

News & Views

Issue No. 16

Newsletter of Great Linford Parish Council

July 2007

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The dangers of converting properties into houses in multiple occupation (HiMOs), are shown in this story, reported recently by the MK Citizen.

Landlord facing probe after bedsit fire drama



A LANDLORD faces an investigation after firefighters rescued three of his tenants from a smoke-filled Conventry road bedsit.

The house in Multiple Occupation (HiMO) in Conventry Road had been used with smoke after a pan of oil was left on the kitchen hob.

Two pregnant women escaped from the house during the incident around 18.45 on...

By Rob Hartley

The house had no working smoke alarms and the HiMO was not complying with the appropriate regulations.

The landlord is barred from having tenants there until he complies, house people live in the house.

David Monticombi, 33, from Daventry, was downstairs as he called the fire brigade on his mobile. 'Everyone is very scared now because they think the house is not safe.'

Watch Manager Bob Bending was first on the scene from Brighthelm Fire station.

He said: 'The hall was heavily smoke-filled and we know there were people inside.'

'I took 10 minutes to...

Simon Kaynes Hospital for check-up.

Crews from Great Britain and Newport Pagnell assisted Brighthelm firefighters.

Firefighters used four sets of breathing apparatus, one foam jet and a Positive Pressure Ventilation fan.

We lead with policy on bed-sit houses

Concerns about the number of properties converted into 'bed-sit houses', or houses in multiple occupation (HiMOs) as they are known, has prompted Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) to draw up a minimum standard which all conversions should meet.

While recognising that there is a need for accommodation for single people, GLPC believes that conversions, when badly done, are wrong for tenants, and can have an adverse effect on neighbourhoods.

The GLPC policy says there should be no more than four habitable rented rooms, in what was previously a 'family home', and that any existing car parking provision, including a car port, must be retained. Otherwise, drivers park wherever they can, to the detriment of all residents, and in ways likely to damage verges, and create hazards.

The guidelines also set out the acceptable minimum size of rooms and facilities, for living, dining, bath/shower and toilet provision. Provision for bicycle and refuse storage is also laid down.

Conniburrow house fire reinforces GLPC's fears

The new policy is GLPC's attempt to deal with problems created because, when planning applications are turned down, a backlog means applications are sometimes granted by MK Council, many months after the conversion work has been done.

Conversions must be carried out to a proper standard

While MK Council approves or refuses applications, GLPC makes recommendations on whether planning applications should be granted, or not.

By setting a minimum standard, the conversion work and living accommodation, should be of a quality that is acceptable to landlords and tenants alike, and more likely to be given planning permission.

Explained Parish Councillor David Stabler: 'In the experience GLPC has had with HiMOs, we believe that rather than waving a big stick at property owners, we should use the carrot of offering them a minimum acceptable standard of conversion, which is more likely to receive planning permission. This way, the whole cycle of applying for planning should be faster and more satisfactory for property owners, their tenants, and the Parish Council. 'Part of our concern is about safety. A recent fire in a HiMO on Conniburrow [see above] underlines that fear. While no-one was hurt, the story could have been disastrously different, not just for people in the house, but for neighbours.'

'By leading the way in creating a policy on HiMOs, GLPC hopes that any new conversions will meet all necessary health and safety standards.'

ML

Police Community Support Officers: You say yes to funding extra ones



Linford South PCSO No. 9940 Stephanie Mason (right) at her first weekly policy 'surgery', at the Parish Council office, with Parish Manager Jenny Sharp and PC Heather Denton.

In the last issue of **News&Views** we gave details on the introduction of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) in our parish. The first two PCSOs started in early May, one in each Sector, another two are in training and will become operational in June.

The Police Reform Act 2002 introduced PCSOs to fulfil a new support role within the Police Service throughout the country. PCSOs are providing an invaluable service as part of the police effort to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for members of the local community and they are now seen as a vital part of the wider Thames Valley Police Family. PCSOs are an essential part of the neighbourhood policing exercise, which is now being rolled out in Milton Keynes. The role of PCSOs is basically that of the old beat bobby, and they carry out many of the policing functions but without all of the powers that a Police Officer has.

Majority were in favour of funding extra PCSOs

Great Linford Parish forms part of the North Sector of the Milton Keynes Police Area and under the Neighbourhood Policing Policy our parish will be come two sub policing areas, North and South.

The North Area will cover Great Linford, Neath Hill, Gifford Park, Blakelands, Bolbeck Park and Pennylands. The South Area will cover Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Downhead Park and Willen Park. Each area will have an allocation of two Police Officers and two PCSOs.

We were given the opportunity to have additional PCSOs working in our Parish if we part-funded them. The question of funding additional officers was put to you in a survey in the last issue, inviting your views before we made a commitment to the Police.

From the replies we received, the majority were in favour of funding additional officers. However a number of you suggested we wait and see what effect the introduction of PCSOs into our community has before agreeing to part-fund additional officers.

We have now informed the Police that, as a policy, we support part-funding but we will wait until the next financial year's budget and precept for 2008/09 to see if additional PCSOs are necessary.

RM



GLPC Chairman Councillor Brian Morsley (left) greets Linford North PCSO No. 9941, 'Doc' de Villiers. 'Doc' and Stephanie Mason (top) are the first two of four PCSOs to be assigned to Great Linford Parish this year. Pictures: David Stabler

Don't give burglars any opportunity

Most burglaries are carried out by opportunist thieves. In two out of ten burglaries, they don't even have to use force – they get in through an open door or window. Reduce the risk of your property being burgled by making sure you take these simple precautions.

WINDOWS – Remember to keep windows locked. Remove the keys and keep them out of sight in a safe place. This is especially important if you are going out. If you have curtains/blinds fitted, use them.

FRONT DOOR – If you do not lock your door you run the risk of letting a burglar enter your property. Keep your door locked at all times. Ensure the keys are kept out of sight but are easily accessible.

SHARED ENTRANCE – Never hold the door open for someone who is arriving just as you are leaving or entering the building.

INSIDE LIGHTING – If possible have lights on sensors and timers to make it look like as though there is always someone in the flat.

VALUABLE ITEMS – You should ensure where possible that all valuable items are out of sight.

BANK DETAILS ETC – Where possible rip all your statements and correspondence into little pieces, obliterating the name and address, before placing in the rubbish. Alternatively you could buy a shredder to destroy the documents.

PROPERTY MARKING – Marking your belongings may put burglars off as it will make the belongings harder to sell. Ultraviolet marker pens can be used or alternatively a permanent marking kit can be purchased. Property marking kits can be purchased from the following websites:-

www.smartwater.com

www.bossuk.com

www.selectamark.co.uk

When your property has been marked you should always ensure that the window stickers are displayed as a visual deterrent.

PERSONAL SAFETY – Do not invite anybody back to your property that you do not know.

RM

It is vital that we keep you informed

Some familiar themes have cropped up during the past year. You may have read in the local press about the Parish Council's concern about properties converted into HiMOs, or houses that are in multiple occupation. While we, along with MK Council, recognise there is a need for accommodation for single people, it is the ways some houses are converted that concern us. Often this is carried out without proper consideration being given to the effect on the area, or to a standard that is unacceptable to residents. GLPC has led the way, by devising a policy on HiMOs, which sets out what the parish regards as the minimum acceptable standards that property owners should comply with when converting their premises.

Crime and disorder features often in the media these days, and is a concern to our residents, who raise issues with parish councillors. GLPC welcomes the recent introduction by Thames Valley Police, of PCSOs, or Police Community Support Officers. PCSOs are becoming a feature of life nationally, and we hope that when our four new PCSOs are operational (and based at the Parish offices at Neath Hill) they will prove to be a valuable asset in maintaining the safety and well-being of residents.

says Brian Morsley,
Parish Chairman,
in his annual report



There are, of course, other ways of looking after residents. GLPC provides and manages sports and community facilities at both Great Linford and Downs Barn, which an increasing number of residents make use of, either for sports, or to hire the premises for meetings. Elsewhere in this issue of **News&Views** is a feature on the impressive changes that have taken place at Downs Barn, including a redecorated pavilion, and upgrade of sporting facilities.

Allotments

Another way in which GLPC contributes to the health of residents is through our extensive allotment provision. The parish has over 125 allotment plots, at Great Linford, Neath Hill and Willen Park, and we have recently taken over responsibility for allotments at Conniburrow, and have plans to acquire another site within the parish. Allotments are a great way of keeping fit and healthy, and the fees for sites are lower than that charged by other parishes,

at just a few pounds per year!

With all these changes taking place, it is very important that we keep residents informed, and also find out what they think of what the Parish Council does. A small survey carried out on behalf of the parish by an organisation called *Streetdreams*, asked 100 residents what they felt about the Parish Council. It emerged that while most thought we were doing a good job, there is misapprehension about what GLPC actually does, or what its purpose is. We will continue to make great efforts to explain to residents what we are about, and involve them in our decision-making. We believe that via our website and newsletter, we can encourage you to get involved.

Finally, I have once again to thank our Parish Manager, Jenny Sharp, for her tireless work on behalf of the parish, in what can be a very demanding job.

Six years in the balance

Somewhat self-effacingly, John Figg lists only two major achievements in which he has played a part. Yet the two projects, in which he had a vital role, are significant ones in the development of Great Linford Parish Council. John was a key member of the group that led to the acquisition, fitting out, and setting up of the Parish Council office, at Neath Hill Local Centre. His other major contribution was in helping to revamp our website (www.great-linford.gov.uk), and the parish newsletter. A possible third useful activity was to act as minutes secretary when the Parish Manager was on extended sick leave.

John, however, feels his time as a parish councillor has been less rewarding in other ways. He had a list of measures, which he would have liked adopted. These include improving the standard of maintenance and cleaning of the local centres; sweeping and clearing Redways and footpaths; repainting the yellow bollards where Redways and highways meet (an important safety measure); and employing a parish team of graffiti-busters. John had other ambitious ideas, including sports provision for bowls and

After six years as a Parish Councillor, John Figg took stock of what he feels he has been able to achieve. We spoke to John and asked him for his personal views of what he feels he has achieved.



hockey, as well as athletics, and cycling, to add to the existing football, tennis and cricket facilities. Another of John's ideas was to have a (temporary) outdoor winter skating-rink at the parish's newly acquired area at Loriner Place. 'That idea was quickly put on ice,' he joked.

Tea or coffee?

Another scorned idea was to convert the yard adjacent to the Parish Office to a summer seating area with picnic tables and umbrellas where residents could study planning applications (perhaps with a cup of tea or coffee). An 'Open Day' for the Parish Office is another of John's ambitions which were not realised.

John's overriding concern, however, and a source of frustration, is about the Parish Council finances. 'Some of the measures I put forward were turned down because of the cost involved,' says John. 'It is my belief that residents look for value for

money, not cheapness. However, the prevailing view is that lowest cost and minimum Precept (Council Tax Charge) is the overriding aim of the Parish Council.' John disagrees strongly with that idea. 'Do residents look for improvements in their environment and of maintenance standards, or is it really true that they are unwilling to spend more than the present 30 pence per week to achieve a better service or enhanced facilities?' John believes he already knows the answer.

What do you think? Do you want GLPC to clean Redways, remove graffiti and paint bollards, although these are the responsibility of MK Council? Maybe as John believes, you wouldn't mind 'paying more to get more'.

Write to GLPC, 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill Local Centre, Milton Keynes, MK14 6JY, or you can email your views to: info:glpc@btconnect.com

£65,000 grant turns Downs Barn ground into a multi-sport facility

A £65,000 grant by Barclays Bank's Spaces for Sports project, has given a new lease of life to the sports facilities and Pavilion at Downs Barn, to create a resource that can be used for a number of sports.

The grant by Barclays, is part of a three-year £30m community sponsorship programme to create and improve sports facilities available in communities.

The programme is a partnership between Barclays Bank, the Football Federation, with Nacro, the crime reduction charity, and Milton Keynes Council who have all worked with the environmental charity Groundwork on the project. The project has created two multi-use games areas, which are marked out for basketball, tennis, and netball and football.

The changes are partly in response to a need expressed by Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) for a safe place for young people in the Downs Barn area. While two of the new courts are fenced in when not in use, one court is open for anyone to use, at any time. The sports ground has a full-size football pitch, and one junior-size pitch, which are used regularly by the expanding Downs Barn Juniors FC club (see article on facing page).

Community service

Alongside the upgrade of facilities, is the repainting, inside and out, of the pavilion. While the materials were provided by GLPC, the labour came free, carried out as it was via the MK Probation Service, by people carrying out community service sentences.

The pavilion is available for hire by groups, and is used by community groups and organisations. The cost of hiring the premises is just £9.70 per hour, and can hold up to 40 people. The premises available for hire are upstairs, so are not suitable for those in a wheelchair, or for small children. The hall does not have an alcohol licence. For details of hire, or booking of courts, ring the parish council office on (01908) 606613.

There is to be an 'grand re-opening' of the Downs Barn sports facility early in July. Watch out for details of the re-launch on our website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk.

ML



The multi-use courts marked out for different sports, with the Downs Barn Pavilion in the background. Picture courtesy Nacro

Pavilion was formerly a barn with roots back to 17th century



Picture: Malcolm Lane

What is now known as the Downs Barn Pavilion, was once a barn owned by Dr Richard Busby, famous headmaster of Westminster School, who among other claims to fame, was renowned for regularly beating his students.

Dr Busby bought the Manor of Willen in 1671 in which the barn was then a part. In 1695 on Dr Busby's death, the Manor of Willen was bequeathed to trustees, who managed the estate for almost 300 years.

The barn was converted in the 1980s by the Milton Keynes Development Corporation, to provide changing rooms and meeting facilities for the sports ground. The building and its pitches are now owned by Milton Keynes Council, but are managed by Great Linford Parish Council.

Taken from the Street Where You Live series by Councillor David Stabler. For more about the Pavilion, and other articles, log onto the Parish Council website: www.great-linford.gov.uk and then look in 'Newsletters' and 'Archive' in the right hand panel.

FA Charter award takes Downs Barn Juniors FC to new level in football

One of the major users of the Downs Barn sports facilities, is the Downs Barn Juniors Football Club. Set up in 1996, the club currently has nine teams with three more due to start up shortly, including one for girls. The most exciting news for the club, however, is the award, in April, of the FA Charter Standard.

Club Chairman, Marc Whelan, described the award as 'a massive achievement for the Club and a significant step forward in our history. It must be fantastic for the Parish to have two Clubs [Downs Barn Juniors FC and Great Linford FC] with the national recognised standard in place.'

All of the Downs Barn Club coaches are at least F.A level 1 trained and the club has two Level 2 coaches for the older age groups.

Coaches trained by Sports Council

This has been achieved with the help of MK Sports Council, who have enabled the Club to train managers and coaches to an enhanced status, says Marc. As well as the Charter award status, and the possibility of a girls team, the Club has recently gained funding through MK Community Foundation for new equipment.

'We are proud of our links with the annual Great Linford Waterside Festival where we help operate the gates and keep all the youngsters entertained with the challenge to "come along with your friends, form a team and play".' This year the club will also be running a "beat the keeper" competition, as well as a stall to raise funds for new equipment.

Also, on the weekend of July 14 and 15, the Club will be holding a "Downs Barn Champions League." With teams from as



Training is an important part of helping to build skills - including for the under 9s, pictured above.

far away as Birmingham, the event should be a formidable competition for those who enter, says Marc. The weekend promises to be very entertaining, with adult bouncy castles for the "big kids", as well as many great things to do and get involved in.

The club is also forging community links to encourage young people into football, and to help keep them off the streets, and promote an interest in their surroundings and pride in what they do.

Says Marc: 'We recently worked with Thames Valley Police and Stantonbury Parish to promote training with the MK Dons and teenagers in the local areas, as we feel it is important to help any youngster into football and sport. This work will be continuing with Nacro and Great Linford Parish to ensure, that as a Club we're doing "our bit" for the community.'

Getting kids interested in football from a young age is important to the club, which runs Downs Barn mini's for the under 6's. This includes basic training and getting to know new friends, whilst building new skills such as teamwork, how to channel energy, and pay attention to instructions

whilst being asked your opinions. This helps to build confidence in youngsters, and is very important to the Club's philosophy, says Marc. 'This benefits the children immensely and parents should always consider this when looking for a football club for their children to join,' he says.

Parents of would-be footballers, receive a Welcome Pack and a mission statement, which are part of what Marc is proud to have achieved, and which he calls the structures which are possibly some of the best in the area. 'At Downs Barn Juniors we are truly focused on the "3 F's" - that's football, fair play and friends.'

'Our motto is "See you there if you dare" as we focus on the fun aspect as well as the football. We understand that not every player is the next Ronaldo, so we don't do trials but call them "introductions."

'Pivotal point in the history of the club'

Marc describes the upgrade of facilities at Downs Barn as 'a pivotal point in the history of the club and the pavilion. We are grateful to Great Linford Parish Council, Nacro and Charles Allum, Downs Barn parish councillor, for helping to pursue this needed course of action. We believe that we're a true family Club. In fact, all the club's committee members have all been recruited from among parents, and many have stayed on even after the children have grown up and left the Club' says Marc.

MW/ML

'We focus on the 3Fs - football, fair play and friends', says Marc Whelan (above) Chairman of Downs Barn Juniors FC

For more about the Downs Barn Champions League weekend to be held on July 14 and 15, or for more general information about the Club, visit: the club website:

www.downsbarnjuniors.com

For more information about the planned girls football team, email to: downsbarnfootie@aol.com

£400 grant puts youth team into bat

Within just a few weeks of the Great Linford Youth Cricket team being formed, the team already has ten matches on their fixture list! The team was set up after Parish Manager Jenny Sharp spotted a need for a cricket team for youngsters. She rallied parish councillors, who agreed to help the new team, with a £400 grant. 'Nowadays, every group to be properly constituted,' said Jenny. 'Some of the grant money has therefore gone into ensuring the team is properly established and insured, as well as kitted out,' she said. But the speed of the team's progress has taken even Jenny by surprise. 'But a nice surprise - we wish them every success,' she said.

GLPC can make similar grants to local groups. For more information, ring Jenny Sharp on (01908) 606613, or log onto our website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk and click on 'Grants and how to apply' under 'About GLPC' in right hand panel.

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They may look earnest, but the newly-formed Great Linford Youth Cricket Team are kitted out and ready for action, thanks to a £400 grant from GLPC

Two-goal league cup win for GL F.C.



There were celebrations all round following the success of Great Linford FC adults First Team, which won the North Bucks Division One Trophy Final, played on April 19 at Buckingham FC ground. The team beat Heath United Reserves by two goals to nil. Both goals were scored by centre-forward Craig Thompson, while the 'Man of the Match' award went to Mark Culley, who was

absolutely outstanding at the heart of the defence. Said Peter Whitmore, General Secretary, of Great Linford FC: 'It was a fantastic achievement for everyone who is associated with the club, so please join me in congratulating Manager, Aaron Jenkins and the team on their success.'

'It goes to show what a supportive parish council like GLPC can help local clubs to achieve!' PW



The winning team, pictured celebrating their success, while centre-forward Craig Thompson (left) holds the coveted trophy, having scored both winning goals.

Websight...website...Websight...

A guide to the GLPC website and the information available at: www.great-linford.gov.uk

The **GLPC web Home page** has four parts. At the top is the picture banner and introduction. Under this are three sections 'Useful links', 'What's happening' and 'About GLPC'. These are interactive and have information GLPC believes is useful to parishioners. Move your mouse cursor across the web page to highlight a clickable link to a new web page and the latest information.

Try the links. You will be surprised at how much information you can find with just a few mouse clicks. But remember, always use the 'Back' button to return to your starting point the **GLPC Web Home page**.

In *News & Views* issue 15 we looked at what lies behind 'Useful links' Parish based clubs, real-time, bus, train and flight information, cinema and theatre guide, local weather forecast, national and local real time road reports, as well as links to the Streetcare site enabling you to report problems to MKC.

'What's happening' is the GLPC news page. This is an up-to-date version of **News&Views**, which has information about events, comments on issues, points of view or policies agreed by GLPC. You will see the latest top five news stories on the **GLPC Web Home page**. Moving your mouse cursor to the red banner headline

MORE>>> will highlight a clickable link to a new web page and the full story and picture. Use the 'Back' button to return to the **GLPC Web Home page**.

If you want to look at ALL the news posted, click on the blue 'What's happening' link or the red ([Click here to view all previous announcements](#))

You can send GLPC your comments about the featured news by clicking on the link ([Click here to send us your comments](#))

Keep up to date with 'What's happening' But remember, always use the 'Back' button to return to the **GLPC Web Home page**. DS

Sharp Tongue

GLPC Parish Manager

Jenny Sharp bites back



Here's what we have managed to achieve on your behalf...

Summerhayes path

After twelve months of discussions with the Highways Department, we have now been informed that the work has been approved and the path should be repaired shortly.

Road markings

Following a complaint about the dangerous T-junction at Redvers Gate with St Stephens Drive and Lacy Drive, GLPC approached Milton Keynes Council who inspected and agreed that the road should be marked. Hopefully a serious accident has now been avoided.

Windrush Close

The development is now almost completed. The Parish Council worked closely with the developers to ensure that this complex was as pleasing to the eye as possible; we will also ensure that all rubbish around the site has been cleared.

Marsh Drive area

Residents living nearby will have noticed some tree surgery taking place. We have initially reduced the size of the conifers alongside the football pitches and will hopefully continue with a programme of reduction and maintenance of all the trees in the area.

Disabled markings

After many discussions with Milton Keynes Council, the disabled bays have all been repainted in both Giffard Park and Neath Hill local centres. It would be great if the able-bodied drivers who continue to park in them, could respect the needs of those less fortunate than themselves.

Streetcare surgery

The Landscape, Highways and Cleansing Officers from Milton Keynes Council, attend the Parish Office on the second Monday of each month between 10-11 am.

Police surgery

PC Heather Denton attends the Parish Council Office on Wednesdays between 10am and 11am. If you have any police related problems, then please come along and speak to Heather.

Blakelands update

The six seats around the play area have been refurbished by the parish council, we also liaised with the Landscape Department to have the shrubbery cut back.

New Neath Hill seat

The Parish Council have now installed a seat at the bus stop by the Health Centre. The cost of this was met from the donation from the defunct Residents Association and the balance paid by the Parish Council. Also at Neath Hill, a contractor damaged a pillar last summer. We have chased this and the work has been completed.

...and you can do your bit as well!

The residents of Minton Close, Blakelands who think that the raised area is a store for rubbish bags, please be warned. Bags should not be put out until the morning of the collection. Under the terms of the Environment Act 2005, you are liable to receive a fine.

Likewise, those people who leave out green waste in plastic bags, the Green Waste Collection will only take waste from green wheelie bins, so take your bags to the local tip or risk a fine!

Elections bring new parish councillors

Following on from the May elections, Great Linford Parish Council welcomes new councillors, **Pauline Mullholland**, who joins **George Byfield** and **Joan Pickhaver** in helping represent people in Conniburrow, while at Downhead Park and Willen Park, **Brian Morsley** is joined by **Simon Teesdale**.

In Great Linford Ward, parish councillor **Rod Markley** now has **Shirley Loftus**, **Anita Rose**, and **Peter Williams** to help look after the needs of residents. Also new to the Parish Council, is **John Brockwell**, elected in Pennyland and Bolbeck Park. There is still one vacancy for that ward, as there is for Neath Hill where **David Stabler** was re-elected. Serving councillors **Colin Tripp** and **Cecil Macaulay** represent residents in Giffard Park and Blakelands, while long-serving councillor **Charles Allum** is

joined by **Sue Williams** in Downs Barn. If you feel you can represent any vacant ward (you don't have to live there!) contact Parish Manager, Jenny Sharp to find out what's involved in being a parish councillor. You can also get more information about the role via our website: www.great-linford.gov.uk

Chairman of the Parish Council is Brian Morsley, while David Stabler chairs the Finance, Planning and General Purposes Committee. The Environment and Recreation Committee is chaired by Charles Allum. Parish Manager is Jenny Sharp. She and councillors can be contacted at the parish office at 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill, or on (01908) 606613. You can also contact us by email at info.glpc@btconnect.com. Contact details are available on our website: www.great-linford.gov.uk. ML

GLPC Councillors have elected not to receive any payment for services they give.

Allotments keep you healthy and feed you well for just £10 per year

One of the most successful activities provided by Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC) is a thriving and expanding allotment community.

The recent acquisition of 25 more plots at Larkspur Avenue, Conniburrow, brings the total number of allotment plots available to residents of the parish to 125.

As well as Conniburrow, there are more allotments at Hills Close, Giffard Gate (Great Linford), at Armourer Drive (Neath Hill) and Bells Meadow (Willen Park).

Allotment provision and upkeep is one of GLPC's success stories and plots are much in demand. Plots are hired out on an annual basis from April to March.



Picture: David Stabler

Plots measured in 'poles'

The rental cost is based on an ancient measure called a 'pole', which is an area of just over 25 square metres.

The rent for a pole is £2 per annum, and the average plot size is five poles, for which the cost is £10 per annum. There are rules governing use of allotments and the day-to-day running of sites is the responsibility of the Allotment Committee.

The highlight of the allotment year is the annual Produce Show (*see panel right*). This is a great day out for all allotment holders and their families, with events to suit all ages. The Parish Council is in talks over new allotment sites within its area, but for the meantime, because of the high demand for allotments, GLPC has a waiting list to which prospective plot holders can be added, on request.

Contact the Parish Council on 606613 or email gtlinfordparish@btconnect.com. You can also find out more about allotments on our website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk.

ML

GREAT LINFORD PARISH ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION

PRODUCE SHOW

Monday 27th August 2007

**At the Memorial Hall, High Street,
Great Linford, at 2pm**

**This event is open to all Allotment Holders who
have plots on the sites at Neath Hill, Willen Park,
Great Linford, and Conniburrow**

Doors open at Noon

Judging between 1pm and 2pm

Public entry from 2pm