



FAIRFIELDS FORUM

ISSUE 14 - SPRING

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SPRING IS IN THE AIR!

As the world awakens from its winter slumber, we're thrilled to bring you the freshest updates and inspiration to embrace the vibrant season of spring! With each blooming flower and lengthening day, there's a sense of renewal and possibility in the air.

So, grab a cuppa, step into the sunshine, and join us for some updates, community engagement and much more!

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 15-31 MARCH



WHO IS IT GOING TO BE?



The lease has been signed and it's definitely going to be a TESCO

**FAIRFIELDS
LITTER PICK**

DATE: SAT 30/03/24
TIME: 10H30-12H00
MEET AT:
ALL HALLOWS PLAY PARK



Community Council Funding - the Precept!

The Precept is tax, included within your Milton Keynes City Council Tax, which enables Fairfield's Community Council to perform its functions.

Community Councils can apply for other funding such as grants and funding awards, generally for specific projects however, they do not receive funds directly from central Government.

How is the Precept calculated?

Fairfield's Community Council is required (by law) to agree a budget before it can set its Precept and both must be agreed by the full council; this took place on Monday 17/01/24.

Once Fairfield's Community Council has forecast its budget requirements for the following financial year 2024/25, it requests this funding from Milton Keynes City Council.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RESIDENTS?

In today's tough financial climate, we do appreciate that families are feeling the squeeze from rising costs and unexpected expenses, compounded by a volatile economy and the uncertainty of potential political changes.

It is important that we take proactive steps to manage the public purse wisely and plan for future spend on both investing and maintaining our public assets and services, which includes bins, benches, new community building, allotments, noticeboard(s), Apollo Green, speed indicators, crime, newsletter, defibrillator(s), play sessions, community event(s), to mention a few.

We also want to make sure that we create a strong community and would like residents to get out to meet, engage, mingle and enjoy some events, which we need your feedback on what you would like.

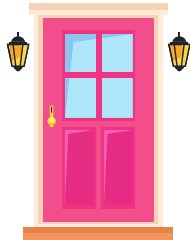


WE NEED TO PLAN AHEAD OVER THE NEXT COUPLE OF FISCAL YEARS FOR THE FIT OUT AND RUNNING COSTS OF OUR NEW COMMUNITY BUILDING!

HOUSING TAX BANDS

We have increased the budget for the first time since the inception in 2019/20, which means that residents will be paying an extra 44p per week, up to £1.30 per week, depending on which housing tax band you sit in (see the breakdown below).

BAND A



2023/24 = £33.00
2024/25 = £55.63
Increase = 44p/week

BAND B



2023/24 = £38.42
2024/25 = £64.77
Increase = 51p/week

BAND C



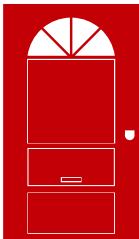
2023/24 = £43.83
2024/25 = £73.90
Increase = 58p/week

BAND D



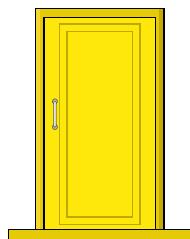
2023/24 = £49.25
2024/25 = £83.04
Increase = 65p/week

BAND E



2023/24 = £60.09
2024/25 = £101.30
Increase = 79p/week

BAND F



2023/24 = £70.92
2024/25 = £119.57
Increase = 94p/week

BAND G

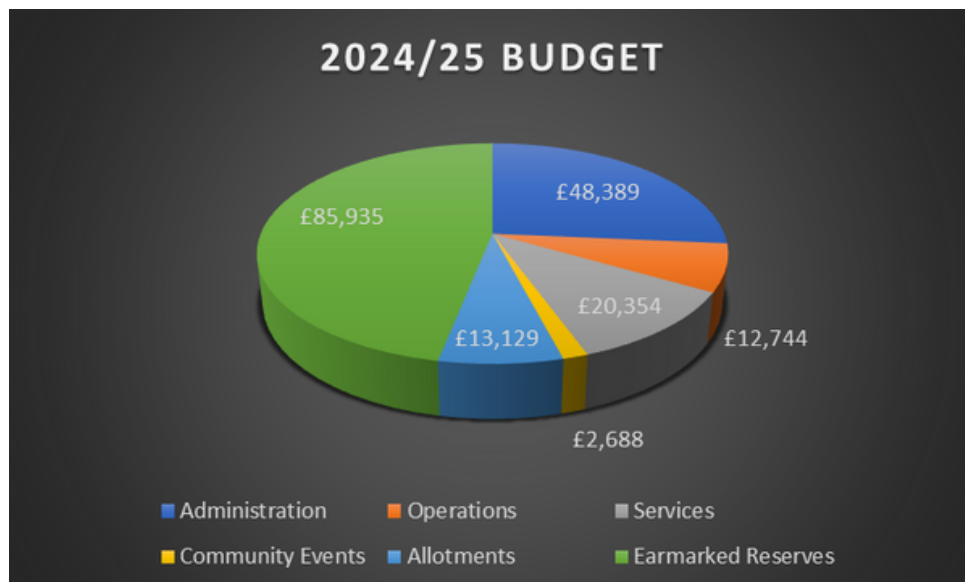


2023/24 = £82.25
2024/25 = £138.67
Increase = £1.09/week

BAND H



2023/24 = £98.50
2024/25 = £166.07
Increase = £1.30/week



Administration: (payroll, training and expenses for Officer/Councillors).

Operations: (website, phone, stationary, room hire, insurance, memberships, IT, bank charges, audit, legal).

Allotments: (running costs of both sites to include landscaping, water, NAS membership, software, sundry).

Services: (bins, SIDs, grants, defib, noticeboards, CCTV (new), outreach service (new)).

Community Events: (summer play sessions, craft packs, annual event (new)).

Earmarked Reserves: (Community Building fitout, allotment deposits, 4-months general).

NEW LOGO

Have your say!

send your choice to
clerk@fairfields-pc.gov.uk

Why do we want to change the logo?



1. The current Fairfields logo is that of Fairfields estate and was created and is used by the developer. The developer will remove the sign when they leave site.
2. We feel that Fairfields Community Council needs it's own identity within the estate of Fairfields, just like both the school and sports hub have.
3. We would like your help to choose which logo you would like.
4. NOTE, colour combinations can be changed. Examples shown in colour and mono tones.



OPTION 1



OPTION 2



OPTION 3



OPTION 4

Tudor Gardens Redway Link Update



Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) recently ran a consultation; the aim of the scheme is to provide a direct route for pedestrians and cyclist using the Redway network. This will aim to make a safer environment between the two areas. The scheme will also have traffic calming in the form of speed humps to reduce the speed in the area.

As part of the scheme, parts of Tudor Gardens will be resurfaced. MKCC is working with its contractor on how to carry out the works with minimal disruption to the residents.

MKCC is also working closely with The Parks Trust and having them carry out their maintenance work to combat Ash Dieback. Where trees are removed, there will be new trees planted nearby. This would be to keep with the aesthetic of the area.

CURRENT STATUS: Awaiting the outcome of the planning application.

HEDGES

**Do you own one?
Do you know your legal responsibility?**



In the UK, the law regarding overhanging hedges on footpaths typically falls under the Highways Act 1980. According to this law, property owners are responsible for ensuring that hedges, trees, or other vegetation on their property do not obstruct public highways, including footpaths and sidewalks.

Specifically, Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 states that it is an offense to allow vegetation from one's property to overhang a public highway and obstruct the passage of vehicles or pedestrians. Local authorities, such as the council or highway department, have the power to issue notices to property owners requiring them to trim back overhanging vegetation. If the property owner fails to comply, the local authority may carry out the work themselves and recover the costs from the property owner.

In addition to the Highways Act, there may be local bylaws or regulations specific to each area that further govern the maintenance of hedges and vegetation.

Overall, property owners in the UK have a legal obligation to ensure that their hedges do not encroach upon public footpaths, and failure to do so may result in enforcement action by the local authorities.

Allotment Gardening News

Allotment year runs from 01 Oct to 30 Sep each year!

FRESH AIR - SENSE OF COMMUNITY - NEW SKILLS

HOW TO APPLY FOR AN ALLOTMENT?

We have two allotment sites as follows:

MARIUS GROVE
no vacancies

MAXIMUS COURT
25 vacancies, both small (circa 75sqm and medium (circa 125sqm) plots

COSTS

Administration Fee (annual)	£10
Deposit	£50
Rent (annual)	£40 (small) £55 (medium)

Rent is charged pro rata, if you take on a plot part way through an allotment year.

Head over to our website <https://fairfields-pc.gov.uk/allotments/>
Or, contact Vicky; clerk@fairfields-pc.gov.uk for more information.



National Allotment Week

Runs from 12-18 August to encourage allotment holders to throw open their gates and show off their sites, to highlight the wonders and benefits of UK allotments. The theme together with more details will be announced in Spring.

LITTER



Take pride in your environment!
"Don't be a Tosser"
Take your litter home!



HOW LONG DOES LITTER LAST?

Litter is not only unsightly, it has serious environmental consequences



Cigarette Buts
1-5 Years



Aluminium Cans
200 Years



Nappies
450 Years



Glass Bottle
1 Million Years



Plastic Bottles
450 Years



Plastic Bags
1,000's of years



Take-away Wrappers
3 months to 30 years



Dog Poop
1-6 months

When out and about, use the bins provided

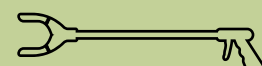
Littering is an offence under the Litter Pollution Act and heavy fines can be imposed!

Take your rubbish home and recycle it!



Thanks for cleaning up? Continue the litter cleanup habit. We organise seasonal litter picks and also have a supply of litter grabbers.

Contact: clerk@fairfields-pc.go.uk



CHILDREN SUMMER PLAY SESSIONS

SAVE THE DATES

Sessions are run by MK Play Association; sponsored by Fairfield's Community Council. All children must be accompanied by an adult throughout the session(s)

Visit www.mkpa.co.uk - Select PLAY and click the link to book your child's space. **Please don't book if you can't attend!**



FABIUS DRIVE, MK11 4BW



FRI 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 AUG



10H00 - 12H00



Free to all!



FAIRFIELDS COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTIONNAIRE 2024-DEADLINE FRI 12/04/24



At Fairfield's Community Council, we believe that the heartbeat of our community lies in the voices and aspirations of its residents. As your local community council, it is our unwavering commitment to serve and support the needs and interests of our residents within our vibrant and diverse community. We would very much appreciate you taking no more than 5 mins to answer 9 questions. **If there is more than one occupant at your address, multi copies can be completed!**

HARD COPY will be delivered to your door with your newsletter.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION: <https://forms.office.com/e/E2rt27rVET>

STONY RIVERSIDE FAIR, From Midday on Sunday 2nd June 24

Stony Stratford Town Council warmly invite residents from Fairfield's and nearby areas to join them for the Big Lunch at the Riverside Fair: 12-4pm on Sunday 2 June. Bring a blanket to enjoy the summer event which will have live music and activities for the family. For more information go to <https://tiny.cc/77ujxz>