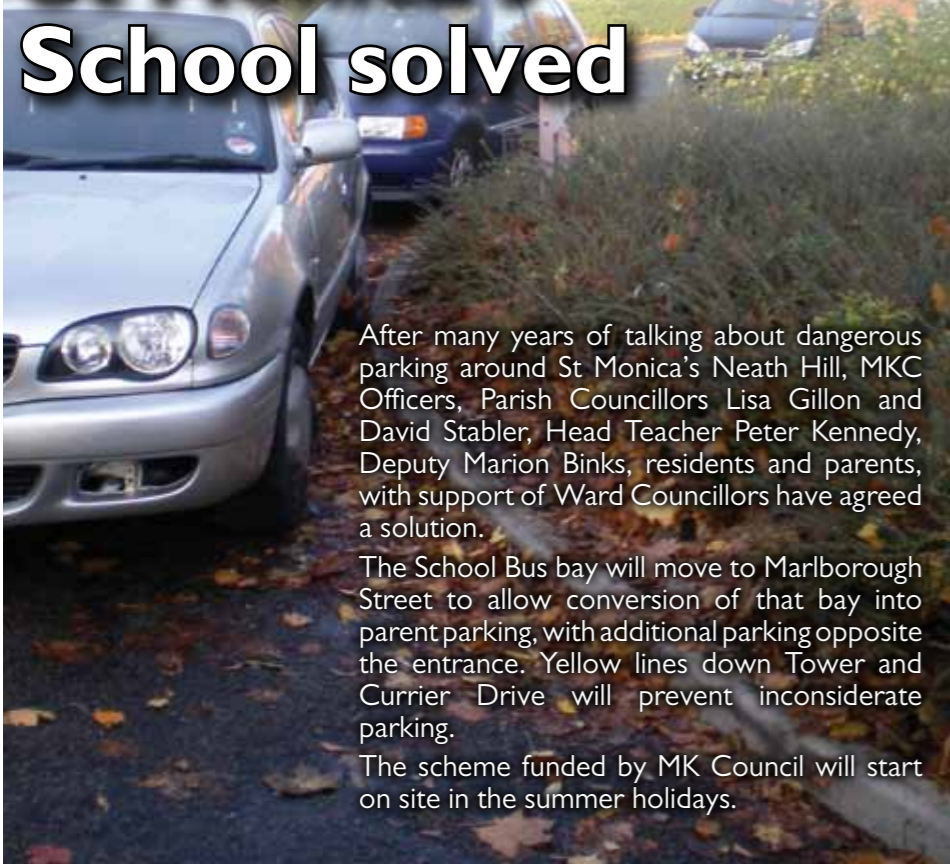


Parking problems at St Monica's School solved



After many years of talking about dangerous parking around St Monica's Neath Hill, MKC Officers, Parish Councillors Lisa Gillon and David Stabler, Head Teacher Peter Kennedy, Deputy Marion Binks, residents and parents, with support of Ward Councillors have agreed a solution.

The School Bus bay will move to Marlborough Street to allow conversion of that bay into parent parking, with additional parking opposite the entrance. Yellow lines down Tower and Currier Drive will prevent inconsiderate parking.

The scheme funded by MK Council will start on site in the summer holidays.



Typical activities, under the direction and approval of the Communications Committee, might include:

- meeting councillors to plan content and develop character of News & Views - published three times a year;
- keeping abreast of Council business and projects for possible news features written in the house style;
- researching subjects and generating ideas for stories;
- conducting interviews, in person or by telephone;
- creating well written, accurate work to deadline;
- sourcing accompanying images;
- an element of sub-editing and proofing your own or others copy;
- adapting the style of pieces for the GLPC web site.

With free time available to research and write articles and features for News&Views and the GLPC web site?

If you live locally and are willing to use your journalistic skills to publicize the activities of the Parish Council please contact Eirwen Tagg; Parish Manager on 01908 606 613 or email parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

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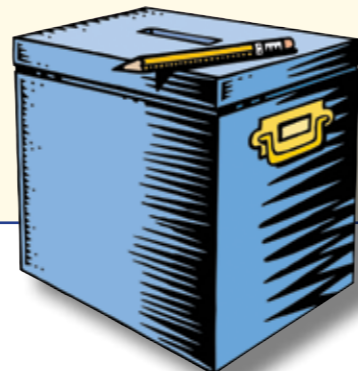
X VOTE VOTE VOTE

At the May elections you can VOTE to change the Westminster electoral system, VOTE in Linford North and Linford South for two MK Councillors and VOTE for 20 Parish Councillors.

All existing GLPC councillors will stand down this year and the election of candidates will take place throughout the parish on Thursday 5th May.

Wards	Councillors
Conniburrow.....	three
Downhead Park & Willen.....	three
Downs Barn.....	two
Giffard Park & Blakelands.....	three
Great Linford.....	four
Neath Hill.....	two
Pennyland & Bolbeck Park.....	two
Redhouse Park.....	one

Following the election of 20 new councillors the Parish Council will meet on the 16th May to elect the Chairman, Vice Chairman and appoint committee members. The Full Council will then meet on the 17th May to conduct its first business.



Great Linford Parish Council News and Views

“ But what can you do? The answer is to take part in community events we organise. Why? Because every little does help! ”

Are you part of the Big Society? Page 3

“ The Annual Parish meeting, on Wednesday, April 27th will give YOU the chance to be involved in planning YOUR communities future, and challenge GLPC's proposals. ”

What can the Parish Council do for YOU? Page 5

“ GLPC wants to create a team of people who can use their green-fingered skills and experience to the benefit of the wider community. We call them Guerrilla Gardeners. ”

Green-fingered guerrilla gardeners. Page 6

St Leger Drive - picture by David Stabler

Welcome to residents of Redhouse Park

"I would like to welcome residents of Redhouse Park who I believe will benefit from mutual geographical links and shared community amenities in Great Linford parish. They will certainly benefit from the lower precept levied by GLPC, without compromising services and they can elect their own Councillor on 5th May." GLPC Chairman Cecil Macaulay. Parish boundaries change in April – page 4



Linford Reach at Redhouse Park | Wolverton Road | MK14 5AG



believe

- 5 bedrooms
- 4 bathrooms
- 3 reception rooms
- 2 garages

1 great offer
all this from **£449,950**

**the only thing
missing is you**

Let's talk

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linford.reach@candmhomes.com
candmhomes.com

Price correct at time of going to press. Images show typical Country & Metropolitan homes.

Are you part of the **Big Society?**

Government wants a Big Society, but how does that square up with cutbacks? It seems to mean two things – GLPC doing a lot more of what it already does for less money.

For GLPC it's about building on community events we have already held, like the Community Garden project in Downs Barn where over 40 volunteers created a valuable and peaceful setting for everyone.

There are many groups who tackle community issues and Milton Keynes Council has experts in the Neighbourhood Management team. But they don't have as much money so we need to find more effective solutions to problems. For example, when it snows GLPC could have an emergency team of volunteers working with an MKC Officer to clear snow around the local centres and old people's homes.

Other neighbourhood partners are Thames Valley Police; who deal with crime and antisocial issues, endeavouring to resolve problems sooner rather than later. An example is their DogWatch scheme. Dog walkers are ideally placed for spotting and reporting dodgy goings-on, or noting a streetlight not working. They recognize those who DON'T pick up dog poo,

and can help the Enforcement Officer to re-educate or fine inconsiderate people. Another group are volunteers and charity groups who want to DO SOMETHING and HELP OTHERS And then there is US – the people who live and work in the community.

Because every little does help!

But what can you do? The answer is to take part in community events we organise. Why? Because every little does help! Clearing up rubbish sends a message that litter is not acceptable, letting us know about street lights not functioning and overflowing bins is community working.

Call it re-cycling if you like – you make the effort but you get something back. It used to be called 'community spirit'. We want to revive that idea, with your help. And remember, what you are able to contribute may be small - but big in value!

Look at the list of community events we are running this year – and give us your details if you would like to be involved and become one of our Parish Guardians helping improve all our neighbourhoods.

Call the Parish Manager on 01908 606613 or email parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk. Or visit the parish office at Neath Hill.



Great Linford Parish Council Community Events 2011

April	Wednesday 13th	Environment Day	Conniburrow
	Wednesday 27th, 7.30pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Downs Barn School
June	Tuesday 1st	Clean-up Springhill Brook	Neath Hill
	Friday 17th – Sunday 19th	Waterside Festival	Great Linford
July	Mon 25th – Sat 6th August	Summer of Fun	Various
August	Thursday 18th	Environment Day	Great Linford – Middleton, Pippard, Hills Close, Local Centre
	<i>Date to be confirmed</i>	Produce Show	Great Linford Allotment Association
September	<i>Date to be confirmed</i>	Big Tidy Up Launch	Local Primary Schools

Get Community Messaging crime updates **by email**

Some 600 Downs Barn residents now receive email alerts about incidents and general crime activity in their area after a project by Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to explain the Thames Valley Police (TVP) Community Messaging service.

"The response by so many residents is clear evidence of people's wish to be kept informed about crime in their community",

says Dave Monkhouse, Police Neighbourhood Specialist Officer for the area.

Dave wants other parish residents to apply for email Community Messages about crime in their area. Messages provide advice on crime prevention, appeal for witnesses or help in tracing missing persons and actions being taken by the TVP. There will be news of events and opportunities to meet the neighbourhood policing team to make your point about crime in the locality.

Sign up for Community Messaging

Go to the web site www.tvpcommunitymessaging.org and complete the online application to sign up for Community Messaging. Open the link, click on and read 'Terms and Conditions' - top left corner, then click on 'Why Not Apply Here?' This opens the online application form to complete and send off.

If you do not have access to the internet ring Watch Liaison Officer Helen Sharratt on 01908 324626 or get someone to email Helen.sharratt@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk.

Dave Monkhouse, Police Neighbourhood Specialist Officer



Parish boundaries change in April

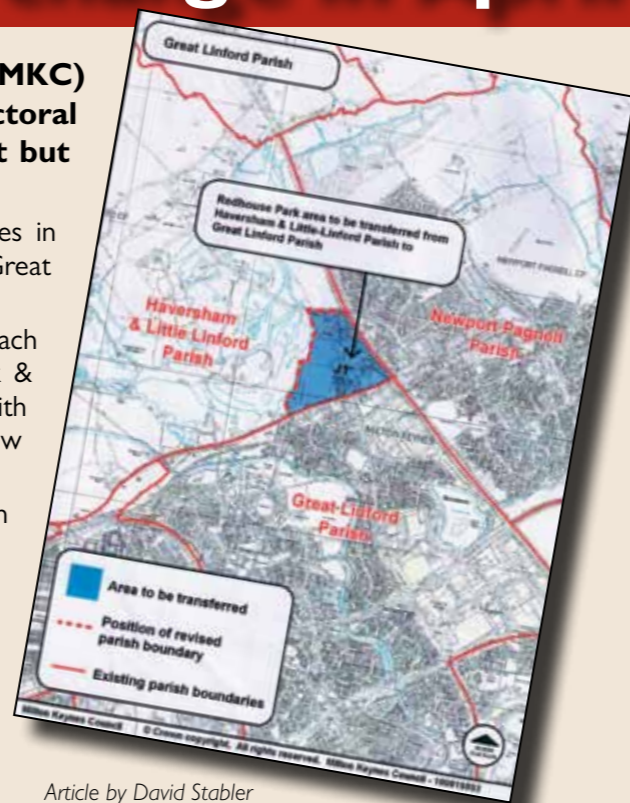
Since November 2006, Milton Keynes Council (MKC) has reviewed all 45-parish boundaries and the electoral representation within parish wards. Last year most but not all parish boundary issues were agreed by MKC.

Haversham and Little Linford PC proposed that the 455 homes in Redhouse Park, along Wolverton Road, should be transferred to Great Linford Parish (GLPC).

The number of GLPC councillors will increase from 17 to 20, each member representing an average of 723 electors. Giffard Park & Blakelands and Downhead Park & Willen Park wards presently with two councillors per ward will now have three councillors; the new Redhouse Park Ward will have one councillor.

Changes will take effect after the 5th May elections for every Parish Councillor in all existing, modified or new GLPC wards. The GLPC precept for 2011/12 will apply from April to all wards within GLPC area, including Redhouse Park.

But not all boundaries have been agreed. MKC is currently reviewing the boundaries of Campbell Park Parish Council and Central Milton Keynes Town Council which could result in the transfer of Willen ward, comprising Willen village and Willen Lake to the east of the V10, from Campbell Park PC to GLPC.



Article by David Stabler

What can the Parish Council do for YOU?

The Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) Annual Parish meeting, on Wednesday, April 27th will give YOU the chance to be involved in planning YOUR communities future, and challenge GLPC's proposals.

Key issues to be discussed, affecting Downs Barn and Conniburrow are:

Parking by people who work or shop at the centre:mk. Should these areas be designated 'Residents Only Parking'?

Community parking spaces taken up by caravans or old cars. GLPC is working with MK Council officers to have these areas adopted so enforcement can be taken.

GLPC is also eager to listen to resident's views about community meeting places - or lack of them. Neighbours should be able to meet and socialise and GLPC thinks this is made difficult by the lack of suitable venues. Great Linford Memorial Hall and Giffard Park Community Annex are fully booked and GLPC sports pavilions at Great Linford and Downs Barn are small and perhaps unfit for purpose.

GLPC is carrying out a feasibility study for improvements to Downs Barn pavilion but this may not solve the overall problem of lack of meeting places. Would you be prepared to pay more in parish precept to build a new community centre? Tell us what you think!

Come along to our Annual Meeting

**27th April 7-9.30pm
Downs Barn School**

Our agenda includes:

- parking on the estates
- shortage of community halls
- how to increase the use of Downs Barn sports facility

We want to let you know what plans we have but we also want you to talk to us about what issues concern you as residents.

Another Summer of Fun



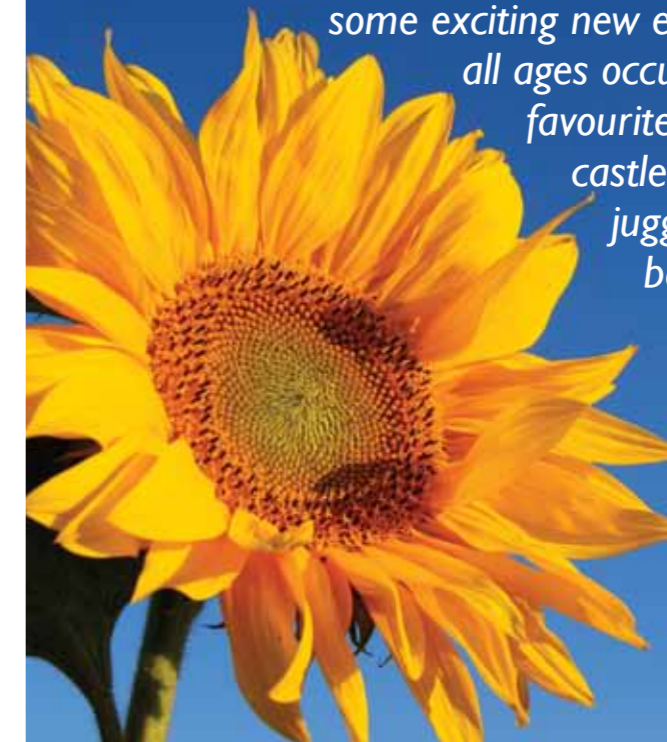
Last year GLPC's holiday activities attracted over 1,700 people (kids to grandparents).

Our third Summer of Fun program from 25th July to 26th August has a tight budget but we are planning

some exciting new events to keep all ages occupied, plus old favourites – bouncy castle, games, dance, juggling and the barge.

Spread the word to friends and neighbours.

Full details in News&Views in July.



Make a note in your diary - Wednesday, April 27th at Downs Barn School, between 7.30 - 9.00pm. Nibbles and drinks will be provided. This is your chance to meet the GLPC councillors and staff and have your say on issues that may affect your neighbourhood.

Parish precept frozen for 2011/12

GLPC agreed a NIL increase to the Parish precept. It is frozen at £24.61 a year per Band 'D' dwelling; this is £2.05 per month or 47.3 pence per week.

No cut in services either

Councillors decided that GLPC should remain proactive about the things it does for residents.

Summer of Fun activities, much appreciated during the school holidays, will continue.

Again GLPC will fund additional security at the Waterside Festival.

Downs Barn Youth Club will be actively supported.

Our football and cricket pitches charges are frozen at last years level and are subsidised from the precept. They are arguably the best in the area with charges which reflect the excellence of the facilities at market rates to be competitive with other providers.

Charges for allotments will increase by £1 from April 2012, from £4 to £5 per pole, or £25 a year for a 5 pole plot. That is 48 pence a week for an allotment plot to grow you own vegetables.

Staff hours will be increase to help resolve residents' issues; report neighbourhood problems and find solutions, aid project groups and support consultation with third party's schemes.

Overheads and contracts reviewed

A new ten year lease has been agreed for the Neath Hill parish office with a small rent increase.

New three year fixed price contracts have been tendered for; the design and printing of News&Views, internal auditing, fire alarm/extinguisher testing and certification, caretaking and cleaning the three pavilions and office, and landscape maintenance around the pond, on the orchard and six allotment sites.

It was not possible to cut allowances as GLPC Councillors voted not to receive payment for the time they commit to Council affairs.

Sound financial overview

Councillors decided the reserves set aside for re-thatching the barn and the pond at Great Linford, or dealing with diseased and dangerous trees on parish owned land were sufficient, so no top up was made this year

The net expenditure for 2011/12 will be some £5,000 more than income and precept - this overspending will come from the limited unallocated reserves in the bank, with a small margin remaining for 2012/13, anticipated to be around £12,000.

DS

Have YOUR say...

If you would like to comment on any issues raised in News&Views write to Great Linford Parish Council
10 Tower Crescent
Neath Hill, Milton Keynes MK14 6JY
Ring us on (01908) 606613 or Email
info@great-linford.gov.uk
www.great-linford.gov.uk

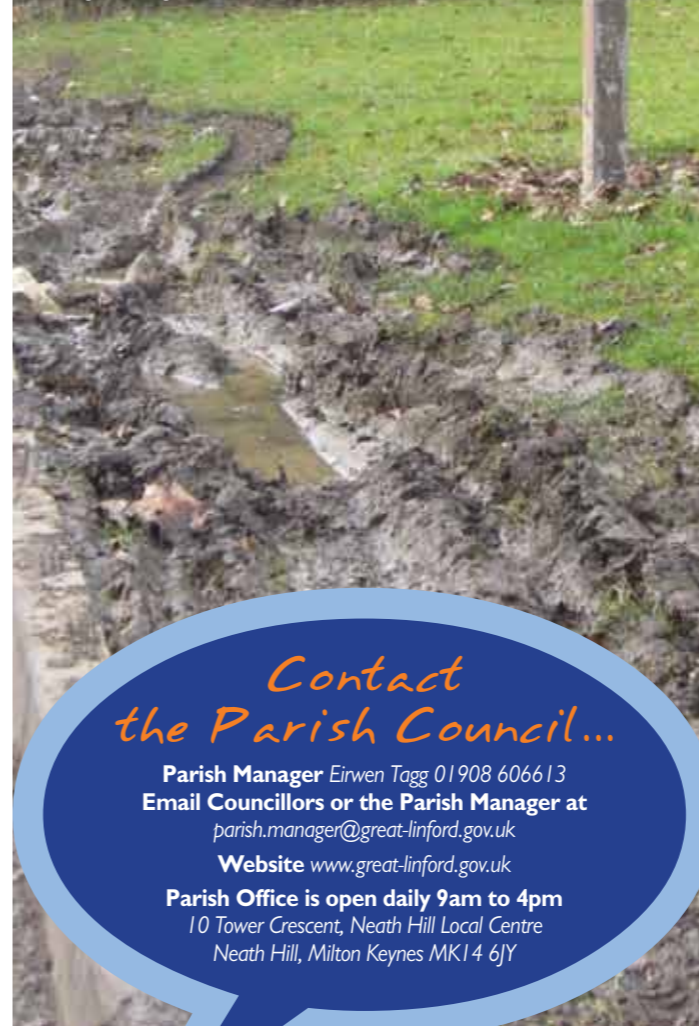
Drivers to pay for damaging verges?



Drivers who park on grass verges could be asked to pay for the cost of reinstating them. Parking on verges is unacceptable, can be dangerous and costs cash to repair ruts. MK Council usually put a warning note on offenders' windscreens then TVP will visit car owner's homes, if an offence is committed.

Verge parking is being discussed by the Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG), and by the Neighbourhood Action team - NAG members, Thames Valley Police (TVP), GLPC and residents. GLPC wants residents to let us know, in confidence, when they come across cars damaging verges, please call GLPC, on 01908 606613 or email parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

Damage to verges in Currier Drive



Contact the Parish Council...

Parish Manager Eirwen Tagg 01908 606613
Email Councillors or the Parish Manager at
parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

Website www.great-linford.gov.uk

Parish Office is open daily 9am to 4pm
10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill Local Centre
Neath Hill, Milton Keynes MK14 6JY

Job Opportunity

Would you like to work with the Parish Council?

An opportunity has arisen for an Admin Assistant to support the parish council, you will need good pc skills, a problem solver, good with people, a genuine team player and "in love" with

the community. Excellent written skills and flexibility are essential. Hours are to be agreed but may be between 10 to 20 a week.

Please contact the Parish Manager Eirwen Tagg on (01908) 606613 or email parish.manager@great-linford.gov.uk

NEWS in brief...

TVP MONDAYS

Talk with a Thames Valley Police (TVP) Officer or PCSO - confidentially - about any local problems. Come along to the weekly TVP Mondays walk-in surgery at the parish office 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill - opposite the Clock Tower.

TVP Mondays - 11am to Noon.

YOUTH CLUB PANNIER PLACE PAVILION DOWNS BARN

The Club opens 7pm to 9pm every Wednesday to any local teenager. Only 50p including free snacks. It is a safe and friendly place for young people to meet, playing with an Xbox, uses the floodlit sports courts or discuss issues like sexual health, drug-awareness and develop skills such how to cook their own food.

PLOTTING THE FUTURE

By the time you read this the Sandy Close Allotments will be open. Yes it's taken a long time and a few unexpected hurdles along the way! But we still have many people on the waiting list, so GLPC are looking for land that could be turned into allotments, do you know of anywhere in the parish that would be suitable?



COULD YOU HELP A DISABLED MAN SWIM?

Are you a strong swimmer with empathy for someone with disability?

A wheelchair bound man living in the parish needs someone to help him get fit through swimming. Although a strong swimmer, assistance is required with changing and in the pool at either Newport Pagnell or Stantonbury.

If you can give a little of your time, please call the parish office on (01908) 606613 or email info@great-linford.gov.uk