

# Tariff Community Involvement Programme Update

## October - December 2015

This document summarises our Community Involvement programme, and sets out some of the issues and interests we are hearing from residents in the Eastern Expansion Area (EEA). This report also includes dialogues about the Western Expansion Area (WEA), from potential residents of the new area and from people and organisations living and operating in nearby areas.

**272 people  
attended the  
WEA Public  
Exhibition**

### Highlights From This Quarter



**7 residents  
completed CAP  
pilot courses**

#### Community Engagement

- Organised the WEA Public Exhibition
- Engaged with approx. 30 residents about the WEA at the Stony Apple Day (left)
- Delivered the pilot of Community Accelerator Programme (CAP) to train EEA residents in running community events
- Took part in an interview about Tattenhoe Park by children at Priory Rise School for a film project organised by Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Council
- Completed our annual film about life in the Expansion Areas

#### Sector Wide Support and Information

- 483 subscribers to our Growth Gossip newsletter
- We delivered two 1:1 advice sessions with voluntary groups about growth plans in MK and what opportunities are available to them
- Talked to groups at the Community Action: MK AGM about the impact of growth and potential opportunities

#### Grants

- 3 grants totalling £3339 made to projects supporting the community. These included setting up a group for children and young people on the autism spectrum, funding for half term activities and money to support a film network

**£3339  
awarded in  
grants**

# Western Expansion Area (WEA)

## What have we been hearing about the Western Expansion Area?

We recorded 17 dialogues over the last quarter about the WEA. These were mainly collected at the WEA Public Exhibition and Stony Stratford Apple Day.

The most commonly recorded 'keywords' for the dialogues we collected last quarter were:

17  
dialogues



Interested residents at the WEA Exhibition

**Awareness** - people were keen to find out when facilities would be provided in the area. Of particular concern were the health facilities and capacity and catchment areas of the new schools. Some of these queries were addressed at the WEA Public Exhibition, and we have continued to provide information to the community via email and Facebook when possible. People have also been encouraged to sign up to Growth Gossip for updates, and we have contacted Gallaghers about running some more walking tours as these were particularly popular. We will continue to signpost people to information and will make links with the WEA website once it is up and running.

**Roads** - Traffic and congestion on the V4 was talked about a lot as people were concerned that the area would be unable to cope with the additional traffic from the WEA once people began to move in. There was also one reported incident of builders breaking the morning curfew. This was signposted to the relevant developer and we have not recorded any further dialogue about this issue to date. People were also interested in finding out about the provision and timescales of crossing points on the V4.

**Homes** - We had comments about the the lack of affordable and smaller homes. We also had enquiries about shared ownership and housing association homes. Josan has since made contact with a housing association provider to see how we can work together.

Residents also showed concern about the strain on services in Stony Stratford (particularly access to schools and GPs) as the new housing would be built long before services were provided in the WEA.

# Broughton Gate and Brooklands (EEA)

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

The most commonly recorded 'keywords' for dialogues recorded last quarter were:

Libraries (34), Children's Centre (24) and Volunteering (12). However it should be noted that over the last 3 months we have been doing some intensive engagement with residents in the area about their experience of children's centres, libraries and youth services which will have influenced the keywords most recorded.



86  
dialogues

The issues identified about the EEA were mostly focused around speeding and heavy traffic on Fen Street, particularly at rush hour. The residents are already in touch with the Councillors for the area over this issue.

We also recorded several issues regarding problems with people's properties - these people were all advised to contact their respective developers about as this is not something we could take action on.

Residents continue to show interest in the plans and timescales for community facilities - particularly Brooklands Square and the permanent health facility. Our Arrivals team gave an update on this and encouraged residents to join the area's Facebook page to stay up to date.

We had 4 residents who particularly commented on how much they liked living in Brooklands and how welcoming they found the community to be. One lady had lived in Brooklands for 4 weeks but had been invited to Halloween parties and invited to be an organiser of the next Big Lunch. Hannah, one of our Arrivals team and a local resident, has been actively involved in organising the Big Lunch in previous years so she was able to share her experience of organising such an event, and applying to New Communities Fund for support. A few residents also expressed an interest in volunteering so were signposted to Josan (Community Mobiliser) or the Do-it website which lists volunteer vacancies.

# Impact Case Study: CAP

During this quarter we ran a pilot of our Community Accelerator Programme, funded by the MK Community Foundation. The idea of this programme was to develop the skills, knowledge and confidence of local residents to run their own community activities. We offered a suite of workshops including Interpersonal Skills, First Aid, Food Hygiene and Running events. We had 12 people sign up to take part in the programme, and 7 of these completed at least two thirds of the workshops on offer.

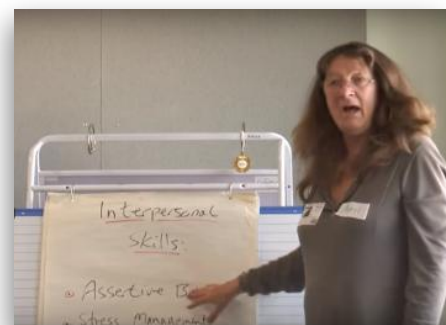
Every resident that completed an end of project evaluation saw an increase in their skills, confidence and knowledge of running community events. Some attendees already ran local activities but felt the training would help them to improve and build on what they were already doing. One resident identified the need for further training on overseeing inflatable (bouncy castles) and is in touch with MK Play Association to organise some training for the community with funding from the New Communities Fund. For some, it gave them the chance to explore how they may become more active in the community - one resident is now looking to volunteer more when her daughter starts school in the autumn.

We are now exploring whether this is an effective model to increase participation in community events.

## Case Study:

A young mother of three small boys was very quiet and said she wished to improve her confidence. She was interested in the CAP workshops and was encouraged by the Community Mobiliser to attend. She completed all the workshops, passing the accredited ones and felt very proud of herself! "Its given me more confidence and a lot more knowledge"

Following on from this, she and her husband want to get more involved in volunteering and are looking forward to helping others. In December she and her husband organised a community collection of toys which they donated to a local charity.



Tutor delivering a session on Interpersonal Skills for the CAP pilot

**COMMUNITY  
ACTION: MK**