

# Northloy NorthEast



News from your Parish Council

[www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)



BLAKELANDS | BOLBECK PARK | CONNIBURROW | DOWNHEAD PARK  
DOWNS BARN | GIFFARD PARK | GREAT LINFORD | NEATH HILL  
PENNYLAND | REDHOUSE PARK | TONGWELL | WILLEN PARK

**contacts**

GLPC Parish Councillors, the wards they represent and their contact details.

**Conniburrow**

**Maureen Windridge** 07850 378618  
maureen.windridge@great-linford.gov.uk  
2 Vacancies

**Downhead Park & Willen Park North**

**Michael Dean** 07756 500875  
michael.dean@great-linford.gov.uk  
Vacancy

**Downs Barn**

**Janet Maclean**  
janet.maclean@great-linford.gov.uk  
Vacancy

**Giffard Park & Blakelands**

**Tony Bedford** 01908 606613  
tony.bedford@great-linford.gov.uk  
**Keith Panes** 07921 240447  
keith.panes@great-linford.gov.uk  
**Peter Widdowson** 01908 617078  
peter.widdowson@great-linford.gov.uk

**Great Linford**

**Ian Foskett** 01908 606613  
ian.foskett@great-linford.gov.uk  
**Patricia Lawar** 07958 575050  
patricia.lawar@great-linford.gov.uk  
**Cecil Macaulay** 01908 231027  
cecil.macaulay@great-linford.gov.uk  
**Charles Omole** 07958 507073  
charles.omole@great-linford.gov.uk

**Neath Hill**

**David Stabler** 01908 672599  
david.stabler@great-linford.gov.uk  
Vacancy

**Pennyland & Bolbeck Park**

2 Vacancies

**Redhouse Park**

**Allan Calverley** 01908 613300  
allan.calverley@great-linford.gov.uk

**Willen Park South**

**Sam Crooks** 07803 036656  
sam.crooks@great-linford.gov.uk



Great Locality  
Proud Community

# winter 2015

## councillor comment

### Your plan, your future

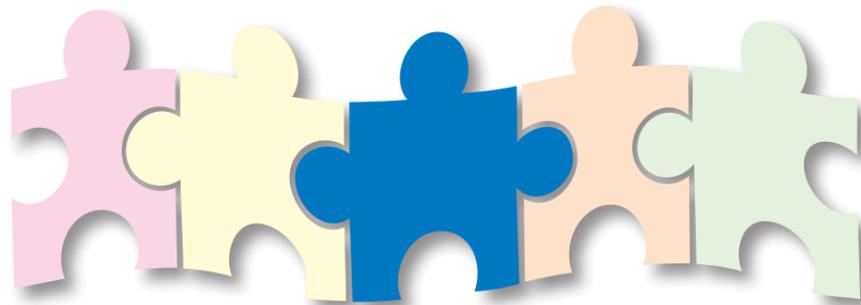
In early 2016 the Neighbourhood Plan will go to the vote. This is your plan and, if approved, it will be used to determine what kind of development goes where. It has taken two years of work via a careful, public process, to reach this important stage in the journey. We are really pleased and grateful that so many residents have taken part in the various consultations and we hope you will take as much interest in the referendum itself. The bigger the turnout at the ballot boxes the more authority it has. Having produced the final draft, the Plan is now in the hands of MK Council. They have appointed an independent examiner to ensure it is compatible with the strategic policies for Milton Keynes. Once it has passed this final 'health check' MK Council will organise the referendum. Since there are twin plans, covering two halves of the parish, every voter will get to vote on both plans. We will do our best to keep you informed but please keep your eyes peeled for news on the all-important referendum.



**Keith Panes, OBE**

Chair of GLPC

**The Neighbourhood Plan**  
*Your community, your future, your say!*



[www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)

**Parish Manager**

**Eirwen Tagg** parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

**North by NorthEast**

Editor: Linda Inoki

**Parish Council Office**

10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill Local Centre,  
Neath Hill MK14 6JY Tel: 01908 606613

**Front Cover:**

Graphic by Robert Rusin

# Life in the ROUND

By Linda Inoki

**I**n Willen Park at Camphill residents go about their work with a sense of purpose and pride. As they mix with visitors in the café, gardens or shop it is hard to believe that until fairly recently adults with learning difficulties usually led very different, isolated lives. Thanks to pioneers such as Dr Karl König, who opened the first Camphill community in 1939, attitudes have changed. Today, Camphill Milton Keynes is one of many thriving communities where people can learn together and live life in the round.

Over 50 residents live in the Milton Keynes community with support from staff, co-workers and volunteers. After starting at Pennyland in 1981 the Milton Keynes Development Corporation provided a larger site on fields near the Grand Union Canal. Since then, the site has branched out to include orchards, a theatre and bakery which offer a range of residents' workshops.

Cathy has lived at Camphill for over 30 years and most weekdays can be found serving visitors in the cheerful café. "It's my favourite workshop," she says, "My friends are here!"

Julia Funge, the café manager, says "Everyone you see working in the café has a vital role to play. The food we serve is vegetarian, freshly prepared and wherever possible we use ingredients grown by ourselves or from ethical sources. Our aim is to create a peaceful atmosphere with good food and friendly service."

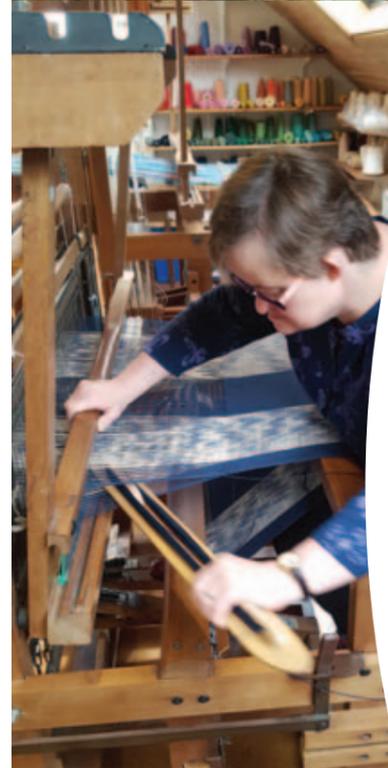
As well as supplying food for their own tables the community also sells a range of home-made products including crafts, jams, bread and apple or raspberry vinegar in the shop. Keeping in tune with the seasons, using as few pesticides as possible and being self-sufficient are central to life at Camphill. So is volunteering. The co-workers are often gap-year students who come from all over the world.

Chief executive Tim Davies says "Volunteers bring a lot of vitality to the place and are vital points of connection. Residents love it when new ones arrive." Like every charity Camphill is changing. Money is tighter and Tim is looking for new ways to raise awareness, funds and support. So how does he measure success? "By seeing our residents as full members of society," he replies. "Everyone has something to give and with a little help they can give it."

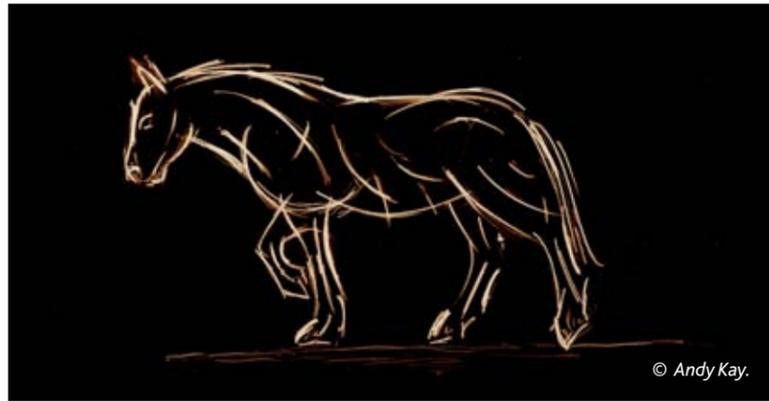
Before leaving I called in at the shop where Michael was delivering warm bread from the oven. But his main passion is clearly the theatre workshop and he hurried off to find Joan, "our talented pianist." Joan Harris, who hails from Arizona, came here to teach Eurythmy 20 years ago. All the activities are therapeutic, whether it's moving to music, working at the loom or harvesting apples on a crisp autumn day. "We consider ourselves very lucky to be here," says Joan, "not isolated, but active members of the community."

For more about Camphill visit [www.camphillmk.co.uk](http://www.camphillmk.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/CamphillMiltonKeynes](https://www.facebook.com/CamphillMiltonKeynes)  
[www.twitter.com/camphillmk](https://www.twitter.com/camphillmk)

*Photos courtesy of Camphill Milton Keynes except cafe exterior and baker, by Linda Inoki.*



# GYOSEI ART TRAIL NEWS



© Andy Kay.

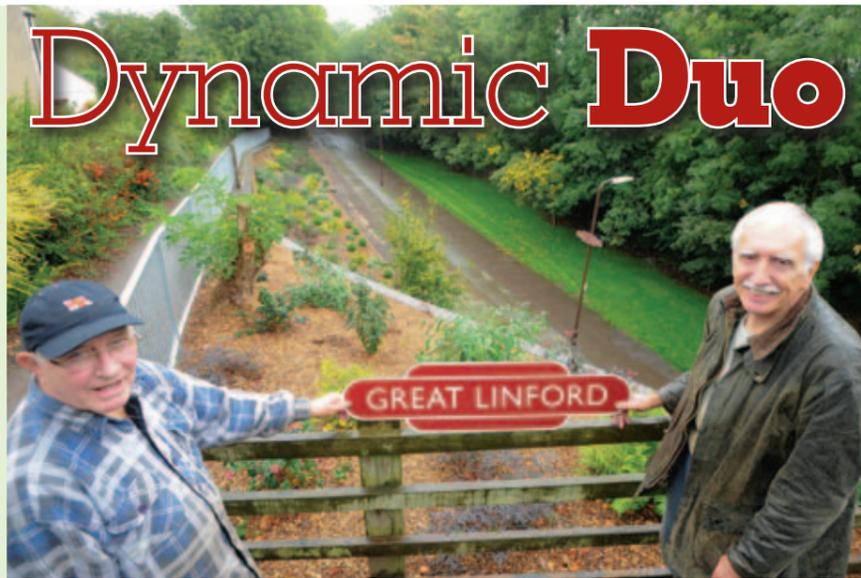
**H**ow time flies when you're applying for Arts Council grants and dealing with landowners! It is three years since we had the idea of a new arts trail along the Grand Union Canal and held a lively open day to find out what residents would like. But at last we can announce that the project is going ahead, albeit without the extra funding from the Arts Council which would have delivered a more extensive trail. That may come later but for now our top priority is to deliver six new artworks along the scenic canal path linking Downhead Park, Willen Park, Bolbeck Park and Pennyland. These will include a life-sized sculpture of a Shire horse, harking back to the days when the canal was a major artery connecting London and the Midlands. There will be a hand-crafted wooden seat, offering somewhere pleasant to rest, and an ethereal sculpture, reflecting the natural world, to suspend among the trees.

We are also planning an enjoyable community art installation project to plant flowering bulbs. The new artworks will not cost the parish a penny, being funded by approximately £45,000 of Section 106 arts money from the redevelopment of the Gyosei Japanese School at Willen Park. All being well, the new artworks, seating and sculptures will all be installed by the summer of 2016.

Congratulations to volunteers Peter Arnold (right) and Geoff Parker (left) for reaching a milestone in their restoration of the old railway walk in Great Linford.

Every Tuesday, for the last 18 months, Peter and Geoff have worked hard clearing out litter, overgrown greenery and reinstating signs. Now, with the planting of well over a hundred shrubs, the area is much more attractive for walkers, cyclists and local historians. GLPC donated the shrubs and Councillors Paul Anderson, Derek Eastman and Douglas McCall also dipped into their community grants to support the scheme.

The new 'Great Linford' railway sign harks back to the days when this was a busy branch line carrying cattle, parcels and people between Newport Pagnell and the Wolverton railway works. It



opened in 1867 but fell to Dr Beeching's axe a century later. Now, thanks to the dedication of this dynamic duo, the memory of proud little stations with their

oil lamps, polished enamel and neat flower beds lives on.

Photo by Andy Handley © MKNews/OneMK.



*It has been a turbulent two years, but with new shops in place and a new surgery set to open in 2016, the Willen Local Centre has a brighter future. Parish Councillor Sam Crooks told our reporter Linda Inoki about the ups and downs.*

**T**he Local Centre at Willen is just outside GLPC's boundary but it is important for residents in Willen Park and Bolbeck Park too. "It was a huge shock when the surgery suddenly closed its doors in 2013," says Sam. Four thousand patients were affected and although the NHS quickly sent people to different surgeries this was far from ideal. People wanted their local surgery back, but the NHS could not say how, if, or when this would happen.

Mark Lancaster, MP, got involved when resident Rita Gregory gave him 400 signatures on a petition. Things began to look up. However the property was repossessed and receivers stepped in.

Luckily, a local businessman, Duncan Mason, who had grown up in Willen, realised how important it was to the community. He offered to buy the freehold and lease it to a new medical centre. His company had recently bought the local shops and was planning a major regeneration so it made sense. But who would take on the surgery?

At this point another important person stepped up: Caroline Rollings, practice manager at the highly regarded Newport Pagnell Medical Centre (NPMC). They were interested but financially it would only work if NHS England could bridge a funding gap. Another setback - this couldn't be done.

Next, David Cameron enters the story! The Prime Minister announced a new "Primary Care Infrastructure Fund" to

accelerate improvements in GP premises and services. Here was a new chance and NPMC grasped it, persuading NHS England to use the Fund to allow them to run an outreach service in Willen. Then along came another problem!

The receivers asked the Homes and Community Agency for permission to set aside a covenant attached to the building so they could sell it to a non-medical user. This was a big threat but Labour parliamentary candidate, Emily Darlington, stepped in, organising a petition to the HCA's chief executive.

"But the HCA paid no attention," Sam recalls, "and we all received an email one morning saying that they had decided to apply to the courts to set the covenant aside. MP Mark Lancaster now made a decisive intervention and that same evening we got a second email saying that, on further reflection, HCA had changed their mind." Thus, disaster was averted and finally the deal went through.

Sainsbury's and other new businesses have opened up in the shopping area and the whole Local Centre is now coming back to life. "Campbell Park Parish Council also worked hard to bring this about but it all revolved around Caroline," says Sam. "If she hadn't been so determined it wouldn't have happened."

To register your interest in joining the Willen surgery visit NPMC website [www.npmc.nhs.uk](http://www.npmc.nhs.uk) or call 01908 611767. The surgery is expected to open by the end of March next year.



# Dragons' Den RESULTS



Were they frightened by the dragon's roar? We don't know – but the fact is that only a few people applied to the 'Dragons' Den' to fund their favourite community projects. As a result, there was no need to hold the public bidding event as there was no competition for the funds! Here is a profile of all three worthy winners and how they will spend the money provided by GLPC.

## New season, new challenges for Great Linford Football Club

By Harry Catharell

Another busy season has kicked off for all squads in the Great Linford Football Club. GLFC has teams from all age groups playing in several local leagues. Juniors play in the Milton Keynes & District Development League, Youth teams play in Milton Keynes Border Counties and Adult teams play in the North Buckinghamshire League.

Club representatives recently attended presentations for the Border Counties league and are proud to announce that two of our own referees received awards. Tony Hawkins, who is also Club Chairman, won the award for Best Referee for Sunday morning fixtures. Connor Ryan, who plays with the Under 16 Eagles team, won the award for Young Referee of the Season.

The Club also had a huge boost following the receipt of a £450 football bursary from Great Linford Parish Council as part of its Dragons' Den initiative. As GLFC is a purely voluntary organisation, run for the benefit of the community, it relies on support of this type in order to keep fees as low as possible.

The grant has also helped the Club purchase new aluminium framed goals for our Junior teams. All of our members send thanks to the Parish Council for its contribution.



## Peartree Pond Association

New shops, a ping pong table, sparkling fountain and flowers - Great Linford Local Centre is clearly on the up! In recent months, amidst the rubble of a major rebuild, local volunteers have carried on working to make it a better place.

In the square, the old shrubs have gone to make space for an outdoor ping-pong table. Volunteers Margaret and Jane recently planted 80 new shrubs around the edges and "Ping Square" is proving a hit. The Stephenson Academy gave the old bench a fresh coat of paint while Duncan and Brian installed a new one.

Next, with the help of a Dragons' Den grant from GLPC, the Peartree Pond Association has bought a large outdoor chess game to go with the boules. The parish grant will also pay for a brand new sign to replace the old 'Pilgrim's Bottle' pub sign. Colin Dundas, a local narrow-boat artist, is working on the design so it's a case of 'watch this space'.

"All this takes time, effort and money," says Alan Senior of the Peartree Pond Association (PPA). "We try to provide the time and the effort but the parish grant sure does help enormously!"

A combination of the land owner and his helpful builders, John and Anwen at the Little Bookshop, Parish Ranger Simon and the small but pro-active PPA has made all this possible.

Since the early days of the pub, sweet shop and hairdresser, followed by a succession of fast food outlets, the local centre has seen many changes. With new investment, and a lot of input from local people, it promises to become a better community focus than it ever was.

## Redhouse Park Residents Association

This newly formed residents association originally began life as a neighbourhood watch group, but with so many new families moving to the estate there was a real interest in tackling broader issues such as parking and schools. The association's first 'win' was to finally get the new play area opened after three years of broken promises and delays!

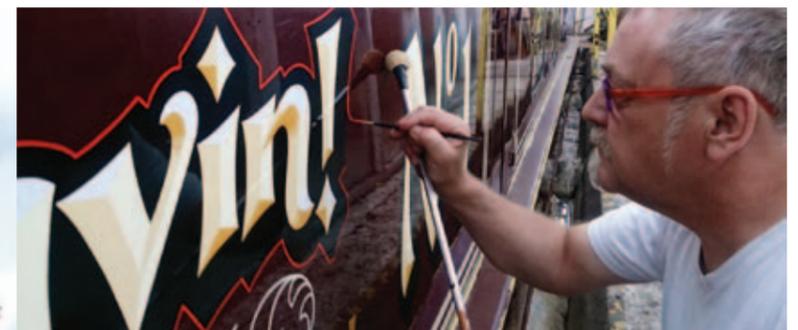
This lively new housing estate attracts a good mixture of people, of all ages and backgrounds, yet all 1,300 or so residents have a common interest in making Redhouse Park an even better place to live.

Rachel Waterson, chair of the RPRA, is delighted to have won the 'Big Dragon' grant as it will put the new association on a firm footing for an entire year. The £1500 award will be spent on much-needed items such as security for the bicycle sheds as well as creating a new website. Residents will pull together to raise the additional £420 in order to complete the first year's activities.

GLPC is happy to support residents' groups throughout the parish. If you want advice about setting up a group please get in touch with your local parish councillor or contact the parish office. Contact details on page 2.

ABOVE: GLPC visits RPRA. Photo by Franco Iannotta.

BELOW L TO R: GLFC mascot takes a break! Photo by Linda Inoki. Tony Hawkins 'best referee'. Outdoor chess at Great Linford local centre. Painter Colin Dundas.



# SHARKS at the gate

**They hang around school gates or strike up a conversation at the pub. But beware. When the subject turns to money the friendly smiles might conceal a frightening truth. These people are loan sharks – ready to drown their victims in a terrible tide of debt.**

Typically they start with small loans of £20 or £30 but quickly ramp up the costs. Then the threats, violence and intimidation begin. Week after week, the pressure to hand over hundreds of pounds not only deprives victims of their rightful income, it can drive them to despair.

Fortunately, help is at hand. The Illegal Money Lending Team is a government task-force which investigates illegal money lending and the offences that go with it, ranging from blackmail to kidnap and even rape. They have helped over 25,000 people, written off £64 million in illegal debts and sent 325 doorstep lenders to prison.

One of their cases is Mike, who started off with a loan of £250 and ended up paying £90,000 to a ruthless loan shark. Mike was beaten up in front of his children, had his home repossessed and at the age of 33 suffered a stress-related heart attack. He finally escaped years of persecution with help from the Illegal Money Lending Team.

Prevention is certainly better than cure. So where can you go if you can't get a loan from a regular bank and want to avoid legal, but high-charging, lenders like Wonga? The answer could well be a Credit Union; an ethical financial co-operative owned and run by its members, which can provide personal loans with no hidden charges.

The Swan Credit Union started in this area in 2006 and now has over 1,000 members. It is free and simple to join via its local branch; the MK Community Bank. Their standard rate for loans over £500 is 26.8% APR with lower rates available for home owners. This compares to eye-watering equivalents of around 300% to 1,500% from pay-day and doorstep lenders whose charges can rapidly spiral out of control.

Diane Butler, Development and Expansion Officer for the Swan Credit Union, says "We can help people through a difficult patch with an affordable loan to suit the individual's circumstances. We can also help people who have been struggling with long-term debt problems to find more peace of mind and even build up savings in the bank."



You can phone the Illegal Money Lending Team 24 hours a day on 0300 555 2222

**MK Community Bank**

www.mkcommunitybank.org.uk | Tel 03030 300147

Email: enquiries@swancreditunion.org.uk | www.facebook.com/stoploansharksproject

**Benefits of borrowing from MK Community Bank include:**

- ✓ No arrangement fees or hidden charges.
- ✓ No penalty for early repayment.
- ✓ Affordable interest rates - and you only pay interest on what is owing.
- ✓ Decisions are made quickly based on individual needs by a person, not a computer.
- ✓ Help to save for the future alongside repaying a loan.
- ✓ Free loan protection insurance.



# BIG FUN in friendship park

**B**ig Local Conniburrow has been working in partnership with Milton Keynes Council to enhance the play park on Conniburrow Boulevard. Amazingly, until recently the play park had no name but a recent competition, won by Chelsea Bennett, came up with the name "Friendship Park". Chelsea won a family ticket to the seaside for her welcome efforts.

So far a new, inclusive, basket swing has been installed and a popular Sona Arch which has brought an outdoor music and dance game to the estate. The arch is a first for Milton Keynes and one of only a handful in the country. Residents chose it during a consultation exercise. Steve Chilcraft, Chair of Big Local Conniburrow, said "We are delighted to be able to respond to residents' wishes for improved play facilities and look forward to the completion of the play equipment project, by the end of November, when fitness equipment and a play area for under-5's will be in place. Next year we will complete the whole project by providing a performance area in Friendship Park, for use by our local schools and residents, as well as a name plaque and Big Local noticeboard". The annual Conniburrow Fun Day in September was also a hit with performances from the Conniburrow Choir, Salvation Army band, Fusion Fan Dance Troupe, solo musicians and a variety of stalls.

LEFT: Conniburrow Fun Day. Photos by Linda Inoki. CENTRE LEFT: Sona Arch. Photo by Lee Mooney.

## Say Hello to Hannah!

After MK Council cut the number of community mobilisers it funded from nine to zero GLPC decided to step in. Although it is only for two days a week Community Action will be able to continue supporting vulnerable people in the parish. Mobiliser Hannah Forbes (pictured right) has been getting to know people and hearing about priorities. It is early days but Hannah is already part of a new project called FAST (Families and Schools Together) at Great Linford Primary School and, along with colleagues, has been knocking on doors in Conniburrow meeting people in 'HIMOs' or house-shares. "It can be difficult for anyone to take the first steps out of isolation but we can help," says Hannah. "I know one mother, for example, who was very isolated and lacking in confidence but she is now part of a team of local residents leading children to school on the 'walking bus'." Energetic Hannah says "I love my job and pretty much do it in my free time too!" Three nights a week she enjoys singing, and running a football and youth club with her husband.



why not send us your news & views?

We welcome your views. Please send your letters to:

**POST**

Parish Council Offices  
10 Tower Crescent  
Neath Hill Local Centre  
Neath Hill  
MK14 6JY

**EMAIL**

parish.manager@  
great-linford.gov.uk

**A VIBRANT DISPLAY!**

By Great Linford Allotment Association

Maurice Rust, who has worked for Frosts Garden Centre for half a century, visited the six allotment sites within the parish on 20th July to judge the best overall plot and best newcomer's plot. This was in preparation



Winner of Vidler Spoon for best preserves.

for the Annual Great Linford Allotment Produce Show held on Sunday 16th August where Mr Duncan from Bells Meadow was awarded best overall newcomer and Mr Dudley James from Hills Close won best plot.

Amongst scrubbed carrots, beautifully coloured chard and jars of homemade jams and chutneys an air of good humoured rivalry buzzed through the Memorial Hall as the judging of the best produce came to a close and winning certificates were distributed amongst the vibrant display.

There was a great turn out this year. Special thanks go to Kim Woodhouse, Maurice Rust and everyone else involved in running the show.

**Green spaces or brown update**

In the last issue we reported that several open green spaces which MK Council had controversially put forward for infill housing - three in Conniburrow and one in Downs Barn - had been removed from consideration; at least, for the present.

MKC has now produced a new list of 61 sites in a report called Site Allocations Emerging Preferred Options. This time only one site is in the parish; privately-owned land at the Walnuts, off Wolverton Road, next to the M1. This is earmarked for 67 dwellings. However, in the plan for the Northern Expansion Area (Redhouse Park), the site is classified as employment land. The latest report notes that this is "unlikely" to proceed for housing as it is a "high-value employment site, with noise issues". The final recommendation may change depending on



Linford Lakes Photo by Tony Bedford.

the results of the public consultation.

A second privately owned site, at Linford Lakes/ Wolverton Road, is being considered for 193 dwellings. Although it lies within Haversham-cum-Little Linford parish the greatest impact of any development here would be on residents in this parish. Again, MKC's planners suggest that it is unlikely to be carried forward as a preferred option due to "ecological impact".

Nevertheless, in expectation of housing development on green open space at Linford Lakes, GLPC has already adopted a series of principles by which it will judge such proposals:

GLPC opposes piecemeal development which could impact the whole of Milton Keynes.

Development should not adversely impact GLPC residents, services or put unacceptable strain on existing roads, schools, shops, etc.

New developments must adhere to MK Planning policy and not set a precedent for development outside the Core Strategy.

The latest Site Allocations list is out for public consultation until 20 January 2016. For more information you can search MK Council's website or contact Councillor David Stabler.

**PARKOUR PICS**

The new Parkour area at the Dragon Park in Great Linford has proved a hit with youngsters but the slopes are proving too slippery for comfort. The best solution is to coat them in a special paint but instead of using



© Danny Budds.

several shades of grey how about something more colourful? Danny Budds, an aspiring artist who grew up in Great Linford, has produced some lively samples inspired by his love of computer games and Milton Keynes. Everyone knows King Kong but this is

the first time we've seen him on top of The Point! Please let us know what you think.

**Tree of Life**

A lonely roundabout at the entrance to Redhouse Park looks set to have a new companion. This is a sculpture called "A Tree of



Sculptor Phillip Pauley's Tree of Life

Life" which has stood in the grassy area in the Theatre District in CMK for a number of years. However since Premier Inn is planning to build a new hotel on the site the tree is in need of a new home.

Councillor David Stabler, who is also a trustee of the Public Arts Trust - MK, suggested that Redhouse Park residents might like it at the gateway to their estate, where Wolverton Road and V10 Brickhill Street meet. "This is one of few roundabouts in MK that has no landscaping and the sculpture, made of Corten steel, would be a distinctive feature," says David. The

Redhouse Park residents association and Councillor Allan Calverley agree; all being well, the Tree of Life will be installed by spring 2016.

**CRIME WATCH**

Local residents have recently helped Thames Valley Police catch people suspected of drug offences. In a dramatic swoop on Neath Hill several people were arrested. A TVP spokesman says that "As a result of astute observations, and calls to the police over suspicious circumstances, four men were arrested in relation to drugs offences. The successful operation in Neath Hill was due to the increased vigilance of the Neighbourhood Watch group who reported intelligence and worked in conjunction with the Police."

Parish Manager Eirwen Tagg says "Sometimes an observant resident can supply police with the missing piece of a jigsaw puzzle that leads to an arrest."

In another case someone suspected of a string of acts of vandalism has also been apprehended.

So if you see anything that looks suspicious do not hesitate to report it to the police or your local neighbourhood watch. Details of these groups are on GLPC's website.

**Marsh Drive update**

GLPC has appointed a project officer, Andrew Morphett, to manage the process of improving the Marsh Drive sports pavilion using s106 funding allocated for development of the Marsh Drive facilities and other grants.

The first stage will be to develop outline proposals based on the views of local residents during the Neighbourhood Plan consultations. These include better changing and social facilities for sports users, space for more indoor sport and community activities and an all-weather surface. However Keith Panes, chair of GLPC, believes that there needs to be "a unifying vision for the whole area", therefore the Parish Council will seek to work in collaboration with MKC and The Parks Trust. Once the outline plans have been developed they will provide the basis for further local consultation.

To oversee the project a project board, which includes various stakeholders, will look at the 'big picture' to ensure that any new amenities, pathways or parking areas all tie together. This is not a short project and it might be implemented in stages but the aim is to make a seamless and more attractive community and leisure space.

and finally...

# What's in A NAME?

By Eirwen Tagg

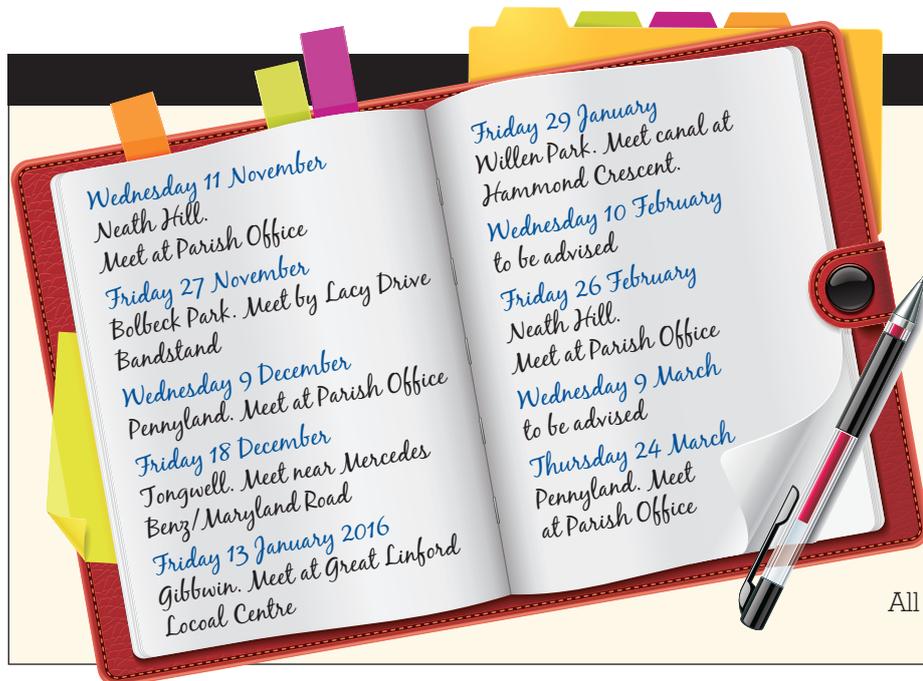
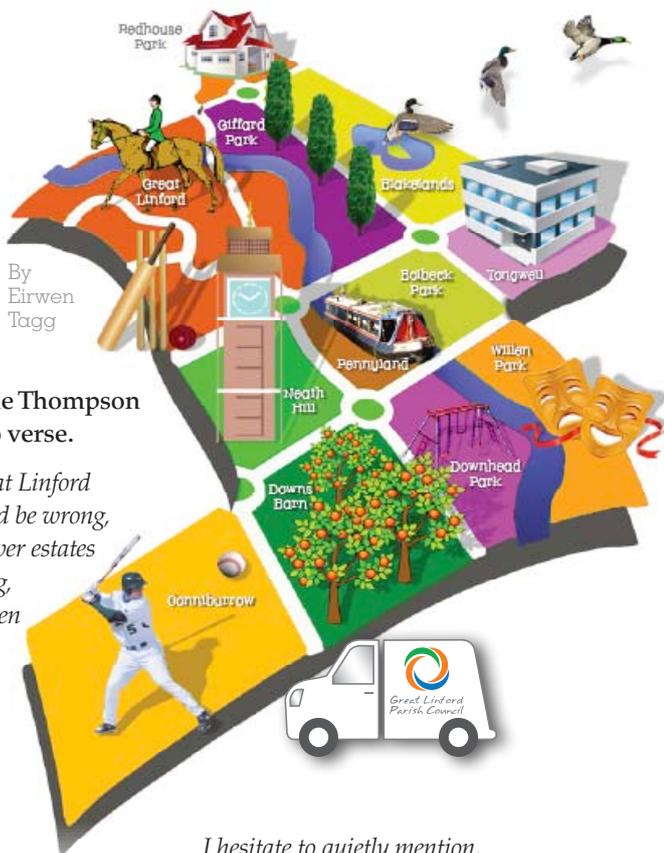
Something we've been wrestling with for a while now is our name. Not surprisingly people often think that "Great Linford Parish Council" is only concerned with Great Linford itself, whereas we work on behalf of residents throughout the north-east district of Milton Keynes. As you'll see from the map GLPC is the first rung of government for twelve estates and around 20,000 people, from Conniburrow right up to the new settlement at Redhouse Park. So while our name has historic links to Great Linford perhaps it is time to change. Another thing that confuses people is the name 'parish council'. If you think we are connected to the Church you have an impressive memory but are a little out of date; parish councils were split off from ecclesiastical administration in 1894! In Woughton, for example, they have dropped the word 'parish' and now call themselves Woughton Community Council. So what do you think? If you have any views, or even alternative names to suggest, please let us know.

Parish Guardian Eddie Thompson has put his views into verse.

*Change the name of Great Linford Parish? Surely that would be wrong, However residents of newer estates feel that they don't belong, But Great Linford has been established for ages, Maybe it's listed in the Domesday Book's pages, It's historic, so can't we show respect for its age? Honour its seniority and keep it centre stage? It anchors us in time and space, So let us use this ancient place To give us depth and history And what we relish, mystery, But how to embrace the new estates? How to involve them in council debates?*

*I hesitate to quietly mention, That we take a page from football convention, Soccer fans may well be delighted At my suggestion – Great Linford United!*

ABOVE: Illustration by Robert Rusin.



Local events to look out for

## diary dates

Join Simon, our friendly Parish Ranger, for a neighbourly Tidy Up day.

We supply equipment and cups of tea! Just wear suitable clothes.

All events 10.30 – 12.30.

All event details can be found on our website [www.great-linford.gov.uk](http://www.great-linford.gov.uk)



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