



## Monkston Park Bulletin

Welcome to the third edition of the Monkston Park Bulletin. This issue keeps you up-to-date with what's happening in this community and what your Parish Council is doing. Monkston Park has 624 households and represents 20% of all domestic residences within the boundaries of the Parish Council. As your Monkston Park based Councillors, our aim is to keep you fully informed of what is happening in our community and discuss the issues that concern us all. We want to encourage as many residents as possible to think about what they want from this community and, more importantly, to tell us about them.

### **AM I BOVVERED?**

**YES I AM - ARE YOU?** Do you care about where we live? Many of us feel that Monkston Park is a really great place to live, but we ALL need to look after it! Let's build a community that really cares. **PLEASE** don't put up with anti-social behaviour, litter and vandalism. Join us in making post code MK10 the best address in Milton Keynes!

**WHAT CAN WE DO?** Look after your own property – don't leave things unlocked, please don't leave litter and please contact us if things are bothering you!

We can't keep this estate clean and crime free on our own – there is strength in numbers. If we all just 'look the other way' and don't bother to get involved, then those who want to destroy our lovely environment will win. **Don't let them!!!!**

**Also, have a look at the Crime Statistics article for some more detail!**

**Allotments** – Is your name on the waiting list? Are you anxious to get started on your allotment?

There have been problems with the legal process of handing over the land to the Parish Council to administer. Once the land is legally ours, then you will be allocated your plot. As the Parks Trust has cut back all the shrubs surrounding the allotments, we now have to look at providing some security screening. We are trying to get this done as soon as we can, but it will not stop your getting started on your plot.

**WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE HANDOVER WILL BE REALLY SOON!**

**Summer Fete** - This year, your Parish Council are organising the first ever Kents Hill, Monkston and Monkston Park Summer Fete, on Saturday 10th July. As we haven't yet got a Community Centre, the fete is going to be held on Monkston Green. Please mark the date in your diary, and let's make this a great community event!

### **Road Adoption & Landscaping**

Various landscaping works have been carried out recently, including planting trees and shrubs at the entrance to Monkston Park and on the verges. Land drains have been sunk in the Village Green. This will enable rain water to feed into the pond. Also an overflow pipe has been connected from the pond to the river, so that the pond will not overflow, and there will be a flow of water through the pond – it will no longer be a stagnant puddle!

Also, a ditch has been dug around the Green to stop people parking on it and churning up the grass. We are now waiting for the landscaping to be finished, and then the maintenance of the green will be transferred to the Parks Trust. Please help to keep the area clean – let's encourage the wildlife and not endanger it with litter.

Over recent months the roads, red ways, footpaths, lighting and signage have been completed and the adoption process with MK Council is well underway.

**Parking** – Little new can be said about parking in Monkston Park! The hard truth is that the building standards for car facilities were at their most severe during the time when this estate was built. Realising their mistake, central government have now relaxed this policy. However, this does not help us.

We can, however, do many things to ease the problems and minimise neighbourhood problems. Please do not park on footpaths, verges or chicanes, across driveways, on bends, and across junctions. All these actions are illegal and the Police will be asked to deal with these incidences.

You may have heard, or read in the local media, about the Footpath & Verge Parking By-law that is being introduced across Milton Keynes. At the moment – because the roads are not yet formally adopted – this does not apply to Monkston Park, but be warned - we will, if necessary, apply for sanctions in known 'hotspots'.

**It's up to you! Please park sensibly and legally at all times.**

**New Play Facilities** - Thank you to those who gave your opinions in the consultation about play facilities in Monkston Park. A number of sites in the Ouzel Valley Linear Park have now been identified. Some 'natural' play equipment has been chosen which should blend in well with the surroundings, and will be placed at intervals throughout the parkland. Natural play equipment makes use of young people's imagination. Work is due to start shortly.

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**Play Sessions** - MKPA run these sessions, which the Parish Council run, throughout the school holiday periods.

We would like to have your feedback on these sessions so that the next time we can make them better!

It is important that these sessions are both rewarding and stimulating and, also value for money.

**Please let us know what you think!**

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**Street Play/Ball Games** - Playing in the road, cycling at speed on footpaths, and playing ball games are extremely dangerous practices.

It's a sad fact that the days we 'oldies' remember when playing in the street was the norm have now long passed! The roads on Monkston Park are narrow, and footpaths in some places non-existent. Residents do not always park responsibly, and these things make our streets dangerous places for young children, and inappropriate places for older kids to play football.

We have a play area, a large Village Green and there is more play equipment on the way. Please encourage your children to use these facilities, where they can keep safe and not cause damage or nuisance.

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**Construction Traffic** - Construction traffic servicing the building site at the end of Queensbury Lane can only use H7 for entry and exit.

MK Council and the developer have agreed that correctly worded signs will be re-erected to stop vehicles coming through narrow streets, waking shift workers and placing our children at risk.

If you see one - please let us know!

**Monkston Park Crime Stats – NOTE:**

The Parish Council website now publishes crime and anti-social behaviour data for our parish. But be warned it doesn't make good reading! Remember, house & car insurance premiums are linked to postcodes and these figures have a big impact on what you pay!

We are dismayed to find that there are people living on Monkston Park who clearly do not appreciate that we live in a beautiful part of MK. **DON'T LET THE FEW MAKE LIFE A MISERY FOR THE REST OF US!**

PLEASE check your doors, check windows, make sure you lock things away. Park your car as close to your garage as possible – this prevents anyone breaking in to your garage. Don't leave your car engine running while you pop back into the house! **A few simple precautions can make all the difference.**

**And PLEASE, please, please report any problems. Don't put up with anti-social behaviour – remember if you stand by and do nothing, then you are as good as condoning the behaviour!**

Join the local Neighbourhood Action Group, or start a Neighbourhood Watch in your street. Contact Gwen or Robert for further details.

***Please help us to make Monkston Park a better place!***

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**Community Centre** - This new building is now well under way, and hopefully will be open in September. Look out for news of the grand opening!

The centre will be run by Hertsmere Leisure Group – a non profit making charity – and at this early stage we are looking for residents who would like to be involved in looking at how the Centre will be organised, and what sort of activities should happen there. Please contact us, or Amanda Wilmot, our Parish Clerk, and let her know if you are interested. If you don't get involved, then we might not provide the activities which YOU would like to see.

**Environmental Visual Audits** take place every quarter in Monkston Park. These are 'walkabouts' - that Thames Valley Police, Parish Councillors, MK Council officers, and – most importantly – interested residents do - to identify areas that need improvement or action. Our scope is wide – covering litter/rubbish, vandalism, graffiti, parking behaviour, landscaping, problems with neighbours, and many other issues that can effect our quality of life.

The next EVA will be completed on 18th May at 6 pm. In the summer months we start at the Local Centre (outside Budgens) so **please come along and have your say!** It is your chance to tell us, or show us your concerns!  
**Help make a difference!**

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**Drinking Control Area** – just a reminder with the summer months coming! Monkston Park is a designated Drinking Control Area. This means that a police officer can require you not to drink in public and this may result in the alcohol being confiscated and a Penalty Notice of Disorder issued. This is anti-social behaviour and could cost offenders between £50 - £80 and even a fine to the maximum of £500. Signage is already up but more will follow!

Please make sure all family members are aware of this restriction and the penalties involved.

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**Please Remember: Anti-social behaviour** can ruin lives. It doesn't just make life unpleasant and spoil our quality of life; it can, sometimes, create an environment where more serious crime can take hold.

What we ask is that if you see any acts of vandalism, rowdy behaviour, graffiti tagging, witness underage drinking, see inappropriate behaviour, or experience nuisance from your neighbours tell the Police, SaferMK unit, or let us know.

***and ...keep the Noise down !***

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**HAVE YOUR SAY...** Want to make a complaint? Have you got a concern or a really good suggestion? There are many ways that you can contact us - details are below:-

<b>Gwen Corbett</b>  01908 691956 - 4 Dalston End Email - <a href="mailto:gwen@kentshill-monkston.pc.org.uk">gwen@kentshill-monkston.pc.org.uk</a>	<b>Robert Barnes</b>  01908 242488 - 23 Queensbury Lane Email - <a href="mailto:robert@kentshill-monkston.pc.org.uk">robert@kentshill-monkston.pc.org.uk</a>
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