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# LOUGHTON PARISH NEWS

The newsletter of Loughton Parish Council

Tel: 07779261364, Email: parish.clerk@loughtonmk-pc.gov.uk, www.loughtonmk-pc.gov.uk

## Controversy over Badminton Centre plan



Approximate visualisation of 104 new houses proposed at Bradwell Road

The application by the National Badminton Centre for planning permission to build 104 new houses at Bradwell Road near the junction with H4 Dansteed Way has proved to be highly controversial. 135 public representations objecting to the development have so far been received by MK Council – and the planning officer has said that further objections received up until the hearing of the application by the Development Control Committee will be taken into account.

Many of the representations are concerned at the scale of the development in the particular location of the setting of Lodge Lake and concerned about the impact that the development will have on the natural and tranquil feel of the lake. Objectors also frequently cite increase in traffic as an issue and the density of the proposed development and the "uninspiring" design of the proposed new estate.

The Badminton Centre is keen to draw attention to the benefits of the application. They argue that they need to raise a large amount of money to make their new Centre at the bowl a reality.

The new centre will create 17 Badminton Courts, 3 tennis courts inside and 3 outside, a swimming pool and a gym. It will be located within Loughton Parish, as part of the National Bowl site. They have offered to make the centre available free of charge for use by local children during the day. They also point out the size of the development has reduced significantly from 144 that was originally planned.

The Parish Council held a public meeting on Monday 4th March 2013. This was attended by the Chief Executive of Badminton England, Adrian Christy, who spoke about the benefits of the application and the benefits for his organisation that planning permission would bring. There were also about 50 residents present including many from Woodward Place and Bradwell Road. Although one resident supported the application, all the others residents present objected to the proposed development.

The members of the Parish Council expressed views both for and against the proposal. Councillor Andy Dransfield supported the application.

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SPRING 2013

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# Controversy over Badminton Centre plan

*continued from page 1*

He dismissed concerns about the impact of the development on Lodge Lake saying that there have always been objections to any development. Councillors Ballantyne and Dyer from Great Holm opposed the development – citing the impact that it will have on the lake and the increase in traffic. Councillor Peter Todd objected to the proposed demolition of the old barn.

The Parish Council decided to submit representations to MK Council reflecting all the views of the members of the Council. A copy of the letter dated 5th March 2013 is published on the Parish website.

Recently MK Council conservation officer Simon Peart submitted a comment on the application (echoing the Parish Council's comments) that the old barn on the site should be not be demolished.

The application will be decided by the Development Control Committee of MK Council and the expected hearing date is currently 29th April 2013. Residents are warmly welcomed to attend the meeting at MK Council to listen to the matter being considered.



Inside of the old barn

To submit a representation on the planning application email your views on it to [Debbie.Kirk@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Debbie.Kirk@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk) stating your full name and address and quoting planning application 13/00266/OUT



Outside of the old barn

## Parish Meetings

Loughton Parish Council meets usually on the 3rd 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 April	Loughton Memorial Hall
Monday 20 May	Great Holm Meeting Place
Monday 17 June	Loughton Memorial Hall
Monday 15 July	Great Holm Meeting Place
Monday 16 September	Loughton Memorial Hall
Monday 21 October	Great Holm Meeting Place
Monday 18 November	Loughton Memorial Hall
Monday 16 December	Great Holm Meeting Place



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## McIntyre Centre

After many months of anticipation, work on MacIntyre's Great Holm Learning Centre has started! Local residents may have noticed that the site is now fenced off, and is a hive of increasing activity.

Speller Metcalfe, the appointed builders, officially took control of the site on 25th February, and plan to have the work finished during November this year. The current contract is for the learning centre only, with the residential wing being planned for a later date.

The site has been registered with the Considerate Constructors scheme, with the first inspection expected shortly. How the builders work, for example what hours they can work and which roads they can use, is stipulated by Milton Keynes Council. If there are any concerns about the building work, please call the site manager, **Finlay Shirlaw** on **07800 664449**, or **Anna Perry, Head of Operations at MacIntyre**, on **01908 230100**.



Learners and staff from Great Holm



Learners and staff from Great Holm



The McIntyre site at Great Holm today

MacIntyre expects the building to fully re-open in early 2014, and hopes that it will become a well used community facility. The development will add a small hydrotherapy pool, a sensory room, an outside terrace for the expanded coffee shop and greatly improved accessibility. The Moot Hall will remain but with better kitchen and toilet facilities.

You can follow the blog written by people who were based at Great Holm at <http://macintyre-miltonkeynes.blogspot.co.uk/> They will be writing about the progress of the building works throughout the year, with lots of photos to keep people informed.

The wide variety of activities for adults with learning disabilities or autism that were based at the Learning Centre have been relocated across the city and everyone is making the most of the different opportunities on offer. The coffee shop has moved to The Point, CMK, and is now open on Saturdays as well, so make sure you drop in and say hello when you are shopping.

MacIntyre are always interested to hear from potential volunteers, so if you can offer as little as an hour a month then please get in contact. Volunteering opportunities include such onerous tasks as doing some baking with a lady who lives on Great Holm and loves cooking, going with two local residents to the cinema, helping out in the Shenley Church End bakery, on the allotments or with craft work on Crownhill. Call **Catherine Warren** on **07795 337193** for a chat if you might be interested.

If you want to help out with fundraising for the Learning Centre, then you can find details of up-coming events at [www.macintyremiltonkeynes.org](http://www.macintyremiltonkeynes.org). Many of you will have enjoyed the Quiz Night at the Learning Centre last year, and the next one is planned for Friday 17 May at MacIntyre @ The Point Coffee Shop, CMK. Details are still being confirmed, but if it is anything like the last one then expect a hot meal and entry to the quiz for £5 and loads of great raffle prizes. Call **Anna** on **01908 230100** for tickets or more information.





# Neighbourhood Action Group

Amazingly, it has now been five years since the Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) was formed. We can look back over that period with some satisfaction. As a new inexperienced group of residents we feel we have achieved a great deal - with considerable help from Loughton Parish Council, Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police and the Parks Trust.

## Achievements

I think our major success since our formation is the improvement to the large (50 space) Kensington Drive Car Park (outside Hilltops Medical Centre). The parking there is still dire but, can you imagine what it would be like with 14 fewer spaces? This is what we provided by extending Holmwood School staff car park, so that staff cars could park in the school grounds instead of the main public car park. We also got the one-way system and double yellow lines introduced. Partner agencies involved with this project were:- Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police, Loughton Parish Council, Holmwood School, Hilltops Medical Centre, Rainbow Pharmacy and The Grebe. Funding was provided by the Big Lottery Fund and Milton Keynes Council.

Other main projects have been: painting of all 400 yellow pipe bollards in Loughton and Great Holm; planting of 6,000 daffodil and 3,000 crocus bulbs around Great Holm in 2010; painting the Petworth play equipment, benches and also planting a further 3,000 daffodils and 3,000 blue Chindoxa bulbs, along with 210 rose bushes in 2012. At the time of writing (mid March) I believe that the whole parish is clear of graffiti - thanks to the diligence of two of our members. Misleading road name signs have been repositioned together with team cleaning of all the road nameplates in the parish. These are just typical of the many, many tasks we undertake, not least of which is trying to get the potholes repaired (with recent success in Kensington Drive).

We are deeply indebted to the many local volunteers (almost 50 of them) who have given us a hand with all these projects. Eight different local government agencies have also helped us over this period, whom we also thank.

What we have achieved is all the more impressive considering that constitutionally we are not permitted to hold any funds or to have a bank account. This has been a major challenge and we are indebted to Loughton Parish Council who have helped with this and have earmarked £1,000 in next year's budget to fund some of the plans we have.

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## Plans for 2013

It may appear that most of our efforts have been focused on Great Holm, rather than Loughton. This is true to some extent because Loughton has grown organically for over a millennium, compared to Great Holm which is only 3 decades old. This imbalance will be redressed in 2103 when we have two major Loughton projects. These are:- completely refurbishing the ten large planters on Bradwell Road and also renovating the picnic table and benches in Millennium Meadow.

Included in other plans we intend to address the very annoying and dangerous practice of parking vehicles on pavements and grass verges. Apart from possibly damaging underground service pipes, and cracking paving slabs. This practice also forces pedestrians, pushchairs, and mobility scooters onto the main highway which is very dangerous and the police will be trying to 'educate' offenders. Deep unsightly ruts in grass verges caused by lorries or buses are a recent area of concern - particularly in Kensington Drive. Litter is a problem we continue to tackle (rather like painting the Forth Road Bridge). Most reports of speeding vehicles are unfounded when investigated, as are reports of excessive dog mess. In three 'walkabouts' over the last two months only one dog mess was actually observed.

All our activities are driven entirely by what you, local residents, say you want improved. Every year we undertake a major consultation exercise to find the top three "neighbourhood priorities". Every year so far they have been the same three :- "Traffic", "Environment" and "Antisocial Behaviour". Please let us know if you would rather have anything else as a priority or if you would like to get involved in our work.

I should like to thank the many, many, volunteers, agencies, and NAG members who have contributed to making Loughton and Great Holm a cleaner, safer and generally better place to live.

## Peter Ballantyne

NAG Chair.

Contact: [info@lghnag.org.uk](mailto:info@lghnag.org.uk)



Great Holm

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safer Neighbourhoods



# Chairman's Viewpoint



**A new Parish Clerk:** Since becoming Chair of Loughton Parish Council I have worked closely with our Parish Clerk, who (apart from our unpaid temporary intern) is our only member of staff. It became apparent that the clerk's contracted hours of 6 hours a week were not enough. Indeed, the monthly meeting alone was taking up more than 6 hours in a week for attendance, drafting minutes, putting up notices on boards and the website etc - never mind all the work in implementing decisions of the Council. We therefore made the decision to increase the Clerk's hours to a more realistic level of 28 hrs a week. Unfortunately Jenny Wilcox (our former Clerk) was not able to accept the offer of an extension of her contracted hours to 28 hours, due to her other work commitments. For that reason only, we had to sadly make Jenny involuntarily redundant and to recruit a successor. I am very grateful to Jenny for the hard work she put in as the Loughton Parish Clerk. She worked many extra hours unpaid and was extremely supportive and gave wise Counsel. Jenny left our employment with effect from 31<sup>st</sup> January 2013. The recruitment of a new clerk involved quite a lot of work, writing a job description and person specification, arranging advertising, logging applications, a shortlisting meeting, preparing for and attending the interviews and then making an appointment, & post-appointment in drafting and implementing a contract and a handover. I am very grateful to Cllrs Kirkman and Ballantyne for their assistance with the process. I was surprised and pleased that we received a large number of applications. In the end we unanimously agreed to offer the position to Brian Barton and were delighted that he accepted the offer. Brian started work as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2013. He is an experienced local government officer, having worked in local Parishes for more than 10 years and has the CILCA *Certificate in Local Council Administration* qualification. He is now well into the process of settling into the job and I am sure will be a major assets to the Parish Council.

**The Badminton Centre.** The major issue in the Parish at the moment is undoubtedly the large scale planning application submitted by the National Badminton Centre. This application will have a major impact on the Parish and in particular on the setting of Lodge Lake and I would urge all residents to consider the applications and express their views to MK Council. It currently looks like the decision will be made by MK Council on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2013. We've been busy with other local planning issues too - as you will read in this newsletter. I'm really delighted that we've saved the paddock at Lincslade Grove junction with Bradwell Road from being sold off for residential development.

**MK Play Association.** Many residents with children will have travelled to the MK Play Association open access play sessions around MK. I am delighted that Loughton Parish will now be providing such sessions for our local children from Easter 2013. Please see the details on page 9 in this newsletter. The process of creating an amazing **new play area** for children at the Loughton Sports Ground is well underway and hopefully work will commence in June 2013 and it will be finished for the start of the summer holidays.

**The Precept.** We've set a precept for 2013-14 at £32.05 per annum for a Band D property which is one of the lowest rates in MK. The average precept is £62.93 per annum so our rate is about half the average MK Parish rate. We've managed to cut some costs by finding some efficiencies. We're engaging more than ever with residents and providing new services and amenities - whether it is in the **Conservation Area Review**, sorting out the **Loughton Parking restrictions**, the future of the **Great Holm Community Centre** the **new Parish graveyard**, the restoration of the wildflower **Millennium Meadow**, or supporting and revitalising the **Loughton Sports & Social Club premises and sports ground**. We just need a few more hours in the day.....

# Loughton Controlled Parking Zone ("CPZ")

In the last edition of this newsletter we raised the issue of the confusion which had arising over the Loughton area CPZ. MK Council had decided (without any consultation) to extend the existing CPZ to the whole of the Loughton area (except, strangely, London Road) but after installing the new signs had halted the implementation of the new scheme after complaints about the lack of consultation.

Discussions between the Highways Department and the Parish Council then ensued when the Highways Department explained that they had decided that the extension they had embarked on was probably unnecessary, apart from an extension of the area along Lincslade Grove around Holmgate. The Parish Council then managed to persuade the Highways Department about a revolutionary idea -known as "resident consultation". To the credit of Highways, they agreed to carry out a consultation and produced a letter and consultation form and a plan and in conjunction with the Parish Council this was printed and delivered to every home in the Loughton area.

Many residents responded to the consultation and this was useful in that it confirmed the view was correct that the extension was unnecessary and it also reminded MK Council they had previously included the whole of Redland Drive in the CPZ but had forgotten about this and hence Redland Drive was restored to the revised plan for the CPZ. The consultation responses also persuaded Highways to extend the CPZ further down Lincslade Grove so that it runs down to finish close to the junction with Paynes Drive.

The new extent of the CPZ has therefore been finalised after the consultation and the signage is being altered to reflect this. Hopefully this will avoid any confusion about the extent of the CPZ.

The Parish Council suggested that after implementation of the new CPZ that we monitor carefully any issues which arise as a result of the new CPZ. If any residents have any problems or concerns then they are warmly encouraged to raise these with the Parish Council.

We hope that MK Council will have also learned through this experience that consultation with the Parish Council and with residents is essential on policy changes affecting our area.



# Interview with David Hill

Parish intern, Lexie Werner, recently interviewed the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes Council, David Hill, for this newsletter:-

**Q: MK Council has had its funding cut substantially by central government. How are you dealing with this?**

**A:** The reduction in central government funding has caused a gap in our finances. But there are lots of things we can do to close that gap. For example, we have been taking steps over the last couple of years to significantly reduce our overheads. We are always looking to do things more efficiently and more effectively so that we get better value for money and we are also creating new and alternative sources of income to make up for the reduction in government funding.

The big pressure on us is not really the reduction in government funding but the demographic pressures: the growth in the population, which is growing by anything up to 2% a year and the growth in the number of older people in the borough because that is on a very steep trajectory at the moment.

We are experiencing about 7-8% per annum growth in demand for adult social care services. We also have a slightly unexpected surge in the number of young people in the borough. In fact the number of young children in reception classes is twice the number of children in the top of the year in secondary schools, so we going to have to invest over the next few years in a massive expansion of our schools.

And the community is becoming much more diverse. Children in our primary schools speak well over 150 different languages and that is a challenge. The increasingly diversity community gives rise to costs because we actually have to accommodate our services to the particular need of communities. So those are all the challenges we need to deal with. It is not simply a matter of indentifying cuts and so on. What we absolutely seek to do is to minimize any impact on the frontline services so our major efforts are on reducing overheads, increasing efficiency and productivity and generating alternative sources of income. Where we have had to trim some services we have tried to do that in ways take account of the various priorities that members have identified.



Lexie Werner with David Hill

**Q: How do you think the abolition of Council tax benefit will affect the Council’s ability to collect Council tax and do you think people on benefits will find it difficult to cope with having to pay some Council tax?**

**A:** This has been a very difficult and challenging issue. It is not a council policy. This is government policy. National government policy is to significantly reduce the welfare bill overall and one of the things they have effectively required is a significant reduction in council tax benefit. Because they are no longer funding us to cover the cost of council tax benefit, we as a council have got to decide do we pass that reduction on to the people who are on the benefit or do all the council tax payers in MK have to pay that extra cost and that is a difficult balance to strike .The council then in the end decided that the right thing to do is to pass on all the reduction to the people who were previously on council tax benefit so effectively it means everyone needs to pay at least 20% of the council tax.

**Q: MK has a vision of becoming an international sporting City and is promoting projects such as a new Badminton Centre but this project is largely being funded by a massive residential development on park land which many local residents think will adversely affect the tranquil setting of Lodge Lake. Do you agree that selling off park land in Milton Keynes for residential development should be severely restricted?**

**A:** That is not really a matter on which I can express a view because that will be a matter to be determined by the council’s development control committee and it will assess the pros and cons, and objectors to the proposal will have a full opportunity to express their views.

The DCC will need to take account of all the planning requirements including the National Planning Policy Framework which creates a presumption in favour of sustainable development. But then there is the question whether or not the development proposal will that be truly sustainable; will it have overall positive or negative effects on the local area. So that is going to be one for the DCC to determine.



# RAINBOW PHARMACY

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Saturday 9am to 1pm

# Loughton Baptist Church

At Loughton Baptist Church, we want you to feel at home. Our goal is to not only make you welcome but also to help you enter into deep relationships with God and with other people.

When you visit with us, you will find a warm, loving, multicultural mix of people from all over Milton Keynes who take pleasure in our diversity. Our church also has a great range of ages where babies and elderly (and every age in between) are considered a valued part of our family.

Our church services focus on celebrating Jesus and proclaiming His goodness and love. We teach from the Bible and recognise that we are all broken, but we have extreme joy when God changes our minds and our hearts and makes us into something better.

God has been richly blessing us at Loughton Baptist Church and our Sunday morning service is full to overflowing. So we are presently asking God to show us how to expand so we can be of even greater value to our community.

There are several groups that meet every week at the church. On Wednesday mornings at 10:00 there is a Coffee Plus groups for a great time of chat around coffee and tea. Thursday mornings are centred around our parent and Tot group. It starts at 10:00 and it is great time of play for the children and talk for the mums. If you want to be a part of either group, just show up, we would love for you to come.

Every fortnight, on Friday mornings, Mops meets. Mops stands for Mums of Pre-schoolers and the desire is to restore mums while giving them a break from having to watch their children. So while the Mums are having coffee and cake, listening to great teaching and chatting around a table, their children are having a great time playing and being spoiled by grandparents and parents whose children have grown past that stage.

## NOT AN ADVERT Save on Home Insurance with Neighbourhood Watch

Although Loughton and Great Holm are relatively low crime areas, when it does happen to you, it is a devastating experience. We can all help to reduce local crime by setting up small “Neighbourhood Watch” schemes in conjunction with Thames Valley Police.

If groups of neighbours get together to form a scheme, not only will it make your area more secure (statistics prove that), but you may be eligible for a reduction in your house contents insurance of up to 10% - check with your insurer.

To set up a scheme please call **PC Helen Sharratt, Watch Liaison Officer, Wolverton Police Station** on **01908 324 626** or email her at **helen.sharratt@thamesvalleypolice.pnn.police.uk**

## REPORT LITTER

Call **Milton Keynes LitterLine** on **01908 252 570**



Friday nights at 7:00 is CBSi. CBSi stands for Community Bible Study international. A nondenominational Bible Study opened to anyone who desires to learn the Bible. It is built around self- study and small group discussion. Each person gets a study every week that they spend about 20 minutes a day on and they come back and discuss their answers. It is a great way to find out what the Bible really says in a nonthreatening way and a great way to grow deeper in relationship with God.

Perhaps these are not your cup of tea but you love exercise. On Tuesday nights at seven our Zumba and Body Toning groups meet and on Friday morning at 7:00 am our Metafit groups meet.

Or maybe you have children or young people. There is something for every age at Loughton Baptist Church. Our desire is to help people find the living God in the midst of community. We meet each Sunday at 10:30 am and 6:00 pm. We hope you will join us.

### Craig Sayle, Minister

Loughton Baptist Church  
Bradwell Road, Loughton, Milton Keynes MK5 8AJ  
Tel: **(01908) 232902**



Loughton Baptist Church

## Local Vehicle Crime

Every month the Parish Council receives a crime report from Neighbourhood Police Supervisor PC Albert Bernard. Crime here is quite low, but the one consistent avoidable crime is theft from insecure vehicles.

The report always matches number of thefts from vehicles which are not locked or have windows left open. An unexpected down side for victims is that they cannot claim from their insurance - because they allowed the crime to happen. PLEASE make sure your vehicle is secure at all times.

## Monthly news and bulletins by email

Did you know that Loughton Parish Council now send monthly news and updates for residents by email? This is a cheap and quick method of keeping residents informed about issues in the local area. You can subscribe to this by clicking on the box on the home page of the Parish website and then adding your name, email address and postcode. It's easy to automatically unsubscribe too.

All residents of the Parish are warmly invited to subscribe.



# Loughton School is 25 years old!

In September 1987 a new school opened in Loughton, Loughton Combined School. Ever since, it has been an important part of the local community, welcoming many residents into the annual school fete, the fireworks displays and termly productions. At first it was a school for 5 to 12 year olds until it changed to a middle school in 1997 (for children aged 8 to 12), when Loughton Manor First School opened, and later to a junior school (for children aged 7 to 11) when the age of transfer in Milton Keynes changed in 2005. There have only been three head teachers in the school's 25 years but there have been many other developments in education- the introduction of a National Curriculum, Standard Assessment Tests(-SATs) at ages 7 and 11, and regular Ofsted inspections to monitor standards.

Loughton is a successful school where children progress well in their learning, enjoy many and varied opportunities and above all feel extremely happy and safe. Children, staff, parents and governors are justifiably proud of their school. We are going to celebrate the school's 25th birthday during the week beginning 3 June 2013 by investigating famous events that happened in the years 1987 and 1988. The week will culminate in a special lunchtime picnic on Friday 7 June 2013, between 12 noon and 2pm, where there will be live music, balloons released and much more. There is even talk of a staff choir! All ex members of staff are welcome to join us, and we would love to see any ex pupils who attended the school when it opened. Just give us a ring and let us know you are coming... and don't forget to bring your picnic!

We are hoping that the first Head teacher, Tom Prosser, will come and talk to the current children in assemblies on the same day and then stay for the picnic. The Mayor of Milton Keynes will also be invited and we will take lots of photographs for the school archives so that there will be plenty to display at the school's 50th birthday party in 2037-8! Each pupil, member of staff and governor will be presented with a commemorative gift to mark the occasion.

Sue Bundy and Monica Maughan  
On behalf of the Loughton School 25 year group

Tel: **01908 665971**  
E-mail: **head@loughton.milton-keynes.sch.uk**



## Holmwood School Forest School - Mark Bond, Forest School Leader.

Holmwood School is providing a new fun way of teaching children about the natural world around them, called Forest School. Forest School is a unique way of building independence and self-esteem in young children. It originated in Scandinavia in the 1950's. The idea was brought to Somerset in 1985 and is now spreading throughout the UK.

Children attend sessions every week. They experience all weathers in these seasons and develop a deeper understanding of the natural world.

Trained staff use different tasks to introduce skills to the children that can be useful in many ways. A large number of these activities done in Forest School are also helpful with learning within the school curriculum. Sessions are balanced to make learning fun outside in our natural habitat. The tasks may be organised for small groups or individuals to complete. This encourages independence and makes the children very proud of their own achievements.

The planned tasks include rope work, how to make shelters, make art, draw maps, recognise different trees or bugs or birds, how to listen for bird calls or notice the changes in the weather or seasons, learn about the plants and their life cycle, how to care for the world around us and much more.

When out in all weathers the children are supplied with waterproof suits and wellingtons. This means the children are allowed to get muddy or messy. In the summer they wear baseball caps to keep the sun off their heads. The only time we won't go out to a session is when there is a strong wind and our risk assessment indicates a concern for about safety.

The area we use for Forest School was waste land when Mrs Newman became Headteacher and her vision was to change the area to be an asset to the school. With the help of community service workers the area was given new pathways that are wheelchair accessible. Then fundraising by Friends of the School enabled the building of a log cabin for an outdoor classroom.

Forest School has proved to be a valued session for the children as it helps different children in different ways. The children all love their sessions and look forward to each session with smiles on their faces.



**Q: MK Council owns the National Bowl – which is in our Parish. In recent years there have been few concerts held there. The promoters blame MK Council restrictions on licences that make it “difficult to put on a good show”. Do you think those conditions could be reconsidered so that large concerts such as Robbie Williams etc could come back to the Bowl again?**

**A:** Yes, we have bought the bowl alongside all the other assets from the Homes and Community Agency as of the 14th of January 2013. We technically put it into the Milton Keynes Development Partnership which is a limited liability partnership that is at arm's length from the Council but yes fundamentally the Council own it. I live quite near to the Bowl so I can see both sides of this particular argument. We did the Swedish House Mafia and the year before that in 2011 there was a concert on two nights and at that time we took a report to the Licensing Committee to change or adjust slightly the noise restrictions from the Bowl. Local residents have issues about the noise or how long it goes on for or what is the peak noise and they also have concerns about the car parking which can be a bit of a pressure on surrounding communities. So I think you have to end up with a balance. The Licensing Committee did agree to adjust the noise restrictions and other restrictions in a way which I think creates a reasonable balance. So the promoters and the people playing the concerts they can have at least a few minutes of really loud music but not after 11pm and have got to finish by midnight. It seems to be enough of a fair balance and I think on a basis of those changes in the rules there is no reason why you could not have more large concerts in the Bowl. There is probably not a demand for more than two or three a year. I am not sure how many would be realistic. We are looking into that currently. It would be good to get it back into use on a more regular basis and I think the conditions that are applied are a fair balance.

**Q: A campaign has been launched “we love the music service” against the merger of the music service with Adult education and cuts to the service. The campaigners fear that the music service will reduce its effectiveness significantly if this goes ahead. Is there a danger as the campaigners think that the merger will adversely affect the music service?**

**A:** Obviously it is not intended to. We want to strengthen the overall management of all the educational services that we provide outside the traditional school environment and we believe that this could be done efficiently and effectively under a single management structure rather than as currently with two separate management structures. And this is another example of wanting to improve the efficiency of our organisation without having an impact on the actual services that are provided.

**Q: Milton Keynes is a rather special place, not just in terms of its urban design but also in its political structure as MK is fully parished. What advantages/disadvantages does the area have from this extra tier of government?**

**A:** I think there are big advantages in having a complete tier of parish councils. Where I have worked before, there have been some areas that have been parished and some that have not been parished. It is slightly difficult to know how to deal in separate ways with those two types of area. It is easier here where you just got a single model that applies across the whole borough. The benefit of parishes is that they are a lot closer to the people in what is usually a fairly well defined community. They can reflect the views of that community. There are a number of powers they have within the area, particularly to look after the environment within the parish area and lobby on behalf of members of the community and I think that is very helpful for an organisation like MKC which necessarily has to take some fairly big strategic decisions that affect the whole borough and it is not always as good as it could be picking up the aspirations of individual communities and individual needs. Parish councils play a part in drawing attention to issues that we ought to be dealing with more sensibly, or in taking on responsibility in many respects for dealing with those issues.

## Should Loughton Parish Council change its name?

The Parish Council has been debating whether it should change its name to “Loughton & Great Holm Parish Council”. The reason for this is that the Parish now consists of two residential areas of approximately equal size and there is a concern that in being named after only one of those areas, the residents of Great Holm do not identify with the Parish Council in the same way as those residents in Loughton.

If you google “Loughton Milton Keynes” then the Parish website appears near the top of the results but this is not the case when you google “Great Holm, Milton Keynes”. Residents of Great Holm could therefore be forgiven for (wrongly) assuming that Loughton Parish Council does not relate to their area.

The Parish Council decided to consult with local residents on the issue before making any decision. An online survey has been published on the parish website – there is a link to this on the home page. So far 16 residents have voted and the vote is showing 75% of residents in favour of the change. All residents are warmly invited to take this survey which only takes 1 minute to complete at [www.loughtonmk-pc.gov.uk](http://www.loughtonmk-pc.gov.uk)



## Loughton Scarecrow trail: 29<sup>th</sup> June to 6<sup>th</sup> July 2013

All Saints' Church, Loughton, is planning to host a Scarecrow Trail during early July. The vision is that this will be an enjoyable and inclusive event, with which the whole community of Loughton and Great Holm will want to engage. The proposal has the support of Loughton's Parish Council and the Congregational Meeting at All Saints'. It is hoped that it will raise some useful funds for the Church and be an enjoyable event in the vicinity of the old village of Loughton.

In essence, a scarecrow trail is a display of scarecrows built by local people and displayed in prominent positions within their gardens or business premises so that residents and visitors to the village can enjoy looking at them. To guide people around the trail, the positions of all the scarecrows are located on a map and the exhibits are connected together into an efficient circular route that uses public roads and pathways.

An application form is now available on the website of the Loughton Residents Association and should be completed and returned by 1st May 2013 to the organiser Julianne Thom at 7, Lucy

Lane, Loughton, MK5 8EP. The entry fee is £3 for an individual and £10 for a commercial organisation





## Brian Barton new parish clerk

I have been appointed as Parish Clerk for Loughton Parish Council since January 2nd 2013.

I would like to thank my predecessor Jenny Wilcox for her showing me the ropes along with the Chair Cllr Peter Todd, and for the kind welcome that the Councillors have given me whilst I have been finding my feet.

I have recently attended a meeting of the Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group to introduce myself to the community leaders on that body and had an extensive tour of Loughton by Cllr Peter Todd and Great Holm by Cllr Peter Ballantyne which I am grateful for them sparing the time to do so.

I am also grateful to Ken Vaughan the Site Manager of the Specklands Allotment Site on Loughton for giving me a tour showing me the various types of plots and produces being grown by the tenants.

I have worked in the Parish and Town Council sector now for over 12 years as a Committee and Member Services Manager and I am CILCA qualified which is the industry preferred qualification for Parish Clerks, as well as previously having served as an Milton Keynes Councillor, a Parish Councillor, a School Governor and a Board/Committee member of a number of local organisations from the Milton Keynes Museum for Rural Life to the MacIntyre Care.

I am looking forward to the challenge of this new appointment. My career has focussed in local parish administration and I have been interested in doing the senior officer role for quite some time. I think this is an excellent opportunity and I look forward to working with the members of the parish council and local stakeholders to develop further the work of the parish council.

If you have any questions concerning the Parish Council or you wish to contact me to introduce yourself I am always available and can be contacted by the following ways:

c/o 17, Mossdale  
Heelands  
Milton Keynes  
MK13 7NE

Telephone: **07779261364**

Email: **[parish.clerk@loughtonmk-pc.gov.uk](mailto:parish.clerk@loughtonmk-pc.gov.uk)**



## Lexie: the Parish intern

Alexandra Werner (known as “Lexie”) has been working for Loughton Parish Council as an unpaid intern in February and March 2013. She is 21 years old and currently studying a degree in public administration at the University of Passau in Germany.

Lexie has lived in Loughton for a year previously and speaks excellent English. She has been helping the Parish Council with selling advertising for the Parish newsletter, and drafting content for the newsletter. She recently interviewed David Hill and has attended 3 Parish Council meetings. She has also been out and about reporting potholes and graffiti to Mouchel (MK Council’s contractors). She says “It’s been interesting seeing all the different ways in which the Parish Council is working in the local community”

## The Jubilee Graveyard

On 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012 Loughton Parish Council entered an agreement to dedicate in perpetuity the land it had acquired at Pitcher Lane Loughton as a graveyard extension and to be known as the Jubilee Graveyard.

The agreement (with All Saints Church) established a management committee consisting of two Parish Councillors and two Church wardens to oversee the works and manage the new facility which has capacity for 170 burial plots and 190 cremation ashes plots.

The works are now well underway and should be completed by the summer of 2013, so that the first burials can begin. As part of this the graveyard wall is being restored and new gates will be hung. All residents of Loughton and Great Holm at the time of their death (of all religions and none) are eligible to be buried there. Plots may presently be reserved by longstanding residents. After consultation the management committee has now decided on a scheme of charges as follows:-

Right of forthwith interment for a grave of single depth	£750
Right of forthwith interment for a grave of double depth	£1000
Right of interment during next 30 years for a grave of single depth (ie reservation)	£600
Right of interment during next 30 years for a grave of double depth (ie reservation)	£800
Right of forthwith interment of ashes of single depth	£300
Right of forthwith interment of ashes of double depth	£400
Right of interment during next 30 years of ashes of single depth	£240
Right of interment during next 30 years of ashes of double depth	£320
Right to install a grave headstone of approved specification	£250
Right to install a tablet of approved specification on an ashes plot	£100

The 30 year reservation period can be extended for a further 30 years on payment of a nominal administrative charge of £10. The first plots have already been sold and due to the shortage of burial land it is expected to be popular. For enquiries to secure a plot please either contact the Parish Council or the Churchwardens of All Saints Church.



Works underway to restore the graveyard wall

## Application to register Lakeview Green in Great Holm as a Village Green

On 21 May 2012 Loughton Parish Council (LPC) decided to apply to register the land in Great Holm between Chawton Crescent and Gatcombe (known as Lakeview Green) as a village green to protect it from any possible future housing or commercial development. The registration authority for our area is Milton Keynes Council (MKC). As I had attended a course on the issue, I was tasked to take this forward.

In the past it was supposed that because the land covered so many sewers and mains services it would be physically impossible to develop. With the advances in construction technology, this could no longer be guaranteed.

The application required personal evidence of use of the land for at least 20 years. The evidence had to be in the form of written testimony stating that the person had used it for legitimate recreational activities – i.e. sport or leisure. Since the balcony of our flat overlooks the area I can confirm from my own personal knowledge that the statements are true.

Some of the specific activities have included cricket, football, dog exercising and ‘playground’ games. More unusual activities have been flying kites, sledging and snowman building and practicing fly fishing casting.

On 18th June 2012 I submitted the required statements from ten residents, including my wife Joyce and myself. Eventually about three months after delivering it someone actually looked at it and decided that the scale of the map I submitted was slightly wrong (I had missed seeing a tiny margin note about the scale I should have used). The application could not be officially accepted until this was rectified. It was rectified and submitted again. This time it was refused because the map had not been marked as an exhibit to the statutory declaration which I had sworn!! Once again, this was done and re-submitted.

I then had a meeting with a senior solicitor of MKC who officially accepted the registration application as valid – the formal acceptance is dated 16th October 2012. It had taken four months from delivery to acceptance of a valid application form. Section 15 of the 2006 Commons Act had finally come to Milton Keynes for the first time!

Public Notices had now to be displayed for a period of six weeks to allow for any representations to be made. On the last day of this six week period there was an objection – from MILTON KEYNES COUNCIL. Their grounds for objecting were that there was not sufficient evidence of public use and secondly the basis on which the land is held by the local authority.

Following exchanges of letters and emails on 4th January 2013 I rebutted the objection and offered to submit yet more evidence of its community use. I eventually obtained a further eleven written statements from residents and also the ‘Official City Map’ dated 1989 which had a children’s play area marked on that site – surely a clincher I thought.



Cllr Ballantyne thanked everyone for their award but he said that he was accepting it on behalf of all members of the Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group, as they were all one team who worked hard together for the betterment of Loughton and Great Holm.

## Mayor’s Civic Reception

At the Mayor’s Civic Reception, held at the Stadium MK, on Friday 15th March 2013, Cllr Peter Ballantyne along with his wife Joyce Ballantyne were presented with a Community Champions Award Certificate, to thank them both for all their hard work over many years on the Loughton and Great Holm Neighbourhood Action Group.

Cllr Ballantyne and his wife Joyce were one of the first recipients to receive this new award created by the Safer Communities Unit at Milton Keynes Council. The Mayor Cllr Catriona Morris (along with the Milton Keynes Council Safer Community Officers Rob Ward and Denise Brunning) presented the certificate along with a bunch of flowers to Mrs Ballantyne.

On a recent visit to the MK Discovery Centre in Bradwell Abbey, I came across an interesting and relevant document. It was an annex to the minutes of the Planning Control subcommittee of the Borough of Milton Keynes meeting dated 19th August 1987. It was in response to a proposed commercial development in the area.

In reference to the Lodge Lake area it stated “The scale and topography of the area are such that any built development within it would have considerable impact”. It continued with “Furthermore the development would be an unrelated and alien intrusion into this area which would deprive it of the opportunity for park related facilities which are needed to serve the area and the residents of Great Holm”.

I photocopied this document and recently used it in relation to the proposed housing development on the Badminton England site. Armed with this along with the further statements and city map I submitted the ‘further evidence’ letter on 7th March.

At the time of writing (25th March) I am awaiting to hear from MKC about what exactly. They may withdraw their objection. If not, they could decide to hold a public enquiry or they could appoint Counsel to conduct an independent investigation. Ultimately, I understand the issue will go to the Regulatory committee of MKC for an adjudication as to whether the application satisfies the registration criteria. I understand that either party can then call in that decision which if that happens must then be reviewed by the Scrutiny Committee.

If any other residents of Great Holm are able and willing to provide a statement confirming that they have used the land for recreation either for part or preferably for the whole of the last 20 years then they are welcome to contact me so we can submit this in support of the application. I shall keep you updated on the progress and outcome of this application and let’s hope that this land can be preserved as open space for the benefit of recreation and enjoyment by all local residents.

**Cllr Peter Ballantyne**  
(Great Holm Ward)  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2013



Lakeview Green in Great Holm



# MK Parish Precepts in 2013-14

The table below shows the Parish and Town Councils in MK and the Precepts they have set for the financial year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 (based on a band D property). It shows Loughton Parish Council has set one of the lowest precepts in MK. As you can see the average Precept for MK Parishes for this financial year is £62.93. Loughton has one of the lowest precepts in MK, at £32.05 per annum on a band D equivalent property. This is about 50% of the average of MK Parish precepts. Loughton Parish employs less than 1 full time member of staff (the total staff is 0.8 full time equivalent).

Parish Council	Band D per year
Woughton	£150.00
Bletchley & Fenny Stratford	£117.94
West Bletchley	£117.27
Campbell Park	£114.16
Wolverton & Greenleys	£95.00
Woburn Sands	£88.62
Weston Underwood	£78.55
New Bradwell	£66.06
Olney	£65.60
<b>Average</b>	<b>£62.93</b>
Newport Pagnell	£62.80
Old Woughton	£62.78
Hanslope	£61.47
Emberton	£60.00
Stony Stratford	£59.72
Bow Brickhill	£59.22
Castlethorpe	£56.63
Little Brickhill	£55.21
Stantonbury	£53.90
Ravenstone	£53.84
Sherington	£52.25
Bradwell	£51.64
Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe	£51.61
Lavendon	£46.16
Haversham & Little Linford	£44.37
Stoke Goldington	£41.20
Wavendon	£39.12
Shenley Church End	£39.00
Simpson & Ashland	£36.25
Great Linford	£34.08
Central MK	£34.07
Walton	£32.32
<b>Loughton</b>	<b>£32.05</b>
Clifton Reynes & Newton Blossomville	£31.18
Astwood & Hardmead	£31.04
Kents Hill, Monston & Brinklow	£29.12
North Crawley	£22.64
Broughton & Milton Keynes	£20.98
Moulsoe	£18.00

## MK Play Association play sessions come to Loughton Parish

Open access play sessions organised by MK Play Association are being held in Loughton and Great Holm from Easter 2013.

These activities are aimed at children 4 years and up, but everyone is welcome to join in the fun!

Children under 8 should be accompanied by a responsible adult.

# The Millennium Meadow

Loughton's Millennium Meadow (which is owned and managed by MK Council) was designed to be a wildflower meadow. However, for the past few years, MK Council have not carried out the maintenance that is necessary to keep the wildflower meadow in good condition. This has resulted with the amount of wildflowers appearing reducing significantly and the area has become rather forlorn and unloved.

The maintenance necessary is that every year (in the case of annual wildflowers) or every 3 years (for perennials) the area requires rotavation and re-seeding with a plant mix. In the summer weeds need to be sprayed and/or pulled out to reduce them seeding. Then each autumn the flowers need to be cut down and tidied up.

The Parish Council recently held talks with MK Council about how the area could be restored. MK Council's budget is such that it does not have the funds available to restore the meadow. However, on a trial basis a new partnership has been created between the Parish Council and MK Council whereby the Parish Council will fund some restoration works to be carried out by MK Council.

The restoration costs will be £1,450 this year and will include controlling weeds, & rotavation of a number of areas ready for seed planting. A number of different seed mixes are being sourced from Pictorial Meadows Limited – the company which was behind the spectacular wildflowers at the Olympics site last summer.

The children of Loughton School (located opposite the site) are being invited to help with the scattering of the wildflower seeds. This year an annual seed mix should ensure that there will be lots of colour in the summer months – indeed within 8 weeks or so of planting.

The Parish Council is also planning to plant a number of fruit trees in the Millennium Meadow to add further interest. Feedback from residents on these initiatives would be welcomed.



Wild flowers in the meadow

Open access sessions involve sports, games and messy crafts, so please dress appropriately.

There is no need to register in advance, simply turn up on the day.

The Easter sessions are on Tuesdays 10am to 12.30am (2nd April and 9th April) in Loughton at the Loughton sports ground and on Thursdays 2pm to 4.30pm (4th and 11th April) in Great Holm (next to the Meeting Place)

All the sessions are being funded by Loughton Parish Council

We look forward to seeing you all out – hopefully in the sunshine!

# The Loughton Conservation Area

The Loughton Conservation Area was established in 1978 to preserve and enhance this area of special architectural and historical interest. The character statement is intended to identify and define what is special about the area. Government guidance states that this statement should be reviewed regularly to ensure the relevance and effectiveness of the statement.

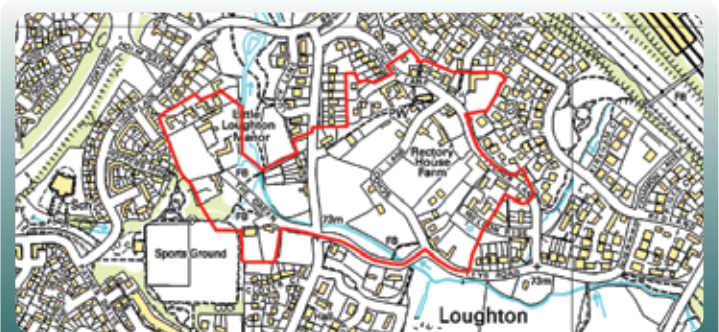
The character statement for Loughton has not however been reviewed since it was originally written in 1977 despite considerable change over that time. In 2012 Loughton Parish Council commissioned a review to be written of the character statement by Peter Howard, a local architect. Work on this project is now well underway and the result of this review will shortly be sent for consultation to all property owners and tenants within the conservation area (and proposed extended area). It will also be published on the Parish website so that all interested local residents can read and comment on it.

It is proposed by this review that the size of the conservation area is enlarged as shown so that it includes

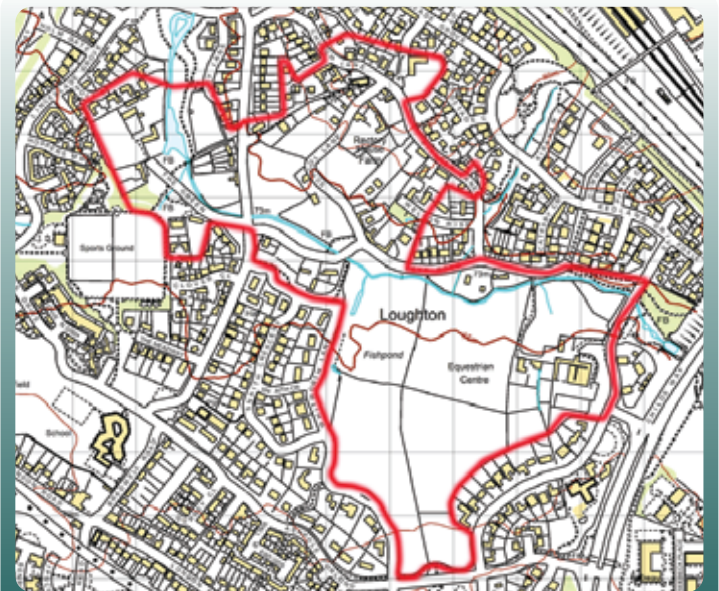
- The linear park and paddock between Lucy Lane and Little Loughton Manor. This is all part of the linear park, but deserves inclusion because it contributes to the setting of Little Loughton Manor and Fuller's Barn.
- Buildings and land between Leys Road and Whitworth Lane. The proposed use of Whitworth Lane as the new conservation area boundary draws attention to the fact that this length of Leys Road forms part of the original historic settlement.
- Loughton Manor Equestrian Centre, including its buildings and land. In addition to a fine mid-Victorian farmhouse and suite of farm buildings, this also includes a scheduled ancient monument, original hedgerows, field patterns and ridge and furrow. In the context of the development of Milton Keynes this is a remarkable survival, and an important part of the history of Loughton parish. The open land also affords fine views of Loughton village and its context.

These inclusions will help to retain the sense of openness and the rural quality once imparted by the presence of the surrounding fields and meadows.

In addition it is proposed to consult on the making of a direction under Article 4(2) of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 within the Conservation Area. These permitted development rights have recently been relaxed by the government so that without such a direction development could proceed unchecked and quickly erode the special interest of the conservation area. Householders could still develop with planning permission if they wanted to. All interested residents should look out for this consultation which will happen before the summer of 2013.



The existing conservation area



The extended conservation area

## New children's play area at Loughton Sports Ground

Residents are aware that the Parish Council has been working on a project to install a new play area at the Loughton sports ground site.

An application to WREN for a grant has been successful. WREN make grants from funds generated from the landfill tax. The grant total is £70,932.83. This will be supplemented by funds from both MK Council and Loughton Parish Council to cover the costs of purchase of the new equipment and installation.



A design for the site has been prepared and put out to competitive tender. The winning tender came from the Children's Playground Company Limited which produced the tender which most closely matched the design and came within the available budget.

The existing area will be substantially replaced with new equipment including :-

- A basket swing
- A carousel
- A cradle swing
- A multi climbing unit (pictured)
- A pendular seesaw
- A picnic table
- A play ship
- A seesaw
- A springer

all of which will be of robinia wood. This is a natural wood which is very heavy and considerably more solid than oak

Works are expected to start on site in June 2013 with completion currently expected by the end of July 2013. An opening ceremony will be held and local people (especially children!) will be invited to come and celebrate their new play area.



# Loughton Parish Council online residents’ survey 2013

The Parish Council established this online survey as a way of listening to the views and concerns of local residents about their area.

The online survey can be accessed from the home page of the website and so far since 7th January 2013 42 parish residents have used it (29 from Loughton and 13 from Great Holm)

The issues flagged up so far by local residents in their words are as follows:

- New housing in Loughton taking up the green space. Lack of allotments
- Lack of gritting on paths/redways in snow/ice
- Litter & Rubbish. Full dog bins or not in some areas (I'm not a dog owner). Deteriorating Speed bumps. Parking mayhem at school time
- Cars parked on the pavement on relatively quiet streets for no good reason and rubbish bags left out all week.
- Street lighting and gritting of the path from the top of Kirkham Court to the footbridge over the A5 and Railway.
- Currently - the planning application by Badminton England that will ruin Lodge Lake forever. Ongoing - noise and poor behaviour in the community centre car park behind my house.
- Pavement repair needed between 59-61 Linceslade Grove. No salt after available two falls on footpath requiring hospital treatment. The redway was cleared/salted but not the footpath.
- Litter State of roads, pavements and redways
- Traffic
- Lack of lighting on redway bridge over A5 near Bignell Croft. This leaves pedestrians and cyclists in a dangerous situation as it is impossible to see obstacles, potholes etc in the long winter nights. It is very dangerous during heavy snowfall as it is impossible to see the depth of the snow and have nearly fallen over on many occasions. It is particularly obvious when compared to the 2nd redway bridge over the A5 whcih has no less than 5 lamp posts along a similar length.
- Nothing very major. Rubbish dropped in the street Loud, aggressive disruptive behaviour in the street - very rarely Building and planning. Parking around Loughton School at pick up and drop off - very dangerous
- Parking on London Road
- Graffiti, litter and vandalism
- Noise from the railway as the bank was never returned to the original height
- Parking
- Litter around the shops
- The school run (Loughton Middle) Bradwell Road. Some parents insist on blocking the flow of traffic by dropping their children at the main entrance to the school and causing mayhem for about one hour.
- Stratfield leisure centre development and the green next to it
- Building of over-sized houses on any remaining building plots. 2) Building on Badminton Centre and adjoining land at a density that is out of keeping with the rest of Loughton. 3) Insufficient parking spaces associated with new builds.
- residents parking on the street instead of their drives. The top part of Gatcombe is awash with commercial vehicles and badly parked cars making visibility insufficient for safe driving.
- Gritting the pedestrian bridge over the M5/railway (the La Hind one) - it is incredibly dangerous and icy for days after snowfall. (2) Put small fence next to entrance to same foot bridge loughton side - a gap in the shrubs is now quite large onto a steep incline straight onto the a5 and very dangerous should a young child slip.
- Potential loss of green space with disposal of parks trust land in Loughton.
- Cars parking on verges
- The parking situation. Emails to MKC receive no response. The commercial vehicles parked on Ashpole Furlong which cause congestion and block the view of oncoming traffic - especially the one which seems to be permanently parked close to the corner of Bradwell Road.
- Litter and graffiti.
- Neighbours leaving rubbish bags out all week / at the wrong

- times. The unevenness of the path around the sports ground in Loughton (the one by the sports and social group) - ends up with mud and puddles making it difficult to use as decent walking route, especially for people with prams or wheelchairs.
- Although not seeming to cause any problems I don't like having the kebab van that has started appearing in the evenings next to Loughton First School.
  - Rubbish, Graffiti, General untidiness/lack of maintenance, Dangerous and thoughtless parking.

In answer to the question “**what would most improve your neighbourhood**”, residents said :-

- Stopping dangerous regular parking such as (Specklands-Loughton School) Cars now park on the junction in Speck lands Road making it a "head on" on a daily basis. Plus ensuring we keep Loughton green and fight development.
- Perhaps local events that bring people together
- Clean street name signs - cut back vegetation that is obscuring them.
- People not walking dogs they can't control or refusing to clean up after their dogs.
- Less litter and more lighting.
- Don't let the MK Council give away any land to any commercial organisation that will end up blighting our beautiful landscape. This is not NIMBY - Milton Keynes works because it was painstakingly planned and if the ruination of that plan continues then the advantages of living in Milton Keynes diminsh considerably.
- More litter bins especially round Lodge Lake
- General traffic, noise levels, pollution and kept green areas
- Provision of waste bins along the redways and paths in the park area in Loughton. 2) Cutting back more of the over grown hedges and bushes along the redways and footpaths. There has already been a good amount of work and effort on this but it needs to be expanded.
- More community involvement. Joint community actions. Scarecrows event seems a good start.
- Getting on top of the endemic graffiti problem in the area.
- Sort out the parking
- Smarter looking shops
- The old cookie, convince the children and adults that pass through Loughton to take their litter home with them.
- Gritting of redways
- Regular pruning of shrubs at edges of paths. 2) Dog owners placing bags of their dog's excrement in the dog hygiene bins.
- Streetlamps on rather than off (I know this is being addressed)
- 20 mph speed limit.
- Litter bins (regularly emptied) around Lodge Lake and near car parks.
- Although I wouldn't say litter is a particular problem it could always be improved.
- The Parish Council encouraging a sense of pride in the local inhabitants and thereby improve quality of living in Great Holm, e.g. promoting community spirit/activities.

In answer to the question “**how satisfied are you with the work of Loughton Parish Council**”, the response was

Very Disatisfied	0%
Not very satisfied	13.8%
Satisfied	41.4%
Quite satisfied	34.5%
Very satisfied	10.3%

- And residents commented
- The magazine/leaflets on what the council is doing, keeps the community up to date. Realise not a lot of money and majority only have a passing interest.
  - I know little of what they do
  - The Parish council is active and gets things done.
  - I am not aware of what they do!
  - They try their best but everything takes so long to get anywhere that a lot of issues fall by the wayside.
  - I think you should have been much stronger with Badminton England and represented the views of the people present in the room who vote for you at elections. Instead you voted based on your own personal opinion. As elected councillors it is my belief, and was the belief of several of those present, that it is your job to reflect the views of the people.

- To call an Extraordinary Meeting and then disregard the over whelming view of those present, isn't really doing your job properly.
- There were many restrictions on the plots for the new bungalows in Bradwell Road/Linceslade Grove, so it was very disapointing to have a number of Members of the Parish Council voting in favour of the 104 new properties on the Badminton Centre site. The plots were approx a third of an acre and four parking spaces had to be made available. How many restrictions are there going to be on the new development? Are there going to be any properties available for younger wheelchair people as there seem to be very few in Milton Keynes?
  - Up to now I haven't heard too much about what the parish council has done
  - Nothing to complain about
  - Too much fence sitting on the "development "
  - Generally, Loughton is a clean, tidy and safe environment where the majority of residents take pride in their houses and surroundings.
  - Well, they could do more, if they had more community involvement! Sorry I haven't done much.
  - The council has been largely invisible and the work they do is not clear to me.
  - Having contact with some of the Councillors and the Parish Council I am aware that a lot of work goes on to the benefit of the local community. Keep up the good work.
  - Time taken to progress issues, e.g. new dog hygiene bin, is measured in months rather than weeks. 2) My impression of the focus of meetings, from 2012 minutes, appears to be on the mechanics of running the parish council rather than dealing with the issues.
  - Having read many of the minutes of the Parish Council Meetings, the council appear to be very left wing and negative about development in the Parish.
  - Level of communication is high and interaction is measured and impressive (as judged by your work on proposed refurb of local playgrounds etc)
  - I think a lot of progress has been made over the last couple of years with a much more professional approach to the role. This is particularly well demonstrated with the obtaining of more funds to carry out projects as well as in my case the excellent support at Loughton Allotments. Enhanced communication with the Newsletter and Email News are very good. The setting up of NAGS has also been worthwhile.
  - Members are volunteers and its always difficult to get things progressed at any type of speed, so I'm pleased the Parish Council is being more active than it used to be.
  - Although not perfect Great Holm looks a lot more tidier and cared for than many other comparable estates.

Thanks to all those who have taken part – your contributions are useful. We would welcome more residents to use the survey to bring issues in your area to our attention.

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# The Electoral Review by the Boundary Commission on MK Council Wards

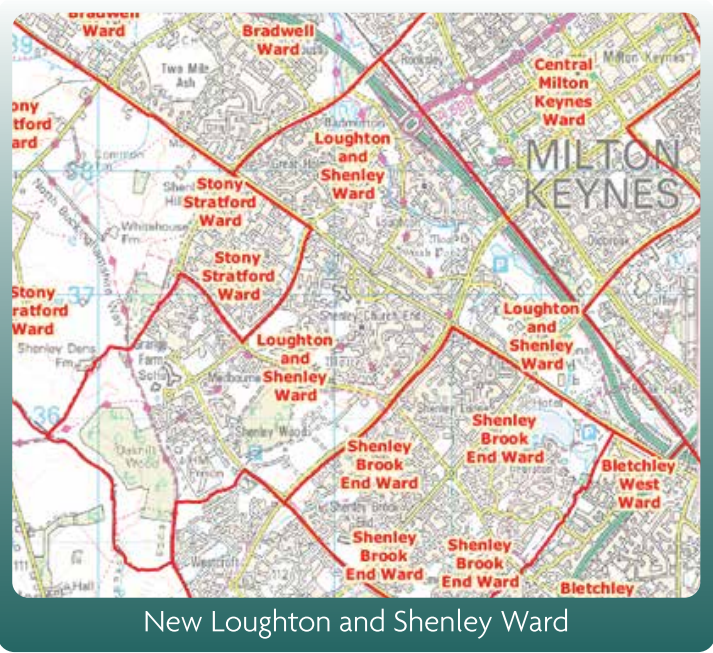
The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is an independent body that conducts electoral reviews of local authority areas. The broad purpose of an electoral review is to decide on the appropriate electoral arrangements of the number of councillors, and the names, number and boundaries of wards or divisions for the MK Council local authority.

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England also has to try to deliver electoral equality for voters; reflect local community interests and identities, and to promote effective and convenient local government.

The Local Government Boundary Commission is presently conducting an electoral review of MK Council to provide improved levels of electoral equality across the authority. The Commission has agreed with MK Council's submission that there should be a total of 57 Councillors (six more than there are at present) all having three member wards and to be elected in thirds so that most areas will have elections taking place every year.

So how will the review affect the present Loughton Park Ward that you live in? At present the current ward known as Loughton Park comprises Loughton, Loughton Lodge, Great Holm, Shenley Church End, Crownhill, Medbourne, Grange Farm, Knowlhill and the National Bowl. This has made Loughton Park one of the largest wards within MK Council.

The proposal by the Commission is to put the Crownhill area into the Stony Stratford ward. They propose to rename the remaining ward “Loughton and Shenley”. The new ward will look like this.



Loughton Parish Council has recently made a submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England supporting incorporation of the entire Loughton Parish Council area boundary within a single ward.

The Commission is not proposing to change the number of Parish Councillors or the boundaries of Loughton Parish Council. The full report is available to download at [www.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.lgbce.org.uk)

The next local elections for MK Council will be held in May 2013 when the whole Council is up for election. All three seats in the new ward will be contested. The current political balance on MK Council is no overall control with a minority Conservative administration. Conservatives have 19 members, Labour 16, Lib Dems 15 & UKIP 1