



Agenda Item: FC 176/14

Loughton and Great Holm NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP (NAG)

REVIEW OF 2013 ACTIVITIES

The early part of 2013 was spent planning our activities for the rest of the year, but we did manage to get the lights in all the bus shelters repaired

We planned to replace the fallen Willow tree on Lakeview Green, planned a public consultation event in June and refurbishment of the ten planters outside Loughton School.

We reported all the potholes which needed attention. March saw a major Environmental Visual Audit with a senior manager from Milton Keynes Council Neighbourhood Engagement Team. Forty-five items in Loughton and Great Holm were identified as needing attention. Many have been resolved, with others on the 'waiting list' for better economic times.

Our May meeting was held at the Woodhill Secure Training Centre for young offenders. Following a most interesting tour the success of the refurbishing the Loughton Planters was reported. We also decided to request that the stump of the fallen Willow tree is not removed since the decaying stump attracts insects, which in turn encourages foraging bats.

The small litter bin outside the Grebe was replaced with a larger one. We also planned our litter picking NAG scarecrow for the trail in late June. The weeds in road gutters were noted and reported, although spraying of them has been very sporadic.

Our Public Consultation Event also in June was a huge success, eliciting the views of over 50 local residents. One suggestion was the provision of bird nesting boxes which was considered a very good idea and is being actively followed up. Our friends at Woodhill are making most of them. If you would like one near you (on public land) please do get in touch.

Excessive and unnecessary noise pollution from training at the Great Holm fire station was reported and has now been reduced.

July saw the opening of the Loughton Sports Ground play area – initiated by Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council. The council also funded the three River Birch trees which the NAG planted in December. By coincidence this was done during the week following the successful application to get Lakeview Green officially registered as a village green following a public hearing.

Ongoing problems are still parking on verges and pavements and the unacceptable congestion around our three schools at drop off and going home times. This is not just a local problem and it needs addressing urgently, before a serious injury, or worse.

A new member of our neighbourhood policing team, PCSO Frank Callaghan joined us in December and we are hopeful of recruiting two youngsters to join our NAG team – to keep us in touch with the problems faced by local adolescents. Volunteers will be made very welcome, please get in touch.

During 2014 we expect to refurbish the worn verges on Kensington Drive, erect the bird nesting boxes and keep an eye on things which impact on the quality of our life here and our local environment.

I should like to thank the 43 residents who have helped with our 2013 projects, along with Milton Keynes Council, the Parks Trust and Thames Valley Police. The help and cooperation of Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council has also been invaluable and without their help many of our successes would not have been possible.