deteriorated footway and renewing drainage channels.

As well as the obvious visual benefits, the work has improve public safety and should extend the working life of the bridges for many years to come.

Although there was inconvenience at the time, the results have been welcomed by those using the overbridges on a regular basis.

CPPC will continue to press the case for improvements to be made to the steps leading to the bridges.

● **Following representation by CPPC, a rolling programme is to be started by MK Council to improve footbridge over the V7 between Oldbrook and Fishermead.**

Paved areas and brick structures adjacent to the overbridge are showing their age and have, in places fallen into disrepair. The Parish Council was concerned as the area provides links between the two estates and is part of a busy route to nearby schools.

The area closest to Carrick Road has been prioritised as the first to receive attention, followed by other areas in subsequent years.

CPPC welcomes MK Council's initiative in addressing this issue.

● **The Parish prepared for the winter's ice and snow by inspecting all the salt bins in its area.**

All the bins were replenished and missing or damaged ones replaced by MK Council, with some new locations added to the list.

If, in the weeks ahead, you notice that any salt bins in the Parish area are empty, damaged or full of rubbish please call 01908 608559.

● **The former Granville Centre site on Willen is to be cleaned up pending its redevelopment.**

The 'bomb site' appearance of the plot having been flagged up by CPPC, landowner MK Council is to replace the fencing with a proper hoarding, spray down the weeds and sort out landscaping at the front of the site.

The centre was deemed unsafe and demolished over a year ago, to be replaced by the fantastic new community facility at Willen Pavilion.

● **Demand for CPPC allotments is high – and growing.**

The Parish has set-up a working party to look at the way it handles its present allotments and the possibility of obtaining more grounds for development.

That group is to look at how best to satisfy the needs of as many people on the waiting list as possible, while looking at green spaces throughout the Parish and their suitability for use as allotments.

● **New signs have been put up to help visitors and delivery people trying to get into Willen via Granville Square.**

MK Council has listened to local concerns expressed through CPPC and installed signs at the mini-roundabout which clearly indicate the starting point and direction of both Portland and Beaufort Drives.

The move certainly makes things clearer, which will hopefully reduce wasted trips and precious minutes being lost in the future.

● **At the time of going to press CPPC had vacancies for three councillors – two on Fishermead and one on Springfield.**

Have you thought about becoming a Councillor? Perhaps you have but don't know what is involved, and if that is the case please speak to any of the existing members or call parish manager Bill Dawson on 01908 608559. He will be more than happy to talk you through what is involved.

● **A Social Cohesion Policy has been adopted by CPPC as part of its five-year business plan.**

As part of that it is seeking to engage the various cultural groups in its area with the intention of promoting events featuring music, sport and food as ways of increasing local opportunities for integration and celebration.

To help get that process going the Parish is asking leaders of such groups to get in touch and put forward their ideas, needs and concerns.

● **Following extensive representations from the Parish, MK Council has fitted new railings at Fishermead local centre.** The previous ones had been damaged and become unsafe.

● **The Parish hopes of taking over responsibility for some community properties in its area have yet to become reality.**

When it does happen CPPC will ask local people what they think the best use for those properties would be.



Home Ground is published on environmentally friendly paper, is fully recyclable, and contains recycled fibre with the balance harvested from managed, sustainable resources.