

News & Views

Issue No. 18

Newsletter of Great Linford Parish Council

March 2008

Helping you to spend a...



The cost of services provided by Great Linford Parish Council (GLPC), paid by every household as a 'parish precept', is included as part of the Milton Keynes Council Tax Charge.

GLPC has agreed a precept increase from April 2008 for every household of only 13 pence per year (calculated for a band 'D' property). The total paid in 2008 will be around £15.60. Last year the increase was 35 pence for a similar property.

GLPC is stringent about controlling its expenditure, and takes pride in offering an excellent service to the GLPC community, by keeping all necessary expenditure under control, maximising income and then charging, through the precept, only what is necessary to maintain a quality service. Last year GLPC asked electors about allocating up to £15,000

each year for an extra Police Community Support Officer (PCSO).

The parish council accepted the recommendation made by its two representatives on the Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs), that for this year GLPC

More new homes helps keep down the rise in this year's precept

funding of additional PCSOs was not required.

This year's budget does include provision for community grants up to a total of £3,000, for the repainting of the Marsh Drive pavilion, new gates for three allotment sites and buying four sightscreens and two scoreboards for the High Street and Marsh Drive cricket pitches. In

addition, reserves of around £15,500 have been set aside to provide for environmental improvements, possible security lighting for the pavilion and car park at Downs Barn and to prepare a new allotment site.

Once more GLPC precept is, and will remain, one of the lowest charges out of the 20 urban parishes, those in the "new city" area. Check this out when you get your Council Tax Guide with your new Council Tax bill for 2008/09 in April. DS

Have your say

We welcome the views of residents on the precept, or about any parish issues. Residents are welcome to attend council meetings: for details visit our website: www.great-linford.gov.uk

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News & Views is published by Great Linford Parish Council.

The newsletter is not affiliated with any other group or organisation, whether political, religious or otherwise.

Contact the Parish Council on (01908) 606613 or via our website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk.

New play area is a first in the UK

A new play area (pictured right) at Farrier Place, on Downs Barn, is the first of its kind to be installed in the UK. The equipment can be changed into different scenes, such as a boat or jungle, by removing or adding different panels. Milton Keynes based playground equipment maker Kompan has worked with Milton Keynes Council to install the play equipment using the £10,000 refurbishment cost from monies paid by the developers of the Gyosei School redevelopment.

This fund is known as the Section 106 planning obligation, which is contributed to by all developers.

The recent refurbishment of the Clydesdale Place play area was also paid for with Gyosei's 106 funding.

The new play area gets a trial run (right)



Picture: David Stabler

**The Street
Where
You Live...**
by David Stabler

Grand Union Canal links six of GLPC's ten communities



The Pennyland Boat Basin, looking picturesque in winter. *Picture: Malcolm Lane*

Walk the talk along the canal

A series of Sunday morning walks have been organised by the MK Council, in partnership with the Primary Care Trust and the MK Parks Trust, as part of a national *Walking the Way to Health* initiative.

These free walks includes the following:

Canal at Linford, Sunday 6th April at 11am. Meet at the Nags Head Pub, High Street, Great Linford.

For details of these and other MK walks, contact: Cathy Jones: 07711 201519 (first point of contact) or Nigel Wright: 07951 540110.

For just over 200 years, the canal has wound its way through Great Linford Parish, from Portway to Wolverton Road, although The Grand Union Canal is a relatively recent name – since 1929 – for this major waterway linking the Thames with the midlands manufacturing conurbation in the heart of England.

The first plan for a direct link from the Oxford Canal to London was in 1791. Freight for London travelled along the Oxford Canal to Oxford and was then transhipped into barges for the River Thames. The river was not navigable to the standard of the new canals. Problems with shallows, lack of water and locks meant that progress was slow. A new route could avoid the Thames and cut 60 miles from the journey.

There were several competing plans for canals to London and two Bills were placed before Parliament. The Grand Junction Canal Act was approved on 30th April 1793. The 90-mile route from Brentford on the Thames to Braunston in Northamptonshire had been surveyed by canal engineer William Jessop with James Barnes as the engineer responsible for construction work. The finalised route and financing were agreed at a meeting between the Marquis of Buckingham, the major shareholder, James Barnes and others in 1792, in Stony Stratford. Work started immediately at both ends on the new Grand Junction Canal. Even employing over 30,000 labourers, it would take ten years to construct and cost £500,000.

CROSSING THE OUSE

At the north end, Braunston and Blisworth Tunnels were to cause difficulties with construction, and a collapse at Blisworth in January 1796. A road and then a tramway were built over the hill to carry goods from boats at either end, so that the canal could be used. The rebuilt Blisworth Tunnel was the last section of the canal to be opened in March 1805. The rest of the line had been operating since 1800. Locally, at Wolverton, the major technical problem was the canal crossing via the River Ouse. In 1805, a masonry aqueduct and impressive embankment, was built but collapsed in 1808. In 1811, the masonry aqueduct was replaced by one of cast iron, the 'Iron Trunk', and remains in service to this day.

The canal originally planned to meet the Thames at Brentford. Soon after construction started, the Grand Junction Company proposed a branch or "arm" from Bull's Bridge in west London to Paddington, much closer to the heart of the capital. Parliamentary powers were sought for this extension and the process of

buying land began. The Paddington Arm opened on 10th July 1801, terminating in a 400 yard long basin, 30 yards wide, around which were wharves, a hay and straw market, sheds for warehousing, and pens for livestock. The Paddington Arm was a success and Paddington was soon a busy inland transshipment point, with goods being carried to other parts of London on carts. In 1817, a canal to Newport Pagnell was opened, but it was not an economic success and in 1864, it was sold to a railway company, which built a branch line from Wolverton to Newport Pagnell over part of the land.

The Grand Junction Canal was a busy route throughout its commercial life, and although the struggle of competition with the railways was a constant problem, the London and Birmingham Railway was completed in 1838. The canal companies in 1857 made agreements with the main railway companies to maintain the price differential between rail and canal transport. More and more coal came to London by rail and though new cargoes were being found, the Grand Junction was steadily becoming less and less profitable, tolls were low to encourage users, but provided a dwindling income.

In the 1920's discussions took place between the Grand Junction, Regent's and Warwick Canal companies with a view to a merger. An Act of Parliament passed in 1928 was required to authorise this, with the merger taking place on 1st January 1929. The Regent's Canal Company bought the other two companies, and paid £801,442.13 for the Grand Junction Canal Company. In the 1930's the new company, the now familiar Grand Union Canal Company, worked hard to modernise both the canal and the

boats operating on it. Locks were extensively rebuilt to take wide beamed barges, particularly on the Warwick Canal, which had previously been for narrowboats only. There was financial support from the government for this work, which helped to relieve unemployment in the great depression of the 1930's. The improvements were finished in 1937 but the widening did not go all the way into Birmingham, stopping at the top of Camp Hill locks. As a result, barges were never able to deliver direct to the factory wharves in the same way that narrowboats did.

In 1948, the major canal companies were nationalised. The Grand Union became

part of the British Transport Commission. Though the canal system had survived the competition from the railways, it did not seem able to cope with an increase in the use of lorries or of nationalisation.

Trade declined and by the mid 1960's very little commercial traffic was using the Grand Union, although it remained as a facility for leisure craft.

Today the Grand Union Canal provides an important leisure resource for Great Linford Parish

residents and visitors as it winds through six of the 10 housing areas in the parish: Willen Park, Downhead Park, Bolbeck Park, Pennyland, Great Linford and Giffard Park.

Sources Waterscape.com. London Canal Museum. Birmingham City Council.

Read more about the Newport Pagnell Canal on the GLPC web site at (www.great-linford.gov.uk) 'On the Street where you live' or 'News & Views issue 7 September 2004'



A tranquil scene on the Grand Union Canal at Great Linford. Picture: David Stabler



Councillor profile



John Brockwell

John Brockwell is a new recruit to the Parish Council. John has lived in Great Linford Parish for the last 26 years with his wife and has three daughters. Originally from the coastal town of Ramsgate, Kent, he moved to MK via Ealing in the 1970's.

John hails from a sporting background; his Great Uncle played cricket for Surrey and England whilst his father was a Belgrave Harrier, John's early years were spent playing Rugby Union, running and boxing for his school.

He currently Chairs the Milton Keynes Dons Supporters Association and is on the Midlands Committee of the Football Supporters Federation. It is, therefore, no surprise that he is a member of the parish Recreation and Environment Committee (REC).

John's career has been mainly involved with purchasing and he is actively seeking to add value to Parish Council meetings and the community of Great Linford. Contact John on (01908) 676493.

Nothing for young people

Finding things to keep youngsters occupied is not easy. So we asked local groups to tell us what they can offer. In our next issue we'll feature activities for the not-so-young.



MaD - Make a Difference is a not for profit organisation encouraging and supporting young people aged 13-25 to volunteer in their local community.

We run volunteering projects across Milton Keynes that match the cares and passions of young people. We have football fanatics coaching local youth teams, music maestros organising local gigs and whippersnappers taking photos of events, to name just some of what our volunteers are doing. We can help you find a volunteering opportunity that is right for you.

If you are already a volunteer, we will be able to accredit your efforts through the National Youth Volunteering Programme.

For more information on volunteering in Milton Keynes check our website at: www.mad-uk.org or: www.myspace.com/musik4umk. You can also type "Make a difference" into www.Facebook.com to become our 'friend' and find out about new events and projects. Email us at: mkmv@miltonkeynes.gov.uk or call us on (01908) 253272 to contact one of the team.

Army Cadet Force opens up a new world

Join Buckinghamshire Army Cadet Force and a whole new world will open up for you. The Army Cadet Force is sponsored by the Army, but it's not part of it. You don't have to join either the Regular or the Territorial Army, but we use some of the Army's training methods, and their great resources. You will be involved in adventure and expedition training, competitive sports, camping, rifle shooting, climbing and more! The Army Cadet Force continues to provide friendship, discipline, leadership, challenging outdoor activities, expeditions, survival techniques, adventurous training and sport.

The Army Cadet Force is a national youth movement, just as concerned with good citizen-

ship and personal development as with military training and skills.

If you are 12-18 and want to meet life head on, drop in to your nearest unit. Army Cadets train on either one or two nights a week, and quite often at weekends. There is also usually a two-week camp in the summer.

The companies in the GLPC area are:

10th (Blakelands) Platoon based at TA centre Yeomans Drive, Blakelands, meet 19:30 to 21:30 Mondays and Wednesdays.

20th (Conniburrow) Platoon based at the Community Centre, Conniburrow Boulevard, meet 19:30 to 21:30 Mondays and Wednesdays. Contact TA Centre Aylesbury (01296) 744553.

Try life aboard with MK's Sea Cadets



Getting to grips with sea-ways is essential training for cadets.

The MK Sea Cadet Corps trains boys and girls aged 10-18 in a nautical theme to prepare them for responsible adulthood, with the opportunity to remain as an adult staff member and even to take a degree.

The cadets meet at Kiln Farm on Tuesday and Friday evenings and there are many weekend activities throughout the year.

After induction, cadets can gain qualifications in a variety of subjects, attend courses at naval establishments and even go to sea on Royal Navy ships.

For more details, visit us or call (01908) 561589 on drill nights or visit their website:

<http://units.ms-sc.org/miltonkeynes>

Tread the boards

Juliet Ratnage's School of Performing Arts is a well-established school with classes taking place at Giffard Park Community Annex. We offer lessons in ballet, tap and modern with hip-hop and acting starting in the very near future. Children can start classes from three upwards and are taught by qualified and friendly staff. We aim to have fun, and apart from working towards examinations, we try to offer as many opportunities as possible. This has so far included yearly performances at Sadlers Wells Theatre, as well as taking part in shows at The Royal Albert Hall and Disneyland Paris.

Younger students have also performed in professional shows including pantomimes at both MK Theatre and The Derrigate Northampton. Many of our senior students go on to full time dance/drama colleges and some are now touring in professional shows. No matter what your ability, come along and join in the fun. Contact Juliet Ratnage, on (01908) 561420.

Be part of new youth cricket team's success

Great Linford Youth Cricket Team was formed last year with great facilities and has already had some success.

If you are between 11-14 years of age and would like to join this up and coming side, the team is currently enrolling new players for the 2008 season. Yearly registration fee is £10, plus £3 each training session or match. The indoor training programme began in March.

Application forms from our website: www.greatlinfordyouthcricc.co.uk.

Or, for more information, ring Jenny or Richard Sharp on (01908) 220058.

to do? Try some of these...

Scouting is for boys, girls and adults too

Scouting today aims to promote the development of young people aged 6-25 to achieve their full physical, intellectual, social and spiritual potential, as individuals, responsible citizens and as members of their local, national and international communities. The youngest of the four sections in The Scout Association are the **Beaver Scouts** aged 6-8. They have activities, visits, doing badges and going away for a night on a sleepover.

Cub Scouts are for boys and girls aged 8-10. Cub Scouts can try lots of activities and adventures like camping, trips and making things.

The Scout Troop is for young people, aged 10-15. A Scout can take part in a wide range of activities, anything from Abseiling to Zorbing, with a number of Challenge Awards and Activity Badges to earn along the way. Scouts is all about finding out about the world we live in, knowing ones abilities, keeping fit for life and developing creative talents.

Explorer Scouts and the Scout Network take the Scouts from 14 to 25 years old.

GLPC area has two Scout groups. **The Great Linford (St Andrews) Group** meet at Great Linford School (term time only), Cubs on Monday, Scouts and Beavers on Thursday. **The Giffard Park Group** meet on Monday nights, Beavers from 5:15-6:30pm, followed by Cubs from 6:30-8:00pm, in the Community Annex, and Scouts from 7:00-9:00pm in Giffard Park School.

For more information, or to become a Leader, contact Graham Eaton (St Andrews Group) on (01908) 664625. For the Giffard Park Group, contact Martyn Ager on (01908) 695125 or Email martyn@agerhome.freeserve.co.uk or go to www.scout.org.uk.

Sing and dance at Wolverton's Madcap Centre

The Mapcap Centre in Creed Street, Wolverton (right), has dance and drama classes for children of all ages. The different groups include:

Stargazers Drama Group helps to introduce Theatre techniques for 7-10 year olds, in a fun and friendly way. Sessions are a mix of storytelling, game playing and improvisation. Mondays, 6-7:15pm, £2.00 per session.

Ahem! Drama Group is for 11-14 year olds and focuses on performances, improvisation, script-work and developing drama skills and teamwork. Wednesdays, 6-8pm £2.00 per session, Madcap members £1.50.

Madcap Diddlies is a new group offering an introduction to basic drama and storytelling skills for ages 3-6 years, using children's literature, poems and songs. Every Monday from 4-5pm, £2.00 per session.

Arts Untamed is Madcap's developing music project for ages 13-18 years. Every Tuesday 6-9pm works on individual songs and music and group activities such as jamming and recording £2.00 per session.

Streetdance with Nemesis claims to be the UK's premier Hip-Hop dance group and national hip-hop championship winners 2007. Every Saturday afternoon from 2pm, £5 per hour session. Enquiries to Sam on 07834 347 849.

Woolard Daniels Dance School is for all age from 3 years upwards. More from Rosemary Daniels on 07738 767 475.

Frantic-UK Classes for all ages and abilities. Structured, safe environment for Hip-hop, popping, locking, breakdance, jazz, salsacise, and belly dancing. Ring (01908) 320023 or go to their website: www.frantic-uk.com

For details about all Madcap activities, contact Carolyn Vale, on (01908) 320179 or visit www.madcap.org.uk



Have your say

What would you like to do? Let the parish council have your ideas.

Email us at:

info.gipc@btinternet.com

or ring us on

(01908) 606613.

Fly and so much more with Air Training Corps

The aims of the Air Training Corps (ATC) are to promote and encourage among young people a practical interest in aviation and the Royal Air Force, and to foster the spirit of adventure and develop qualities of leadership and good citizenship.

The ATC provides a service for 13-20 year olds, male and female, which is not only geared around aeronautical subjects, but many other areas. As the largest gliding organisation in the world, the ATC provides free powered and unpowered flight to all members. The ATC also has its own .22 shooting range. In the summer the Squadron embarks on a week's outdoor pursuits, including mountain biking, climbing and fell walking in the Lake District. Its other outward bound facility is in Llanbedr near Snowdonia, North Wales.

The MK Squadron, based in Haversham Road, Wolverton, recently reached the semi finals of the area volleyball tournament, and took many medals in the area athletics competition, the senior boys taking gold in the 4 x 100 relay in record time!

The ATC meets on Thursdays, contact the Commanding Officer, 2532 (Milton Keynes) Squadron, Flt Lt David Smith on (01908) 317773, or email Admin2532@hbwing.org.uk.

Cadets from 2532 (Milton Keynes) Squadron ATC (right) have earned LifeSaverPlus awards.



Councillor profile



Pauline Mullholland

As one of our newest parish councillors, Pauline Mullholland has much community experience, particularly of Conniburrow, the area she represents.

Pauline came to MK in 1988 from Cheshire, and was a founding member of the Conniburrow Residents' Association. As well as a parish councillor, Pauline is a Governor of Southwood School and goes into the school once a week to hear children read. 'The extra time helps improve their reading abilities,' she says. 'I really like Conniburrow and the people who live here. The one thing that annoys me is the reputation Conniburrow has, which seems to be from people who do not live here. We have excellent sporting facilities, and lots of green open spaces and access to doctors and a pharmacist.' The post office is facing closure - an issue Pauline is highlighting.

As a parish councillor Pauline aims 'to be the voice of those who need help, and to raise issues that are important to people. Being involved with local issues and knowing a great many people on my estate, I feel I can represent them very well.'

Contact Pauline on (01908) 395433 or email: pauline.mullholland@yahoo.co.uk.

Residents help set priorities for action in the community

report by NAG representatives and parish councillors Rod Markley and Joan Pickhaver

People in both Great Linford North and Great Linford South have formed Neighbourhood Action Groups (NAGs) to address priority issues that have arisen on the basis of questionnaires completed by local residents. For Great Linford North (Great Linford, Blakelands, Giffard Park, Neath Hill, Pennyland, Bolbeck Park and Tongwell) these are vandalism, graffiti and rubbish. For Great Linford South (Conniburrow, Downs Barn, Downhead Park and Willen Park) they are parking, rubbish and speeding.

NAGs are an essential part of the Safer Neighbourhoods programme and consist of volunteers from the community as well as representatives from Thames Valley Police (TVP), Milton Keynes Council and the Parish Council. They may involve other organisations such as local businesses and schools.

The NAG discusses how the priorities are being tackled and what steps need to be taken next to ensure the priorities have been addressed fully and are no longer a problem in the community. The NAG in Great Linford North meets every first Thursday of the month at the Parish Office, whilst the South NAG meets at the Salvation Army HQ in Conniburrow on the third Wednesday of every month.

Thames Valley Police neighbourhood officers for the Great Linford parish are: North - PC Rob Burton, PC Heather Denton, PC Rick Wilkinson, PCSO Michelle Morgan and PCSO Jamie Collett. South - PC Darren Exely-Nicholls, PC Dave Monkhouse, PCSO Stephanie Mason and PCSO Doc De Villiers.



Jamie Collett, the latest PCSO appointed to Great Linford North. Pic: Malcolm Lane

More information about your neighbourhood team, on NAG meetings and priorities can be had from the following:

- The TVP website at: www.thamesvalley.police.uk/mk click on 'Milton Keynes estates' then your house location.
- Lisa Emmanuel (Safer Neighbourhoods Project Manager), on (01908) 252767.
- The GLPC website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk.

Websight...website...

Log onto the GLPC website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk

The *GLPC web Home page* has four parts. At the top is the picture banner and introduction. Beneath are interactive information links, 'About GLPC', 'What's happening' and 'Useful links'. Move your mouse cursor across the web page and click on a link to open a new page with the latest information.

In *News & Views* issue 15 we looked at what lies behind 'Useful links', MK Council web site, information on local clubs, real time travel information, for roads, trains and flights, entertainments and weather reports.

In issue 16 we told you about 'What's happening' the GLPC news page. Issue 17 explained the link 'About GLPC' where you can find everything you need to know about GLPC, its Councillors, policies, facilities for hire and how local groups can apply for a GLPC grant.

From time-to-time, we add new content to 'Useful Links'. Since the publication of issue

15 we have added a link 'Crime & Community Safety' which lists web sites for Thames Valley Police, the latest TVP news on crimes, Frank the confidential drugs advice line, Crimestoppers and Neighbourhood Watch. So one easy link gives you direct access to sites where you will find useful information related to crime and community safety.

We also regularly update 'What's Happening' and in 'About GLPC' with the latest information about Parish Council committee meetings and the latest list of planning applications in the parish.

Try out the links for one-stop-access to a community information source adapted for the residents of Great Linford parish. 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 on the link or to the *GLPC Web Home page*.

DS

'About GLPC' gives insight into the workings of the parish council

Sharp Tongue

Parish Manager Jenny

Sharp has her (final!) say



No ifs or butts...

We have a new kid on the block for complaints - cigarette ends. Since the smoking ban, some areas, in particular outside public houses and offices, are becoming real eyesores. Perhaps the most surprising place we have received complaints about, is one of the schools in Neath Hill. Why would parents want to litter the area in front of the school gates? Whilst the Environment Act 2005 makes it possible to prosecute businesses where the litter from the items they sell is strewn in the street, this cannot be enforced over cigarette ends. The Enforcement Team at Milton Keynes Council will now do patrols in areas that are very bad, and will be issuing fixed penalty tickets to offenders.

We still have a large amount of people insisting that dog bins should be put in everywhere on their dog walking routes. The argument is always 'we pay our Council Tax'. Well so do all the people without dogs, and why should they have to subsidise the dog owners? Having a dog is like having a child, you are responsible for their behaviour, and should ensure that they either do "their business" in your own garden, or take it

home with them. The Parish Council is not totally opposed to dog bins and we will have spent £2,237 on them in the current financial year. Our bins are all in areas, usually close to schools, play areas, and sports grounds, where there has been an obvious fouling problem, which could constitute a health risk.

We continue to be unhappy about parents on school runs and the hazardous way they park in front of schools, across driveways, and on corners and verges. All this because they cannot be bothered

CHILDREN'S SAFETY

to park in a safe place and walk a few yards. There are also a lot of parents who do not consider their children's safety and do not have them correctly belted and in car seats or boosters as the law states.

Inconsiderate parking is a constant complaint and the recent survey carried out in conjunction with the newly formed Neighbourhood Action Groups, identified this as their No 1 target (see facing page). Just to remind everyone, if you park on a pavement and do not leave sufficient

room for a wheelchair or a double buggy to get past, then you are committing the offence of obstruction, and are likely to get a ticket. It is also an offence to park within 15 yards of a junction (ie: on corners) - again you are quite likely to be ticketed.

In close conjunction with the officers at Milton Keynes Council, we are continuing to get the graffiti in the parish removed very quickly, likewise fly-tipped articles can be removed very quickly thanks to the efficiency of the cleansing team. I am however a great believer that parish councils should not be led into the double taxation trap. Precepts levied by parish councils should only be used for services in the parish not covered by the Council Tax, such as sports facilities, pavilions, allotments, dog bins, extra seating, and donations to local groups etc. The major things such rubbish collections, landscape, highways, schools, libraries and so on, are the responsibility of the unitary authority. Likewise, the Police levy a separate rate (included on the Council Tax) to pay for their services.

Jenny has the last word

Sadly this is my last *Sharp Tongue* as I will shortly be retiring as Parish Manager. Following a serious illness a couple of years ago, I realised that I had to take life a little easier. My seven years at Great Linford Parish Council have probably been the happiest years of my 45-year working life. I have seen an awful lot of parish councillors come and go, and the vast majority of them have been an absolute pleasure to work with. They have been dedicated people who do this for no financial return (although they could pay themselves an allowance, they have voted not to do so). I greatly respect the work they do for the community. Likewise over the years a lot of Milton Keynes Councillors and Officers have come and gone. I have built up a great relationship with them and that way we have managed to get things done, as I realise, due to the financial restraints on the various departments, you often have to compromise.

Since the parish office at Neath Hill Local Centre opened three years ago, I have had direct contact with many people with problems and while most of them are

absolutely charming, I think I can also claim to have met some of the rudest people in Milton Keynes. Some of the swear words I have been called I had never heard before, and after 60 years I thought I knew them all. I have never been able to find it in my contract that taking abuse and being sworn at were part of the job description - and sadly it has not all come from residents.

On a lighter note, I have also had some of the oddest requests, which I would love to print, but I would not wish to embarrass those people who made them.

The saddest thing from my point of view is that, although we have tried to make people aware of what are the separate responsibilities of the Parish Council and Milton Keynes Council, we have not always succeeded and the vast majority still think that we are one and the same council and that the Parish Council is responsible for everything from allocating council housing, through to bus passes. Finally I wish my successor all the luck in the world, and I hope that they achieve the same amount of satisfaction from the job that I have done in the past seven years.

Get in touch

The parish council holds two weekly surgeries for residents at the parish council office. Every Wednesday, from 10 to 11am, local police officer, PC Heather Denton is available to deal with any police-related issues you may wish to raise with her.

A 'Streetcare' surgery is also held at the parish office, on every second Monday of the month. This is attended by Milton Keynes Council officers who are responsible for issues to do with landscaping, as well as cleansing, and highways. If you have any concerns about these areas, you are welcome to attend the surgery.

Visit the parish council office at 10 Tower Crescent, Neath Hill, Milton Keynes, MK14 5JY, (open 10am to 4pm) or ring us on (01908) 606613. You can also email us at: info.glpc@btinternet.com or contact us via the parish council's website at: www.great-linford.gov.uk

GLPC parish councillors

Conniburrow

Joan Pickhaver
(01908) 678569

Pauline Mullholland
(01908) 395433

George Byfield, MBE
(01908) 604063

Downs Barn

Charles Allum
(01908) 668115

Angela Connor
(01908) 606613

Great Linford

Brian Williams
(01908) 671903

Anita Rose
(01908) 200433

Rod Markley
(01908) 605820

Shirley Loftus
(01908) 550357

Downhead Park and Willen Park

Brian Morsley (Chair)
(01908) 666054

Simon Teesdale
(01908) 201466

Giffard Park and Blakelands

Colin Tripp
(01908) 618304

Cecil Macaulay
(01908) 231027

Neath Hill

David Stabler
(01908) 672599

Sally Ellis
(01908) 509521

Pennyland and Bolbeck Park

John Brockwell
(01908) 676493

Vacancy

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

Facilities and halls for hire

GLPC Parish Council provides sports facilities and meeting places, at Great Linford and Downs Barn. These are available not only for cricket, tennis and football, but also for hire by residents - the Pavilions at Great Linford and Downs Barn are in use regularly by residents for a variety of activities, as well as by community groups. The hire charge for all facilities has recently been raised to £9.70 per hour, which is still very competitive. Bookings must be made in advance, and it is worth checking availability beforehand. None of the halls are licensed for alcohol.



Downs Barn Pavilion (above) at Pannier Place, has court markings for a variety of sports. Picture: David Stabler.

Marsh Drive - Great Linford

This consists of four football pitches which are used during the winter by one adult team and a number of Great Linford Football Club youth teams. There are cricket pitches, including a recently-installed all-weather pitch, and tennis courts, available for hire via Great Linford Tennis Club. Ring Steve Knight on 660143 for details.

Downs Barn Pavilion

This centre has football pitches, tennis courts and a pavilion available for public use. A recent £60,000 refurbishment programme has given courts a multi-function use, having been marked out for a variety of sports, including netball, basketball, and tennis. The room available for hire is on the first floor and is not suitable for very young children and those who have problems with stairs.



High Street Pavilion and thatched barn. Picture: David Stabler

High Street - Great Linford

This ground is home to one of the parish cricket pitches. The cricket pavilion is also available for meetings and children's parties, and can comfortably hold around 30 people.

For further details

Contact the Parish Council on (01908) 606613 during office hours (10 am to 4pm). Email to: info.glpc@btinternet.com, or log onto the parish website: www.great-linford.gov.uk

Councillor profile

Charles Allum

One of GLPC's longest-serving parish councillors is Charles Allum (right) who looks after the interests of residents on Downs Barn, where he lives.

Charles is not only active in the parish council but is also a member of Milton Keynes Council committees, through involvement with the now-defunct Downs Barn Residents Association.

Charles moved to MK in the seventies, having had two

businesses, a sports club in West London and a post office and general store in Lincolnshire.

Charles regularly tours Downs Barn 'to keep an eye out for anything that I feel needs to be sorted out for residents,' he says.

Charles is Chair of GLPC's Recreation and Environment (REC) Committee.

Contact Charles either at the parish office on (01908) 606613, or at his home on (01908) 668115.

