Dear all,

Thank you to all of those who attended our last meeting on the Sunday 18th May.

We had a good discussion on progress we have made so far and agreed a number of priorities to action.  We have summarised this below to keep you updated on what we have achieved so far.

**Committee**: We have formed a small committee from volunteers to coordinate our activities going forward and have delegated responsibilities to match our aims. Below is a list of the committee, assigned role and contact email.  Please contact them if you have a specific question, query or would like to offer some help in any specific area.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Role** | **Email** |
| Stephen Gunther | Chair | stephengunther@hotmail.com |
| Peter Reeves | Vice Chair | peterjreeves@btinternet.com |
| Helen Dollimore | Landscaping | Helen.dollimore@virgin.net |
| Ann Hutchinson | Landscaping | Aspasia1@me.com |
| Ben Coles | Social | Bencoles7@sky.com |
| James Rolton | Treasurer /liaison with Taylor Wimpey | jameserolton@gmail.com |
| Barbara Senior | Secretary | Barbara.senior@btopenworld.com |
| James Millett | Communications | jpmillett@btinternet.com |
| Paul Farrant | Town council representative | P\_farrant@btinternet.com |

Please let us know if you have any questions regarding the committee. Attached are the terms of reference for the committee.

**Landscaping**:

**Play park.** We had a fantastic day a few weeks back clearing the play park.  Thank you to everyone who came and helped out.  The plants that were planted are doing well (thanks to all those who keep watering them), some of the patches of grass we seeded have really established and it appears that we are keeping on top of the litter.

Following a meeting with Milton Keynes Council (MKC) last week to discuss the play park and landscaping; their contractors now have the development (park and other green spaces) as part of their regular contract (they mowed the grass the following day).   The contract includes cutting the grass 10 times a year and ensuring that the beds are 95% weeds free.  We will be keeping an eye on this, however if you feel there are areas being missed please let **Helen Dollimore (Landscaping Liaison)** know.

There are still a number of outstanding issues with the play area i.e. dead trees, uneven surfaces, non-self-shutting gates and puddling when it rains.  We have established that MKC have adopted the play area and its maintenance, yet Taylor Wimpey (TW) still have a couple of outstanding improvements to make.  These include the puddling and some other minor works. We will continue to address these.

**Lake:** We have had a good discussion with MKC about improving the area around the lake.  We have now established that MKC have ‘adopted’ the lake banks around the play area, the south bank and bank along Greensands view.  MKC are happy to re-landscape (within reason) around those areas and are keen to establish what the community would like.  We have agreed with the council a three staged process:

1.       To consult the community on what they would like the lake to be used for and types of planting schemes and send to MKC

2.       MKC to develop proposals based on the consultation and their current obligations

3.       To agree with the community and start planning in the autumn.

This is a real opportunity to shape the use and how the lake is developed and we want all views for its use.  In due courts we will be sending out a **short survey to glean your views**. Watch this space!

The level of the water in the lake is one issue that we still need to establish who has responsibility for.  We will continue to talk to TW and MKC on who has responsibility.

**Other landscaping updates:** Through discussions with TW we have now seen weed spraying on the roads to reduce the weeds.  We will continue to raise the issues with TW to ensure that the roads are maintained.

**Adopt a tree:** A suggestion from one resident proposed that residents or groups of residents ‘adopt a tree’ outside their property or on their road.  This could include regular weeding, keeping them straight and or planting plants around them.  Do you think this is a good idea? Would you welcome a competition to the best kept tree or street? Please let **Helen** know your thoughts.

**Safety:** there are now over 70 email addresses on our mailing list covering the majority of the development.  We are proposing to include the mailing list as part of a wider **neighbourhood watch**. Please let **Stephen** know if you want to opt out by the end of May and we will not include you in neighbourhood Watch updates.  Further details of Neighbourhood watch can be found at: <http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/neighbourhood-watch>

**School run and parking: Cllr** David Hopkins has been taking this up on our behalf with MKC (too many emails to count!).  Unfortunately, there has been little action to date as the school is in Bedfordshire and the parking problems are in MKC, however when the roads are adopted (which we are actively chasing) simple measures could be implemented i.e. double yellow lines, or residents parking etc. (if desired).  We are happy to continue to look for the best solution and will keep you updated and informed of any progress made.

**20 mph zone:** At the last meeting (and previous meetings) there has been a general consensus to reduce the speed limit across the development to 20mph.  Before we progress further, we would like your views and will be asking in a survey if you would support such an approach.  If you have any views in the meantime please contact **Stephen Gunther**.

**Social:** There has been a clear passion from residents to have more social events and we have committed ourselves to organising two events this year.  Firstly, a summer event followed by something in the winter.  Initial ideas include; a summer picnic, community garage sale, fun walk, jog, run, crawl.  Ben is coordinating and looking for support.  Please contact **Ben Coles with ideas and if you want to help.**

**Spread the Word!**

Finally, please help us by spreading the word with your neighbours and friends. We want to increase the size of our mailing list further and increase our momentum. If you are interested in helping with our activities, we would welcome any offers of support, please do get in touch and let us know.

Friends of Parklands.