

Annual Parish Council Report 2017/2018

Precept

We have worked hard to trim our budget, but do not wish to have to cut back on our services to the Parish, and therefore reluctantly took the decision to support the extra works by making a small increase of £3.50 per year on Band D properties for the year 2018/2019; other bands have seen a pro-rata increase. This increase will enable us to continue to take on the extra works which have been cut by Milton Keynes Council. In their first year our Wardens have made a big difference to the litter, landscaping and general tidiness of our parish but if you have any specific problems please email us on reportit@shenleybrookend-pc.gov.uk

Community Engagement

In October 2017 as the attendance at our Westcroft Youth club had declined it was decided that we would continue with our two early evening youth clubs at Oaktree Centre Shenley Brook End and the Ridgeway Centre in Furzton and also our Astro turf football sessions at Tattenhoe Pavilion but would close the Westcroft youth club and redefine the Youth Leaders role into that of Community Engagement Officer. This has enabled us to commence other clubs for the whole community including an IT Club, a Film Club and a coffee morning all of which are held monthly in our council chamber. We have also introduced a weekly Gentle keep fit session at the Ridgeway Centre in Furzton and added a third club for 50's Plus residents also at the Ridgeway Centre. This is addition to the very successful Diamond and Emerald clubs which are held in our council chamber each week.

Neighbourhood Action Groups

We have one Neighbourhood Action Group in the Parish at Shenley Lodge and Furzton, they help members of the public who come to them with problems including litter and parking. The times and dates for their meetings are on the Parish Council website and they would welcome new members from within their area. The other grid squares are covered by a Specific Incident Action Group which was set up when the Neighbourhood Action Group folded due to lack of support. This group can be implemented to deal with specific issues and then dissolved again once those issues are dealt with. Therefore there are no regular meetings.

Emerson Valley Community Centre

The community centre is owned by the Parish Council and run by the Emerson Valley Community Centre Trust a charity set up for this purpose. The centre has had a good year and has been used by a wide range of residents with activities for all ages as well as birthday parties. Following a change of staff Rebecca in the Parish Office is now looking after the bookings.

The Future

Tattenhoe Park facilities Plans for a new sports/community/leisure facility for Tattenhoe Park are being drawn up and it is hoped that Milton Keynes council will soon be in a position to apply for planning permission for this facility.

Garthwaite Sports/Community Centre The open space designated as a sports ground adjacent to the allotments in Garthwaite Crescent is owned by the Parish Council and we now have planning permission to build a sports and community facility. It is hoped that building will commence shortly once all the funding is in place with a view to opening in the Spring of 2019.

Finally a **personal** thank you to Councillors and Officers for their support in this busy year and for their help in keeping the Parish Council running efficiently and serving the residents of our Parish.

Chairman Cllr Jean Nicholas, May 2018