

# Abbey Hill Parish Council Annual Update 2023/24



## **New Central Play Park Equipment**

AHPC set aside budget for three new pieces of play equipment in the main Two Mile Ash play park this year. Bad weather delayed installation. However, a seesaw, a three-seater carousel and an accessible roundabout are due for installation in May/June 2024.

## **Cost of Living Crisis – Parish Precept Cut by 50%**

As a one-off saving for Two Mile Ash residents in 2024-25 only, AHPC cut in half the amount you pay (Band D equiv. only £24, down from £49). We also contributed a £750 grant to Church of the Holy Cross Food Pantry.

## **New Parish Clerk Recruited**

After 11 years of Service Julian Vischer retired from the post of Clerk to AHPC. Following a recruitment exercise we're very pleased to welcome Maria Manthorpe as our new Parish Clerk.

## **Two Mile Ash Play Sessions**

In the 2023 school holidays and the 2024 Easter holidays, AHPC funded a series of play sessions in Two Mile Ash. Working with Milton Keynes Play Association, additional advertising and promotion led to a big increase in attendees this year resulting in an outstanding success.

## **New Public Defibrillator**

AHPC funded the installation of a new public defibrillator. It is located next to the bus stop near the Parish Noticeboard outside Two Mile Ash School.

## **Additional Dog Waste Bin Installed**

Following requests from the public, AHPC funded the installation and maintenance of a 15<sup>th</sup> dog waste bin within the parish. The new bin is located on The High St, between Fairways and Westcliffe. All 15 bins are emptied weekly. A map of dog waste bin locations is on our website.



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## **Coffee Mornings and Warm Space Events**

Every Friday between 10am and 1pm at the Church of the Holy Cross in Two Mile Ash, AHPC support our volunteers who provide free tea, coffee and biscuits with participation in art & craft activities available. In the winter this also provides a warm space (originally started with central government funding). If you are lonely, just fancy a chat or want to make new friends, why not come along and try your hand at sewing, knitting, chess, darts etc.

## **Extra Litter Bin Maintenance**

AHPC has continued to pay for maintenance of four extra litter bins in Two Mile Ash (over and above those maintained by MK City Council). Installed in locations of high demand, our contractor empties these bins weekly.

## **Bulb Planting Success**

In Oct/Nov 2023 Parish Councillors and volunteer residents planted an extra 6000 daffodil & tulip bulbs. We have some at every entrance to Two Mile Ash. Bulbs were also added in the central TMA Community Garden.

## **Expanded Christmas Light Display**

This year, we expanded our Christmas light display beyond the usual fir tree to include some of the nearby large trees.

## **Support for Local Volunteer Groups**

We're keen to continue our support of local volunteer groups in Two Mile Ash. In the past we've supported the Community Garden, the Two Mile Ash Environmental Group, Parish Coffee Mornings and Warm Spaces. Get in touch if you'd like to know more.

## **Environmental & Landscape Issues**

We monitor environmental issues in the parish. We regularly chase MKCC who are responsible for dealing with most of the problems. But parish volunteers have helped with litter clearing, unblocking redways and trimming some foliage. Email us if you have any concerns.

## **Website & Social Media Updates**

We update our website regularly with news stories, meeting details and other useful information. Let us know about your community activities so we can help to share your news.

Abbey Hill Parish Council is run by five unpaid councillors and a part time clerk. If you wish to contact us, use one of the links below.



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