

Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council Chair Report May 2022.

Residents and fellow Councillors, I am pleased to be able to say that we are now back in full swing and working towards delivering much needed services within the Parish. Back in June 2021, the Government allowed permitted face-to-face meetings to resume after the pandemic, albeit under very strict guidelines. Whilst remote meetings have their uses and purposes, being able to sit down and discuss matters in person regarding the Parish Council is by far the best way forward.

Since resuming our face-to-face meetings we have been able to complete several important tasks. We have finally seen the play area at Ulverscroft being replaced with a new set of equipment, which will provide hours of safe fun for the children in the area. This project has been completed with the assistance of Milton Keynes Council. My thanks should also go to Cllr Jenni Ferrans for her work in doing this.

We have also seen the pond at Sweetlands Corner in Kents Hill cleaned of the debris that had accumulated over the years. Hopefully, this is something that will not happen again for a long time. A new waste bin has also been provided in this area, to encourage those using the picnic tables to clean up after themselves. to keep the area tidy.

Both above of these projects were as the result of residents contacting the Parish to highlight an issue, and raise an issue and to those residents who did, we are both grateful and pleased to have been able to deal with their concerns and suggestions.

This last 12 months has also seen the installation of our first defibrillator, which is on the Church at Kents Hill. Our thanks must go to the Rev Ruth Gookley for her assistance in providing the wall location onto which the defibrillator is fixed. Hopefully, if it is ever needed, it will make the difference between life and death.

This summer we celebrate the Queen's Jubilee. In recognition of this, the Parish were provided with several new trees that have been planted around the Parish. These came from Milton Keynes Council, and we are pleased to see them as an addition to the open spaces on which they have been planted. The Parish also purchased new trees, which have also been planted.

On the green at Monkston Park, the Parish have installed two new benches, and my thanks go to Councillor Paul Grindley for working with The Parks Trust in having these installed. The Parish has asked the residents for other locations they would like to see benches provided, and our recent Newsletter has a survey asking for ideas and locations. So hopefully, in the very near future more benches will be installed.

Over the next couple of years, the Parish will monitor the current Landscaping contract provided by Milton Keynes Council. This is to see whether there will be any benefit to us in taking over the running of the landscape contract, which entails maintenance of the grass areas and shrubs within the Parish. This will be a huge undertaking and one that will not be taken lightly. Milton Keynes Council are providing all the Parishes in the City with details of how to manage their own landscape contracts, which includes, including

costings and service levels etc. Some of the other larger Parishes already manage control their own landscaping contracts.

You will have noticed that I referred to The City in the last paragraph, as we are all aware that finally, as part of the Queen's Jubilee celebrations, we are Milton Keynes at long last, been awarded a city status..

Our long-awaited Film event is due to take place shortly, after having to be postponed last year due to the threat of lightning. I hope this is the success it deserves to be. My thanks go to Cllr Glen Dersley for his continued help in organising this with Monkston Primary School and The Friends of Monkston Primary School.

The next 12 months will also be filled taken up with looking out for our residents and providing them with support where needed. Cllr Taimyr Bounou-Pouaty is looking at proposing fitness classes for those who will benefit from them. such activities.

I must also offer my congratulations to Cllr Lou Fisher who has recently been co-opted as a Parish Councillor on the Milton Keynes Standards Committee. A position that I hope gives Cllr Fisher a wide and varied insight to Parish activities.

Over the last 12 months, we said goodbye to our previous Clerk and welcomed Cliff Schraibman, who has taken on this difficult and challenging role. Cliff has also recently turned 60 and gotten married. Not sure what that means, but it's a lot to take on in one year. Welcome Cliff.

One of the most obvious areas that we need to tackle, is making sure our virtual presence has a higher profile is visible. To this end, we will shortly be commencing the creation of an impactful and meaningful social media channels, with the clerk working alongside the councillors to make this a reality. This will entail That means that we need a social media account and a fresh-look revitalising our existing web site to link to and maintain provide an updated social media presence.. Cllr Vikas Chandra has offered to look at this and any help we can give him will be welcomed.

We also have vacancies on the Parish for new Councillors, and it would be nice useful to think that in the this coming 12 months near future we could see the vacant seats taken filled, with new faces and with new fresh ideas ideas.

Nigel Cox. May 2022.