

# MORE FREE PLAY SESSIONS THIS SUMMER!

Milton Keynes Play Association, in partnership with Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council, are pleased to announce that there will be **FREE** play activities in the area this summer!

**Tuesdays 10am-12.30pm**  
**Loughton Sports Ground**  
29<sup>th</sup> July,  
5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup> August,  
2<sup>nd</sup> September

**Thursdays 10am-12.30pm**  
**Great Holm - next to meeting place**  
24<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July,  
7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> August

Activities will usually include arts, crafts, team games, treasure hunts, sports and bouncy castle. Sessions run whatever the weather!

Sessions are 'open access', and children are free to come and go as they please. All children under 8 must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Activities are suitable for children aged 4-14, but everyone is welcome to join in the fun. Particularly younger children might need extra support from a parent/carer.

[www.mkpa.co.uk](http://www.mkpa.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/mkplay](http://www.facebook.com/mkplay)



## Badminton Centre planning application in disarray



Impression of the new development

Last year, Badminton England secured outline planning permission to build 104 new houses in Loughton Lodge, close to Lodge Lake. This was a very controversial planning application which attracted a very large number of submissions from local residents. The Parish Council decided to object to the application on a number of grounds, but these objections were overruled by the MK Council planning committee which ruled unanimously in favour of the development. The main objections were that (1) the land to be built on is mainly designated in the local plan as park land and not for residential development (2) the plan was for too many large homes packed together in an unattractive way simply to maximise the development profit rather than create a sympathetic scheme for the landscape (3) no provision of any social housing despite a Council policy to have a minimum of 30% of homes to be affordable (4) negative impact on the local wildlife and biodiversity of the linear park and the Lake; and (5) the plan required the demolition of heritage assets such as the beautiful and ancient stone barn.

After the grant of outline planning permission it seemed that the development was a fait accompli and we expected to see works begin within a fairly short time and considerable disruption to the area for some years. However, it has recently become apparent that the plan by Badminton England has run into deep trouble and there is now some chance it might not be able to proceed. The reasons for this seem to be that the grant of permission for the 104 homes is conditional upon Badminton England delivering their new Badminton Centre at a site at the MK Bowl. However it now seems that Badminton England don't have the finance to build the new centre at the Bowl in the form for which they obtained permission. The reasons for the lack of finance are unclear but it seems they have not raised the amount of money they expected to raise from the proceeds of the 104 property development. This seems to be partly due to the problems encountered in developing this particular space and partly that the Parks Trust have taken a very strong line in relation to the park land which they are required to contribute.

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# Less is More Loughton

Part of Loughton has been selected as one of ten test communities across the country to take part in an innovative energy-saving project.

This pioneering scheme is called 'Less is More'. Between January 2014 and December 2014, households in Loughton who are connected to the same local electricity substation will be able to see how much energy they're using, in real time, on a simple website ([www.lessismore.org.uk](http://www.lessismore.org.uk)) – and how it compares against their target. The idea is to use less, especially at peak times. The less they use the more prize money they can win for their local area. The peak time for Loughton tends to be between 5pm and 8pm.

The long-term aim is to create savings for everyone. The local electricity network operator, Western Power Distribution, has to upgrade local substations to cope with rising demand for electricity. But this is often only a problem at peak times. If people shift their electricity use away from the busiest times of day, less money would have to be spent on upgrading substations. And, better yet, if people learn to cut down the amount of electricity they use overall, they'll make long-term savings on their energy bills.

The National Energy Foundation, a local energy advice charity based in Knowlhill, will be on hand to advise the people of Loughton on how they can reduce their use, bring down their bills, and hopefully win £5,000 to spend on local amenities. The substation in Common Lane was fitted with monitoring equipment last summer so a baseline for normal energy use could be established. Approximately 200 homes are connected to this substation, which has been categorised as an above average electricity use area. Residents of the following streets are likely to be in the project area –

- Foxley Place
- Farnell Court
- Hugh Parke Close
- Common Lane
- Lincslade Grove (Few houses)
- Weldon Rise
- School Lane (Few houses)
- Redland Drive (Not all houses)
- Pinks Close
- Catesby Croft
- Cottage Common
- Pitcher Lane (Most houses)
- Leys Road

The project has already got off to a great start with a number of residents keen to get involved in the energy-saving challenge. To help the community tackle high electricity use the National Energy Foundation is offering free OWL energy monitors to residents in the target area. These monitors are an effective way of seeing how much energy a household is using and can be very helpful in tracking down high consumption appliances in the home. One resident has already identified £400 worth of savings that could be made on their electricity bill through using their OWL monitor. Please contact [lessismore@nef.org.uk](mailto:lessismore@nef.org.uk) to request a monitor.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> February, a thermal imaging evening was carried out in the Loughton area to help raise awareness of the project. Thermal imaging helps to identify areas of heat loss in properties, which can be caused by defects such as poorly fitting windows or missing insulation. A number of residents took part on the night with one resident commenting that the evening had been both fun and interesting. Most of the newer houses surveyed had good insulation with very few defects. The most common problems spotted including heat escaping from chimney joins, trickle vents on double glazing and roof eaves.

## Energy Saving Top Tips

- Switch it off if you aren't using it** - Large savings can be made by switching lights off in unused rooms and making sure appliances are switched off at the wall.
- Use timers** - Try using the timer on your washing machine or use a plug-in timer on a phone charger to switch it off after a few hours.
- Use your kitchen efficiently** - Many appliances in the kitchen use a lot of energy and contribute to a high proportion of the peak use. Using a slow cooker spreads your electricity use throughout the day.
- Optimise your lighting** - Make sure you have energy-efficient bulbs in your property; switching all your bulbs could save you £40+ a year.

Although the local community has raised over £1000 so far, it will get harder over time to reach the target for the day. This is why we want as many residents involved as possible - even if you just make sure you switch the lights of when you leave a room it will help you save money and earn the community money. There will be plenty of opportunities to get involved in further events throughout the year.

'Less is More' is led by Western Power Distribution, in partnership with the Centre for Sustainable Energy, a national charity. Ofgem has awarded the scheme Low Carbon Networks Funding.

If you'd like to get involved or want any advice on saving energy and reducing your bills, you can contact The National Energy Foundation using [lessismore@nef.org.uk](mailto:lessismore@nef.org.uk).



## Parish Meetings

Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council meets usually on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month. The venue alternates between Loughton Memorial Hall and the Great Holm Community Centre. Meetings usually start at 7.30pm in Loughton and 8pm in Great Holm. Copies of the meeting agendas and minutes are published on the parish website. All residents are warmly invited to attend. The dates of forthcoming meetings are as follows:-

Monday 15 September	Great Holm Meeting Place
Monday 20 October	Loughton Memorial Hall
Monday 17 November	Great Holm Meeting Place
Monday 15 December	Loughton Memorial Hall
Monday 19 January 2015	Great Holm Meeting Place



## Governor needed at Loughton School

Loughton School is a large 4-form entry junior school in Loughton, Milton Keynes, with 480 pupils aged 7-11 in years 3-6. The School became an Academy in July 2013 and has a Governing Body made up of 16 Staff, Parents and Co-opted Governors.

The Governors are looking to appoint a Governor with a Community interest to a vacancy that has arisen.

The key roles of Governors are to

- Ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- Holding the Headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and pupils
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent

Governors are expected to attend at least 4 evening meetings a term but visits to the school and other meetings and dealing with emails and paperwork are generally necessary to perform the role effectively. Governors are generally appointed for a 4 year term.

The role is unremunerated and the benefits to be gained include the satisfaction gained from making a valuable contribution to the life of the community and to children's education, and the acquisition of transferable leadership and management skills from undertaking this responsibility which can have wider career benefits.

Candidates who have professional qualifications and/or significant practical experience in HR, the media, accountancy, buildings/construction, or IT are particularly welcomed. An informal interview process with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors will apply and DBS check.

To apply please email:  
Janet Cooper,  
Clerk to the Governing Body  
[cooperj@loughton.milton-keynes.sch.uk](mailto:cooperj@loughton.milton-keynes.sch.uk)



Loughton School

## Contacts

If you wish to contact any member of the Parish Council the contact details are as follows:



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## Parish Council Chair’s column

I was delighted to be re-elected as Parish Chair in June for a fourth consecutive year. It is an honour and a heavy responsibility to undertake this role and I continue to work to the best of my ability to achieve real tangible progress for local residents.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of the Parish Council newsletter. The Parish Council has been busy recently and hopefully you will find interest in at least some of what we are doing and other events in our local area. If you are interested in keeping up with local news and events within the Parish, you might like to subscribe to our monthly email update. You can do this by going to the Parish website and subscribe to updates by clicking on the “Sign up for News and Updates” box on the top right hand side of the homepage. If so we will send you one email a month shortly before the Parish Council meeting with a summary of local news and events. We now have 268 subscribers but I am keen to try to get the numbers up further. On the homepage of the website you can also find a link to our online residents survey where you can tell us all about what you see as the major issues in our local area and what we should do about them. It’s also good to get feedback on how we are doing and how we can improve and respond to local concerns.

It’s good to see the children of the Parish enjoying their new play area at Loughton sports ground. The Parish Council is funding MK Play Association play free open access play sessions in Loughton and Great Holm throughout the summer holidays so I hope local children will get outdoors and enjoy the good weather.

The Parish Council has been busy following the transfer of the Loughton Sports ground, pavilion and car park to the Parish Council recently. We are already working on improvements to the premises – something not seen for quite a while. We are also busy with Landscaping arrangements. As you may know MK Council has outsourced the Landscaping service from directly employed workers to SERCO. The new arrangement starts in November 2014. There are signs that the quality of service has fallen pending the implementation of this change. We are talking to MK Council about delegating the management of the service to the Parish Council and we may then either continue with SERCO or tender locally. It would give us an opportunity to fine tune the service and I think we could manage it better than someone sitting in an office on the opposite side of MK who might not be so motivated to get improvements.

Unfortunately we have run out of space in this newsletter to cover the recent elections to MK Council. We now have a new Chief Executive at MK Council and a new administration running the Council so it will be interesting to see what changes they bring. The austerity cuts continue to severely reduce MK Council’s budget so they face an enormous challenge ahead.

## Record of attendance at meetings by members of the Parish Council in 2013-14

(Source : Chairman’s annual report)

The table below summarises the attendance by members of the Council in the year at meetings of the full Parish Council.

Attendance	Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	Apr 15 <sup>th</sup>	May 20 <sup>st</sup>	June 17 <sup>th</sup>	July 15 <sup>th</sup>	Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Oct 21 <sup>st</sup>	Nov 18 <sup>th</sup>	Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	Mar 17 <sup>th</sup>	%
Peter Todd	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	E	E	P	94.4
Peter Ballantyne	E & L	L	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	91.7
Hilary Dyer	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	91.7
Andy Sargent	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	75.0
Barry Barrington	P	P	A	P	A	P	P	A	P	P	P	P	69.4
Zoe Nolan <sup>1</sup>					A	P	A	P	P	L	P	P	66.7
Andy Dransfield	A	A	P	L	E	E	E	E	E	E	L&E	E	55.6
Don Hoyle	L	A	P	A	A	A	A	E	E	A	E	L&E	33.3
Andy Lovett <sup>2</sup>	A	A	P	A	A	P	A	A	A	A			20.0
Ray Harrison <sup>3</sup>	A	A	A	A	A	A	P	P	A	A	A		18.2

<sup>1</sup> elected 4<sup>th</sup> July 2013; <sup>2</sup> resigned 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 ; <sup>3</sup> resigned 17<sup>th</sup> March 2014

### Key:

P = Present, A = Absent, L = arrived late, E = left early

These relate to periods when the listed Member was not a member of the Parish Council

## Listening to local residents

The Parish Council wants to listen to views of local residents about the area. An online opinion survey is on the Parish Council website and, so far in 2014, 71 local residents have used it to say what they think about local issues.

In answer to the question “what are the major issues in the area”, residents said :-

- “Maintaining the local environment at a high standard - controlling development and parking. Poor state of some roads - potholes and break up of 'sleeping policemen. I'd like the Parish Council to (1.) Lobby MK Council about road repairs (2.) Ensure developments in the area have minimum impact. (3.) Ensure Parks Trust maintains the existing environment properly.”
- “Cars parking on the pavements, Neglect of grass verges, (inviting the less responsible to throw litter there) and a general 'run-down-' look to many front gardens and hedges.”
- “The approval of the demolition of the badminton centre - the provision of the density of houses in that area is an outrage. It ruins the view from the lake, stresses the roads that weren't designed for that level of traffic and further increases the strains on the medical centre and the local schools. On local issues, the gradual decline in adherence to the building standards are a problem - the widespread erection of aerals, the horrible white windows on the house at the junction of Foxley and Redland. The worry is that we gradually lose the high standards that are typically present in Loughton.”
- “Resident parking - people giving tickets to car owners that work at Network Rail or travel on the train. I'd like to see more frequent grass cutting in common areas”
- “Litter - particularly around the playing field. It has improved with the bins by the play area, but more are needed”
- “Speeding and poor driving on main Loughton roads. Often see speeding, driving on the wrong side, cutting corners at junctions and using mobiles. Near misses every day at bend before bridge approaching Badminton centre on Bradwell road.”
- “Parking on Chatsworth especially houses with multiple cars .. one house on Chatsworth has 6 cars, 2 minibuses and a landrover and they park close to Kew Court entrance making it dangerous. Nothing seems to be done about it.”
- “The recent conservation area review was excellent, and I hope it will be adopted by the council. Similarly the monitoring of notable planning applications is good.”
- “Recent crime is a concern. I am not aware of local neighbourhood watches, which could perhaps be advertised?”
- “I'm not qualified to comment on how parks, schools and services can be improved, but these are important and could in some way be included in the parish council's agenda, if they are not already.”

• “We moved here two years ago, attracted by the excellent commuter links to London, and I think of the area as the 'prime' commuter area of MK. We regularly meet local residents with a similar story, and I think Loughton's future will be in part linked to the quality and cost of the commuter trains. I think the parish council should support wider efforts related to this.

• “Right hand turn from Ashpole Furlong into Childs Way is very dangerous. Judging by the number of 'beeps' there are a lot of near misses! There are too many accidents there. Can the parish council put pressure on anyone to block the right hand turn permanently (with proper structure as when it was painted on people ignored it and still turned right which was even more dangerous). It would cut down on the accidents if the road from Knowl Hill opposite was left hand only to stop the cars cutting across the stream of traffic.”

In answer to the question “how satisfied are you with the work of Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council” residents said :-

- “Very satisfied. There doesn't seem to be that much that doesn't work well, just the odd thing and that's is to be expected.”
- “Satisfied. The discussion about the major issues is fairly regular but there seems to be no progress or workable solutions being put forward”
- “Very satisfied. This in general is a very pleasant place to live and the Parish Council are on top of local issues.”
- “Not very satisfied. The whole debacle around the Badminton centre has left my opinion completely tainted. I don't know a single person other than Andy Dransfield who believes that this is a good thing.”
- “Very satisfied lovely area to live in and the improvements implemented by the PC have enhanced it.”
- “Satisfied. More community events would be nice”
- “Not very satisfied. Too much time spent on procedural matters and not enough on the substantive issues”
- “Very satisfied. Great to see a pro-active PCI!”

Please continue to send us your views using the online survey the link for which is on the home page of the Parish website. We will consider your suggestions and how we can act on them.



www.skylinetaxis.co.uk



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# Badminton Centre planning application in disarray

It appears that the Parks Trust are unwilling to allow the park land to go for such intense and lucrative residential development without the funds of the Parks Trust receiving full value for the land. It seems that MK Council and Badminton England had thought they could acquire the Parks Trust land at nominal consideration and generate £20M+ from the sale of the land for residential development. The strong position taken by the Parks Trust has meant that Badminton England now does not have the finance to build the new centre at the Bowl and that leaves them unable to proceed with the development of the 104 houses at present.

Badminton England have been exploring alternative options for a smaller and cheaper centre and have not ruled out that the site for the new centre could be near the new ice rink at the railway station. However, any significant revision of the plan (which now seems required) would need a fresh outline planning permission from MK Council. The new Labour minority administration at MK Council has stated that the deal arranged by the previous administration was a poor one for local residents. It seems unlikely an amended permission would be approved without significant changes and that will be very difficult, if not impossible, for Badminton England to deliver. Overall, it now seems quite unlikely that the development of the 104 houses at Lodge Lake will go ahead. Perhaps, the views of the majority of local residents have been listened to, after all.

## Lakeview Village Green

Commons Act 2006 Registration Application

REPORT OF PUBLIC HEARING BY MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL

A Public Hearing was held at 10.30 am on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to determine the application made by Peter T. Ballantyne under the 2006 Commons Act. This application was made under section 15(2). This was held in the conference room of Badminton England, Loughton Lodge, Great Holm, Milton Keynes.

In addition to three legal officers, two other offers and five Councillors of the Regulatory Sub-committee were present, representing Milton Keynes Council, there were also 26 members of the public present. Two objectors from MKC were also present, as was I, the applicant.

I had hoped to make the point that I felt this hearing was biased in favour of MKC since they were:

- (a) the landowners
- (b) the objectors
- (c) the Regulatory Authority
- (d) responsible for choosing the determination process (which is not prescribed in the Act)
- (e) the lawyers giving advice and
- (f) responsible for making the final determination.

I was very disappointed at not being permitted to put these points to the sub-committee at the start of this hearing. It seemed to contradict the principal of 'natural justice'.

During the four minutes I was allocated to address the hearing, I explained that I had lived in a property which overlooks the land for the past 24 years during which time I had used the land for many different recreational and lawful leisure pursuits. I had submitted written witness statements from a further 20 residents who had also stated that they had used the land for similar lawful purposes.



Lakeview Village Green

There were no boundary markers, posts or signs which indicated ownership of the land and it was being used 'as of right' 'not 'by right'. This is a very important legal distinction.

The objector then spoke, saying that he believed I had not made out the case that a significant number of local residents had used the land for lawful leisure or sport purposes.

Seven members of the public then spoke very passionately supporting the application. Unfortunately those who had not submitted a written statement were not permitted to speak

The Sub-committee then went into 'camera' – excluding press and public to discuss a legal matter. On our return the determination discussion began. Councillors felt that a good case had been made for continued and significant use of the land for the statutory period of twenty years, the objector had not made his case, and the final vote to register the land as a village green was unanimous.

This would be the first entry on the Register of Village Greens in Milton Keynes.

The final result is that the local community has permanent use of this village green in perpetuity.

I should like to thank everyone who supported this application.

**Peter T. Ballantyne**  
Applicant

## Conservation Area Review Update

The Parish Council has now completed its public consultation on the review of the Loughton Conservation Area statement and delivered the new statement and the consultation statement to MK Council. The new statement amends the boundaries of the Conservation area by including the whole of the Equestrian Centre, the paddock near Lucy Lane that is part of the setting of the heritage buildings at the Green, and the buildings and land between Leys Road and Whitworth Lane. The Conservation & Archaeology Officer Simon Peart has warmly welcomed the work commissioned by the Parish Council on this and promised to take it forward to adoption by MK Council. The new statement will become the new Conservation Area Statement for Loughton when adopted by the relevant Cabinet member by delegated decision. However MK Council may decide to conduct its own further consultation. The Parish Council will be monitoring the work carried out by MK Council on this and it is hoped the process will complete by the end of 2014.



Conservation Area

## Public Consultation

Every year the NEIGHBOURHOOD ACTION GROUP is obliged to look at priority issues identified by local residents. To garner this information the NAG will be holding a public consultation outside the Londis shop on Highgrove Hill on the morning of Saturday 2nd August. In addition to NAG members, Parish Councillors and Thames Valley Police, one of our recently elected Ward Councillor Matt Clifton will be available to listen to local residents' views. Please come along, have your say, and advise the NAG what you would like us to focus on over the next year. Our current priorities are Traffic Issues, Antisocial Behaviour, and Environmental Issues.



Neighbourhood Action Group

## Britain In Bloom

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July the judges for the national "Britain in Bloom" awards visited Milton Keynes. We are pleased to report that they visited Great Holm looking at the rose beds and the recently registered Lakeview Village Green. They were impressed by the three new trees the NAG had planted on it.

In Loughton they viewed the new play area on the sports ground and were very pleased to note how popular it was. They commented on its excellent design.

A strong feeling of community involvement also impressed them greatly, so let us hope that our parish will contribute towards an award for Milton Keynes.

## Pavement And Verge Parking

In surveys of local residents a continuing theme of complaints is the obstruction of footways by parked vehicles. The NAG has been trying to tackle this problem for some time. When pushchairs, pedestrians and wheelchairs are forced to go round into the road this is not acceptable, very dangerous and contravenes the 1988 Road Traffic Act. Some drivers think that parking blocks the main roadway, but it does have the positive effect of slowing down passing traffic in a residential area like ours. About 20 vehicles in Loughton and Great Holm have been reported so far and the drivers warned by Thames Valley Police. A second offence could lead to prosecution. PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE WHEN PARKING.

## Bird Nesting Boxes

The more eagle-eyed of you will have noticed a few bird nesting boxes have appeared on public land around the Parish.

In fact the NAG have erected 17 of them. Some were constructed by our friends at Oakhill Secure Training Unit and the rest by our DIY Parish Councillor Barry Barrington. The idea for these came from a suggestion made by a resident at the NAG public consultation event last year.

 Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council

 @LGH\_PC

**Sign up for News and Updates**  
by visiting: [www.loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk](http://www.loughtonandgreatholm-pc.gov.uk)



# River birches planted on lake view green

Local residents may have seen our Neighbourhood Action Group planting 3 large River Birch trees, last December, on the Village Green in Great Holm.

The funding for the purchase of the trees was provided by Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council but the planning and work was carried out by our local NAG.



Hole Digging

Three large holes were dug by volunteers – no mean feat in the heavy clay soil.



Three River Birches Awaiting Planting

The trees were then dragged across the Green and lowered into the prepared holes. Fertilizer and compost added, stakes hammered in and to finish bark spread around them. Hours of hard labour, with a welcome break for tea and mince pies provided by Peter.



Finishing Touches



The First Tree Going In

A lot of hard work has gone into this project, planning, organising and then the tree planting. It is another example of what we can achieve when we work together for our community. A big thanks to all involved, Loughton and Great Holm NAG, Loughton and Great Holm Parish Council, Great Holm residents and Milton Keynes Council. We now have three semi-mature River Birch Trees on Lake View Green to replace the Weeping Willow that sadly fell in the strong winds earlier this year. They are being watered by volunteers in the hot weather. We now look forward to them providing an attractive feature on our Village Green for many years to come.

Report by **Councillor Hilary Dyer**



A Job Well Done

# School Run Parking Issues in Great Holm

The Parish Council and I have been approached by Great Holm residents expressing their fears about the dangerous parking at school pick-up and drop-off times. We are taking these concerns very seriously and are setting up a Multi-Agency group to come up with fresh ideas to improve the situation. The Parish Council will work with representatives from:- Holmwood School, Hilltops Medical Centre, Rainbow Pharmacy, Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police, and the local Neighbourhood Action Group.

In the recent past Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group, with the Parish Council's help, worked successfully with these partner agencies to alleviate parking problems in the Kensington Drive Car Park. Funding was obtained to extend Holmwood School's staff car park by 14 spaces thus freeing up spaces in the public car park throughout the day. A one-way system and double yellow lines were also introduced.



Parking issues in Great Holm



School run parking issues

However the demand for car parking space has increased and Milton Keynes Council's proposal to lower the entry age at Holmwood School will add to this pressure. It is their intention to provide a Nursery for children from the age of 3 years. The proposed changes would secure a 60 place early years education facility for 3 and 4 year old children on the school site, providing 30 morning and 30 afternoon places. This increase in provision of high quality education for our local children would of course be very welcome.

Holmwood School also caters for children living outside of Great Holm so we want to ensure that the inevitable extra demand on parking spaces doesn't make an already difficult situation worse. On site parking provision would be provided for the 3 nursery teachers but there are no proposals to cater for the parking needs of parents.

I feel that we need to concentrate this time on the area at the top of Petworth between it's junctions with Dorton Close and Kensington Drive. The traffic congestion there is hazardous and illegal parking is adding to the dangers.

Please email us with any ideas you have to improve the safety of children and adults from the traffic problems around school times. We welcome resident's input to help us resolve this problem.

**Councillor Hilary Dyer**  
(Great Holm Ward)

# Crownhill Children's Garden Of Remembrance

The Parish Council was recently lobbied by a resident about the unhappy state of Crownhill children's garden of remembrance. Although it is situated outside the Parish boundaries, many parish residents have loved ones who are remembered at the Crownhill Crematorium. The children's garden of remembrance at the Crematorium is intended to alleviate the pain of the untimely loss of a child. Our attention was drawn to the poor state of upkeep of the children's garden of remembrance – as you can see from these photos.



Bench in Crownhill Children's Garden



Neglected Toy in the Garden

This resident had lobbied MK Council to do something to improve this but without a great deal of success. The Parish Council agreed to lobby MK Council on behalf of our local resident to do something about the disrepair. Perhaps residents of the Parish reading this article would also want to lobby MK Council to improve the Garden of Remembrance by writing to the Leader of the Council Peter Marland [peter.marland@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:peter.marland@milton-keynes.gov.uk)



# MacIntyre Centre re-opens in Great Holm

On 27<sup>th</sup> June, Members of the Parish Council attended the official re-opening of the MacIntyre Centre in Great Holm.

The MacIntyre building is an iconic local landmark. Opened in the 1980's the facilities had become a little tired so the major refurbishment has totally rejuvenated the building.

The Centre supports a number of people with learning difficulties to live with maximum independence and quality of life and to have the richest possible life with opportunities to work, learn and socialise.

The project, which has taken nearly two years to complete, now includes some wonderful new facilities including a therapy pool, an interactive sensory room, an IT suite and an expanded Coffee Shop. The improvements have also doubled the usable space.

Three-time javelin Olympian Goldie Sayers, who opened the building said *"It was an absolute pleasure to join MacIntyre at this event. What a facility and what fantastic staff!"*

Milton Keynes Mayor Councillor Subhan Shafiq said: *"The people here have taken everything into account and the facilities are incredible."*



MacIntyre Centre

## 500<sup>th</sup> Centenary of Rev Hugh Parke

Loughton has a long and rich history and as part of this, in 2014, we remember the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passing of Reverend Hugh Parke.

Reverend Parke became Rector of All Saints Church Loughton on 22nd October 1485, on the appointment of the Lord of the Manor of Loughton. This was only about a week after Henry VII was crowned King at Westminster Abbey after defeating Richard III's forces at the battle of Bosworth Field – (a defining moment in English history, as it marked the end of the Plantagenet dynasty and the beginning of the Tudors). On 12th July 1487, Parke was also appointed Rector of Little Loughton Church. This Church stood in the grounds of Little Loughton Manor, near the Green in Loughton, until it was eventually destroyed. The precise location of that Church is now unknown [although on the grant of planning permission recently for the Manor, there was a condition imposed for an archaeological investigation to see if the precise location can be established].

Parke died in 1514 only a few years before the most famous and powerful Tudor monarch, Henry VIII, came to the throne. So he served as Rector of the area for almost 30 years. Parke was clearly a devout and compassionate man, as on his death he left his estate for the benefit of the Church and for the relief of poverty in this area. Extraordinarily, this private charitable Trust is still alive and well today and helping to maintain the Church and relieve poverty in this area half a millennium later.

Page's "History of the County of Buckingham" [1927] records the establishment of the trust by Deed in 1609 containing 2 pieces of land of just over 8 acres. Then in 1882 the Charity Commissioners arranged a scheme for the Charity "one moiety of the net income is made applicable for the repair of the church and one moiety for the poor, which is applied in the distribution of coal."



The land left by Rev Park to his trust was in Winterhill (where the new shops are now) until the development of the new city and the MK Development Corporation acquired the land. The proceeds were invested and the yield from the investments is now in 2014 about £2,000 a year. There are 7 Trustees of the Trust, 3 from All Saints Church, 2 from the Parish Council and 2 other co-opted members. The Clerk to the Trust is Mr Roger Blackburn who is one of the Churchwardens of All Saints Church. Charitable distributions to the needy are no longer given in coal but in cash. Recent beneficiaries include individual residents, local schools, scouts and guides, MacIntyre and Willen Hospice (having in mind the care of those living within the parish). The Parish website now contains the contact details of the Trust for anyone needing a grant.

The grave of Reverend Parke lies near the altar of All Saints Church and is marked by a half-length brass portrait of a priest in mass vestments (see photo) with the following inscription. "Hic jacet Hugo Parke quondam istius ecclie Rector in artibus magister sacreque theologie bacularius" which translates as "Here lies Hugh Parke, formerly Rector of this Church, Master of Arts and Bachelor of Sacred Theology".

500 years on from Reverend Parke's death, we remember his legacy to the Church and local people and wonder at this service through 500 years of local history.

# Sainsbury's new store in Shenley opened in June

Sainsbury's new supermarket in Shenley Church End opened on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June.

The store features new fresh food counters including fish, meat, pizza, hot food and deli counters together with an in-store bakery and salad bar, all alongside a wider selection of foods and other items than the existing Sainsbury's Local.

The opening of the store has created 60 jobs, which have been filled by local residents in addition to staff at the Sainsbury's Local who have transferred over to the new store.

Sainsbury's new store team has already started to play an active role in the local community by supporting a number of community projects. Highlights include:

- Donating 180 children's high visibility jackets to Ashbrook School as part of Walk to School week. The jackets were provided in a range of sizes, for children ranging from four to seven years old and will benefit the school for many years.
- Holding an open day for pupils at Ashbrook School, Two Mile Ash School, Shenley Church End Pre-school, Denbigh School, Loughton Manor First School, Loughton School, Holmwood School and Glastonbury Thorn School.

The open day included a pre-opening tour of the new store and meeting construction mascot Ivor Goodsite, who makes kids aware of the dangers of construction activity and teaches children not to play on construction sites.



New Sainsbury's Store

Sainsbury's Try Team was on hand to give a presentation on healthy eating with a fruit smoothie tasting session. There were also presentations from local fire and police officers and an introduction to bee hotels, which are designed to boost local bee populations.

- Sainsbury's store colleagues have been involved in a number of community activities, including tidying and painting at Lipscomb Lane and Lowndes Grove parks, litter picking around Shenley Church End, painting bollards close to the store and planting new shrubs at Loughton Manor First School.

We are very grateful for the generous donation Sainsbury's have made towards the production costs of this newsletter

## Five month carriageway closure of H4 Danstead Way

The Parish Council has been informed that the westbound carriageway of the H4 Danstead Way will be closed for five months so a new sewage pipe for 6,500 new homes in the Western Expansion Area can be installed.

The westbound carriageway of Danstead Way from near Corn Hill to the Lodge Roundabout is set to shut from August 28 until January 30 to enable Anglian Water to install the main to connect the new Redlawns housing development.

A spokesperson for Anglian Water said *"We will always work to minimise the disruption to customers and road users where possible, but before we can scope out the work we need to understand any conditions set by the Highways Agency."*

The Parish Council is concerned about the effect of the closure on local buses including both school buses and local Arriva services.

A spokesperson from Milton Keynes Council said: "This is Anglian Water's project, but we will be working very closely with them to ensure they keep disruption to a minimum, and work within the required legislation. "We have also informed parish and local ward councillors, the police, fire service, local schools, doctors' surgeries and any other interested parties that may be affected by this project."

The Parish Council will be monitoring the effect of the closure and welcomes feedback from local residents as to how the closure is affecting the area.



H4 Danstead Way