

# Parish Update

## 2024/25



### **New Central Play Park Equipment**

Three new pieces of play equipment - seesaw, 3-seater carousel swing and an accessible roundabout were installed in July 2024 in the Two Mile Ash play park after a delay caused by wet ground conditions. The rugby posts were removed following damage and will be replaced by football goal posts.

### **Parish Precept**

The parish precept was restored to its former level with a slight increase in order to ensure sufficient income to undertake local projects and meet expenditure. We rank 16<sup>th</sup> out of 45 parishes remaining in the lower third in terms of cost per household.

### **Parish Clerk**

Maria Manthorpe served as our new Parish Clerk for the full year before resigning. Councillors express their gratitude to Maria for her dedication and commitment to the parish.

### **Two Mile Ash Play Sessions**

Throughout the summer school holidays, Easter and half-term, AHPC funded a series of play sessions both indoors and outdoors. Our Halloween event with costumes was especially popular. Working with Milton Keynes Play Association, our social media advertising and leaflet promotion ensured we had record attendances especially for the indoor events which were regularly oversubscribed. We trialled this Easter 2 outdoor activities, Bug Hunting and Den Building, with the Parks Trust targeted at 7-12 year olds.

### **Dog Waste & Litter Bins**

We have 15 dog waste bins - location map can be found on the AHPC website. We added a new large green general waste bin on Clay Hill at Shoreham Rise. All bins are emptied weekly with some dog bins twice weekly.

### **Crafts, Meet-up & Coffee Mornings**

Every Friday between 10am and 1pm at the Church of the Holy Cross, our volunteers provide free tea, coffee and snacks. We have extended the range of available activities to include card making, soft toy making, knitting, sewing, board games, darts and jigsaws. This year our regular attendees enjoyed a Christmas lunch buffet. During the calendar year 2024 we had over 800 attendees.

### **Bulb Planting**

In Nov 2024 we continued with our Spring bulb planting programme adding 9,500 mixed tulips throughout TMA and an additional 500 in the Community Garden behind One-Stop. Many of our preferred locations were denied by MKCC but we planted in approved locations adding colour throughout the estate, albeit short lived. Unfortunately some bulbs failed to flower due to excessively wet clay soil and some fell victim to early grass cutting.

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### **Christmas Light Display**

We expanded our Christmas light display adding eight attractive 50cm globes and extra lights. Switch on was Monday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Environmental & Landscape Issues**

We continue to lobby MKCC to improve the maintenance of our shrub borders and grass areas. We need to regenerate many borders with new shrubs and have a budget to do so but we are restricted by MKCC. Parish volunteers regularly help with litter picking, clearing paths and trimming overhanging hedges.

### **Website & Social Media**

Our website includes essential information including notice of council meetings, minutes of meetings and parish news. We also have a dedicated Facebook page that regularly promotes events which we share on the "Friends of Two Mile Ash" Facebook Group.

### **Allotments**

The Parish allotments are managed by the Allotments Association. We funded major tree pruning of overhanging branches on the perimeter and a replacement wooden entrance gate.

### **Residents Surveys**

We have used on-line surveys to obtain residents feedback on 3 projects – Children's Play Sessions, Haldene Play Park Regeneration and Redway Signage. Using social media is an effective, quick and inexpensive method of researching public response.

### **Redway Signage**

Route markers at multiple redway junctions have weathered badly and require replacement. We hope to start replacing signs over the next couple of years.

### **Parish Noticeboards**

We propose adding 2 additional notice boards to enable more residents to see what's going on in the community.