

# Tariff Community Involvement Programme Update

## July - September 2015

This document summaries our Community Involvement programme, and sets out some of the issues and interests we are hearing from residents in the Eastern Expansion Area (EEA) and Tattenhoe Park.

12 residents begin CAP training

### Highlights From This Quarter

#### Community Engagement



WEA Walking Tour attended by 42 people

- In the EEA we supported the summer activities programme, which was mainly led by local agencies and residents. These events included the Broughton Olympics, and a series of activities for families with special needs. We recorded 257 attendances across these events.
- We began our Community Accelerator Programme (CAP) which aims to train up to 12 residents in running community activities.
- We ran a series of summer Pop Ups in Tattenhoe Park to engage with local residents. This was supported by the Youth Leader at Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe Parish Council.
- We made links with Priory Rise School and are planning a series of partnership events for the community.
- In the WEA we are in discussions with a local church about coordinating the arrivals programme.

#### Sector Wide Support and Information

- We met with 6 voluntary and community organisations and agencies to discuss MK's expansion and how it may affect local groups. This included MK Play Association, Works for Us, Citizens Advice Bureau, a local residents group and a faith organisation.
- With support from Gallagher Estates, we ran 2 walks in Area 10 of the WEA. 42 people attended representing a range of community groups and agencies as well as interested residents.
- We shared information on growth with 479 subscribers of Growth Gossip.

#### Grants

- MK Community Foundation made 3 grants; to help fund play activities in the EEA; a 'start the art' project which provides outreach support to residents; and part-funding towards an 'arts for health' programme which will run for 3 years.

£9082 awarded in grants

# Tattenhoe Park & Kingsmead South

## What have we been hearing from residents in Tattenhoe Park?

Over the summer we ran an event attended by around 20 local people. A few of the mums attending told us that they still didn't feel like they knew many people in their community and there wasn't much to do in the area without travelling. The phrase 'the area is like a ghost town' was mentioned a few times - there is no central focal point for people to meet, and people tend to drive in and out of the estate.

The residents would like to see more activities for children, although they recognise that without access to a community space, this can be very weather dependent.

Some residents wanted to know when the shops and Pavilion would be built. Many had heard rumours but said there was no one central point of information.

Some residents expressed concern about the level of fly tipping in the area - many commented on the mess left by builders (broken fences, blades being left on the road, dangerous scaffolding etc). We also saw signs of some fly tipping during a walk about - particularly on Bronte Avenue. This was reported to MKC.



Concerns over fly tipping and dangerous fencing close the park on Hayton Way Council



One resident strongly disliked the metal cages outside her house as she and her children keep catching themselves

Josan visited Priory Rise School who are very keen to get more engaged with the local community. Many residents we spoke to praised the school for their community engagement and said they were a key point of information in the community, and the school is keen to strengthen these relationships. The Head, Sue Cox, told us of some of the concerns shared with her by residents: most focused around poor walking access to the school (the main walking route between the houses and school wasn't open at this point).

The school are keen to work in partnership, and Josan is attending a number of events they have organised over the coming months, as well as running an Xmas event in early December at the school.

The Parish Council has also been a very strong link and we have built a particularly strong relationship with their Youth Leader. We have since worked with him and the school, and were recently interviewed on film by some Year 6 boys who were interested in our roles. The boys told us they would like to see more activities for older children - mainly sports and community-wide activities such as fun days. Josan is talking to the Parish about organising a family fun day in the New Year.

# Broughton Gate and Brooklands

## What have we been hearing from residents in Broughton Gate and Brooklands?

Our team of Community Arrivals workers have continued to welcome new residents, this time in the areas around the north end of the site (Ark Royal and Mary Rose). Most of the issues picked up during arrivals visits related to repairs and snagging issues in people's homes, so our team signposted them back to developers.

Several householders expressed concerns about the development of around 50 houses, hotels and allotments planned for the Brooklands Gateway area. Residents were particularly concerned about the access road leading into this site, and its ability to cope with the volume of traffic passing through. Residents have asked whether communication about plans for this site could be improved - maybe via the local Facebook pages. We are following up with the developers to see how we can share information with the community.

More recently we have also picked up concerns about Countess Way and the increased volume of traffic since the road opened up by Brooklands Farm School Campus 2.

The other concern commonly cited by residents is that lots of the newly built houses in Brooklands are being bought as buy-to-let and are often left standing empty for long periods of time. One resident told us that this had led to the outside space being very overgrown, and did not make for a nice community.

The final concern we picked up was around the changes to the management and running of the local children's centres (as part of the Cultural and Community Services Review). The Hummingbirds Advisory Board had worries that the centre would not have the same community feel if it was taken on by the school - a view felt by some other advisory boards in MK.

Our Community Accelerator Programme (CAP) began in late September and the volunteers attending the training are finding the sessions useful. One told us that *'I feel a lot more confident since starting this'* and attendees are already identifying ways they can use their new skills to benefit their community.

Volunteers have started a second Parent and Toddler Group at the new school campus. The ladies running the P&T at campus 1 decided they would like to extend their services, and with discussions with Josan and the school they have been able to run an additional group once a week.



Some of the EEA's younger residents enjoying a summer activity organised by the community

# Impact Case Study: Start the Art!

In late June Josan, Community Mobiliser for Broughton Gate and Brooklands, was contacted by Jonny Hill, Early Years Learning Coordinator for MK Gallery. The gallery were keen to have a presence in this new area, recognising people living in the new community has the potential to feel quite isolated and lack the usual connections with family and friends.

They approached Josan with the idea of extending their already successful Start the Art project, a project aimed at providing arts activities for parents and toddlers to 'explore the joys of art through multi-sensory activities, including painting, drawing and mark-making'.

Through introductions from Josan, the school and Gallery agreed to accommodate the programme at the new Brooklands Farm School Campus 2. The school were keen to make stronger connections with the gallery so the project has been mutually beneficial.

The project was officially launched in November and will run for 6 months. The project aims to benefit 450 children and parents in the EEA. To help them cover the cost of this project, MK Gallery successfully secured a grant of £1500 from the New Communities Fund.

Josan popped along to the second session of the project which was attended by 25 people. During this session the school arts teacher, Ria, told Josan how overwhelmed she was with the success of the programme and thanked Josan for helping to get this started. The sessions are proving so popular they are by reservation only!

Jonny and Ria are now planning a multicultural arts event for 2016.

This all started with a simple conversation but shows the importance of having someone there in communities to foster links and make introductions.



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