

FOCUS

on Ouzel Valley Ward

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Including Oakgrove, Middleton, MK Village, Monkston and Monkston Park, the Woughtons, Peartree Bridge, Simpson & Ashland

Delivered by local volunteers

Issue 400

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Peartree Bridge Get Together

Age UK, 2 - 4 pm Tues 5th August

Residents in **Peartree Bridge** have had no meeting space for five years since they last met in a room at Peartree Inn. Now the FOCUS Team has arranged a meeting to provide an opportunity for residents to let us know if a local meeting space is needed and/or wanted. For example, would residents want services (such as MKCC drop-in sessions and CAB) to be provided locally within Peartree Bridge? Would residents want a local space to attend events and activities, such as warm spaces, coffee-and-chats and hobby group sessions? This meeting will also allow residents to voice their concerns and to raise local issues that need to be addressed.

If you can't get to this meeting, please email us your thoughts to ouzelv@mklibdems.co.uk so we can consider them and respond.

And before that...

Fun with the Triceratops!

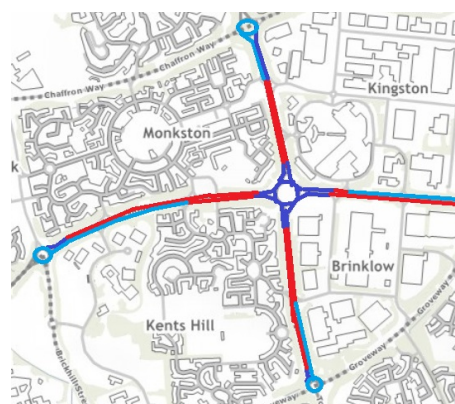
Peartree Bridge Park

11am-3pm Wed 30th July

The field has been mown for hay, and all is ready for you to come and join the Parks Trust and Woughton Community Council for a fun-filled day exploring the life of a researcher, identifying dinosaur fossils, and hunting for dinosaur eggs on a trail. All ages welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. Just turn up and enjoy!



V11 Roundabouts



Puzzled at what's going on around Brinklow roundabout (V11/H8)? As well as installing the traffic lights, they are resurfacing the areas shown in dark blue on the map. And they have decided to close all the areas marked in red overnight while they do it, from 8pm to 6am Sunday-Thursday nights, despite our protest at the disruption this causes. Light blue areas stay open.

Preparatory work on the Monkston (V11/H7) roundabout will be done over Christmas with the main work starting next spring/summer.

A tale of 2 Bus Shelters

These two bus shelters in **Simpson** are no longer needed now that, sadly, the bus has been discontinued after huge cost increases. The modern one will be removed, but the old one is part of the village's history.

So what would you like to see done with it? A community noticeboard? A games nook?

Just a sheltered seat? Would you volunteer to help maintain it? The Parish Council would have to approve it as MKCC would expect them to take responsibility for the structure, and that would have a cost. In the meantime, Macsene is asking MKCC to get the graffiti cleaned off.



Help for Users of BSL

Residents who use British Sign Language can now get help with interpretation of conversations with the Council over a video call using the SignLive app. The app can also help deaf customers with phonecalls to the Council. See 'Contact Us' on the Council's website for more information.

Paying the Bills

Many people are struggling to pay bills. If you're on Universal Credit you need to apply separately for the Council Tax reduction. And if you are a pensioner on housing benefit or on less than the new State Pension, you may be entitled to Pension Credit. Search for "struggling to pay" on MK City Council's website for more information or contact the Focus team.

If you need help managing bills - what to pay and what could be deferred, etc. contact MK Money Lifeline on mkmoneylifeline.org.uk or 0300 123 5198.

Fire Risk

The heat is due to return and the Fire Service ask please don't light *any* sort of fire, barbeque, etc. outdoors in very hot weather. Even a single spark can start a fire after such dry hot weather, and it can spread very quickly over a very wide area. So gather outside - but do the BBQ in the kitchen. And remember, you need permission at any time to hold a BBQ on MK Council or Parks Trust open space.

Final Ward Boundaries

The Boundary Commission announced their final decision. Ouzel Valley ward stays as in the draft, except that Tinkers Bridge has got its wish and stays with Woughton and Fishermead ward.

Ouzel Valley on Facebook

We're setting up a facebook page but we're not quite there yet so follow our account for more information and message us.



Candidates Selected

The Liberal Democrats have now formally selected candidates for next year's city council elections in May, and **Uroy Clarke**, **Macsene Isles-Ahite** and **Jenni Ferrans** will be the team for Ouzel Valley ward.

Can you help us get information out to residents? Could you deliver Focus in streets near you for 45 mins every 6 weeks? Please contact us if you can help so that we can spend more time helping with the issues you raise. Thank you.

Your Voice Matters

Please contact us if you have any issues you want to raise or need help with. You can also complete our survey using the QR code.



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Or reach all of us at ouzelv@mklibdems.co.uk

Website: www.mklibdems.co.uk and select the Ouzel Valley focus team

Or write to: Ouzel Valley Focus Team, 4 Chetwode Ave, Monkston MK10 9EJ

Or search for Ouzel Valley on facebook

In Brief

Jenni got MKCC to cut the grass between **Atlas Way** and **Abacus Drive** in **Oakgrove** after residents got worried that children crossing were hidden by the grass.



Uroy got the **blue play park** in **Monkston** cleared up after residents asked for help.



Jenni has asked the **Parks Trust** and the **Police** to stop the motorcross bikes using the redway between **Woughton on the Green** and **Peartree Bridge**.

Macsene got **Oakgrove School** to agree to clear the litter by the **underpass** from **Monkston Park** before school term ends.



Jenni got the council to prune these trees in **Middleton** near the old **Fire Station**.

Adopting the Land

Sadly, the Council made a mistake last month in saying that the area around **Far Holm, Middleton** has been adopted. The work needed has been agreed, but can't be done till the autumn. After that, MKCC will adopt the area and the alleys.

Jenni and **Macsene** have been tracking down status on adoptions across all the Ouzel Valley area. See our website for the latest updates.



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Action and Service All year Round