

We



**The Whitehouse Community Council**

**Newsletter**

[www.whitehouse-pc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehouse-pc.gov.uk)

# What is the Community Council and what do we do?

## What is a Community Council?

A Community Council is a local authority that makes decisions on behalf of the people in the parish / local community. It is the level government closest to the community, with the unitary authority of Milton Keynes Council above it in the hierarchy.

As it is the authority closest to the people, community councils are invariably the first place people will go with concerns or ideas. For this reason they are a vital part of any community.

Whitehouse Community Council meets on the third Thursday of each month and consists of seven Councillors who are all volunteers from our community. There are two vacancies at the moment. These meetings are open to the public and are currently being held remotely due to COVID-19. Residents can bring to the attention of the Council anything that concerns them, either directly or through the Clerk. If matters raised are not the responsibility of the council, the Clerk can bring them to the attention of the proper authority.

## What decisions do Community Councils make?

Community councils make all kinds of decisions on issues that affect the local community. The most common topics that community councils get involved with are allotments, planning matters (they are statutory consultees), crime prevention, managing open spaces and campaigning for and delivering better services and facilities.

Community councils have limited powers to make statutory decisions, but they do have the ability to negotiate with, and the power to influence, those other organisations that do make the final decisions. The organisations that make the final decisions know that a community council gives the best reflection of how a community feels about something, and its views will be taken seriously.

## Information from our Clerk, Jean Nicholas

## Message from our Ward Councillors

"Hi, we're Anne, Charlie and Jenny and we're your three local councillors. In Milton Keynes, we have three levels of government that you can access. You have your MP, Iain Stewart, us, your representatives on Milton Keynes Council, and the Parish/Community/Town Councils.

We can support in a wide range of issues including planning, road repairs, lighting, bin collections, accessing council services, landscaping, and the list could go on! You can raise most of these issues, along with others, through the Milton Keynes Website (<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pay-report-apply/report-it>) but sometimes things can get missed, or you may be unhappy with the response that you've received. Where that's the case, you should contact us. We will be able to contact the right people to get it looked at and (hopefully) resolved quickly. Where we can't help directly, we will do our best to put you in touch with the right people to get your issue or question addressed.

Finally, there is the Community Council, who are responsible for this newsletter, they are concerned with what is happening on the development and will liaise with Milton Keynes council on your behalf, making sure projects are delivered in line with the resident's expectations and issues and problems are resolved. Different areas have different levels of responsibility and that is likely to evolve and change as the estate grows and its needs change.

# A Message from our Acting Chairman

## Chairman's Foreword – Summer 2020

Welcome to the very first edition of the Whitehouse Community Newsletter!

In this series of community newsletters we will update you on a variety of topics. We will provide information about the Community Council itself, what it is we do and have done on your behalf, the services we provide, the services other local government and other organisations can provide, the aid we can provide to community needs, and the negotiations and discussions we need to conduct in your name.

In May 2019 your Community Councillors were elected into office to serve this community for 4 years. Your Community Council actually started out named the more traditional Parish Council, however we felt this did not accurately define the group of residents that are acting on behalf of the wider community. Too many people thought a Parish Council had a religious connotation.

While this is indeed how Parish Councils came into being (based on Church Parish records) they are the very first tier of local government. They are mandated to provide for the needs of the local area they serve, to represent the local community, to deliver services & facilities, and to influence local and other organisations to help improve this community.

**Your Community Council is currently made up of five Councillors who are Whitehouse residents. The role of Councillor is an entirely voluntary and unpaid role.**

As a new Community Council for a community that will evolve into one of more than 10,000 residents, its vitally important that we ensure that this Council plans and develops services and facilities that will deliver on its mandate to serve this community effectively. Some of the things that we have delivered on so far include:

- Design & planning of a new community building in front of the new Whitehouse Secondary school
- Regular litter picking (Lockdown permitting!)
- Introduced Neighbourhood Watch Scheme in parts of the community
- Increased the number of dog waste bins
- Engaged with the various management companies to determine what can be done to limit the charges being levied.

In this first issue we want to introduce you to your Councillors and your Clerk, give you an update on the latest news from Milton Keynes Council, and the Thames Valley Police/Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. We will also share some information regarding keeping Whitehouse clean & tidy, as well as general info that may be of interest to you.

If you would like to be involved in shaping the future of our Whitehouse community, please contact our clerk to discuss the available opportunities. If you have any additional queries, please feel free to contact any of your councillors using the contact information in this Newsletter, or on our website at: <https://whitehouse-pc.gov.uk/>

**Howard Turner, Acting Chairman Whitehouse Community Council**

## State of the Estate

I am sure we all moved into Whitehouse with expectations of what the new estate will be like e.g. new houses, new neighbours, new schools and shops—all brand new, shiny & exciting. We also knew that we would all be living in a new and developing estate with a lot of construction work going on for a number of years, and have to accept the fact that construction traffic, noise, dust and unfinished roads will be part of what we will have to live with for some time.

For most of us that is all good and fine, but despite all that we still want our estate to appear well looked after, nicely landscaped and an area to be proud of when we drive into Whitehouse.

The local Community Council is, however, well aware that this is sadly not the current state of the estate. Through very good feedback from the community via our Facebook page, website, and direct communication, we are well aware that there are a variety of items that need urgent attention. Weeds are growing—sometimes out of control in some areas—pavements need to have the tarmac repaired, some streets and open spaces look really unkept and sadly the estate is not in the best shape that it could be.

The local Community Councillors have taken responsibility for different development areas in Whitehouse, and we will be working through a list of issues to be resolved with the various developers, as well as L & Q as the overall developer for Whitehouse.

Thank you to the members of the community who have shared information and pictures with us—please continue to do so through our Facebook page, website or via directly contacting us. We will continue to work through the 'issue list' and will continue to keep the Whitehouse community up to date with progress on the improvements.



# The Great British Clean up - 11th to 27th September 2020

Litter blights our streets and parks and costs thousands of pounds to clear up every year. **Keep Britain Tidy** is here to inspire people to eliminate litter now and for future generations. **Keep Britain Tidy** also fights for people's right to live and work in places they can be proud of and prosper in.

This is about more than simply getting people to pick up litter. The **Keep Britain Tidy Campaign** aims to change behaviour permanently by spotlighting the problems and offering creative solutions.

**Whitehouse Community Council** are working with **Keep Britain Tidy** on their **Great British September Clean Up**. This year, Whitehouse will be hosting some clean up events from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> September. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more information on what you could do to help. This is **YOUR Community** and it is where **YOU live**. Help us to help you to make Whitehouse a really nice place to live.



## Litter

Over the last year, Whitehouse Community Council have organised regular litter picks in the area. We would like to take this opportunity to thank those people that have given up their time and taken part in the organised litter picks.

It's disappointing that there is still a lot of rubbish that is being picked up outside people's homes. You could all do "your bit" to help keep Whitehouse Clean by spending a few minutes picking up litter from around your own property every week. We can't blame the builders for all of the rubbish, although there is certainly a lot of builder's waste around. However, a great deal of it is also from bin bags that have split. We are picking up a lot of cans, baby wipes, crisp packets and health and hygiene waste as well as food in bin collection points. We have noticed that Randall Avenue attracts a lot of rubbish, so we will be looking at what can be done to reduce this going forward.

If you would like to get involved in the up and coming litter picks, please keep an eye on the Whitehouse Community Council Web Page at <https://whitehouse-pc.gov.uk>

# Introducing our Community Council

## Howard Turner

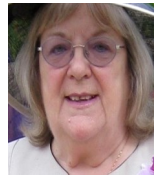
### (Acting Chairman)



I am originally from Worsley, Manchester, and after seven years living in North London I settled with my wife, Bali, in Milton Keynes in the summer of 2003. We moved to Whitehouse in 2017 with our two children & dog Loki. While this is my first foray into Local Government, I am very passionate about ensuring Whitehouse develops as a community that every resident will be proud of and enabling all to feel that their voice will be heard. I have over 20 years of complex IT Systems expertise and am currently working in the telecommunications industry, designing and delivering global contact centre solutions for a variety of customers.

## Jean Nicholas

### (Clerk)



I am a qualified Accountant. Most of my working life has been in the construction industry until I took early retirement from Taylor Wimpey as a Project Accountant. Bored with retirement, I was co-opted onto Shenley Brook End & Tattenhoe Parish Council (SBE). During my 15 years at SBE, the last six of which I was Chairman, I was involved in the construction of a new Parish Office and also a new-build Sports pavilion. Having downsized from Tattenhoe to Fairfields, this meant leaving the SBE Parish Council. As Clerk I hope to be able to use my experience to help the local Councillors in Whitehouse build this into a flourishing community.

## Charlie Ritchie

### (Councillor)



I have lived in Whitehouse for two years now. I am from Milton Keynes and am previously from Newport Pagnell. I am a builder by trade and due to be married next year.

I have two children and one on the way. I joined the Local Community Council to ensure that my family are part of a great community.

On the Local Community Council, I am involved with the Community Safety initiatives and supporting the local Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

## Eileen Card (nee Tait)

### (Councillor)



I have lived in Whitehouse for two and a half years now. Milton Keynes is my home town; I left when I went to university in 1994, lived in Manchester then London and came back to MK in 2018. I am mummy to a lively 3-year-old beauty and a Human Resources professional by trade. I joined the Community Council because I wanted to be part of building a wonderful community and have a particular interest in “keep Whitehouse tidy” and Community Safety initiatives. I am the lead for the Neighbourhood watch scheme and have plans to recruit active members / coordinators in the months to come.

# Introducing our Community Council

## **Mynhardt Kitshoff (Councillor)**



We have been in Milton Keynes for almost 14 years now and for the last three years have lived in the Taylor Wimpey part of Whitehouse. I am an IT Manager for a global software company, married and have a son who has just finished at University. We are also part of the newly started Whitehouse Church. My particular areas of interest are the Community Council social media activities, e.g. the website and Facebook page.

## **Varma Kanumuri (Councillor)**



I am Varma Kanumuri, a resident on Barrosa way since 2016, married and blessed with a seven year old daughter attending Whitehouse primary school. I been a loyal employee for AVANTI West Coast for the past fourteen years. I love playing cricket and watching football. I have a passion to help others and am a good listener. It is great to be part of this Whitehouse parish to help the community.

### **Vacant Councillor Position #1**

**Could this be you?**

### **Vacant Councillor Position #2**

**Could this be you?**

We currently have two vacancies on the Whitehouse Community Council and the current Councillors really need some help.

- Do you want to support your community and help to improve it?
- Are you prepared to work with other Councillors to make decisions?
- Are you able to be objective and represent the needs of the whole community?
- Do you care about your community and would you like to give something back?

Most people who live in Whitehouse are eligible to put their names forward and by joining you can play a role in shaping the community. There's a budget to be set, a Neighbourhood plan to be developed and projects to be managed. Plus, looking after our environment and influencing the way that our roads are looked after and developed, as well as challenging the District and County Councils on a wide range of issues on behalf of the community.

Please contact the Clerk or any of the Councillors if you might be interested in becoming a Councillor!

# Please help keep Whitehouse Clean !

## PLEASE CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG AND HELP KEEP WHITEHOUSE CLEAN

Dog Poo aka Feces, Poo, Dog Mess...it's an unavoidable by-product of owning a dog, and therefore it's every owner's moral duty and legal responsibility to clean up after their dog.





### **Playing fields and footpaths**

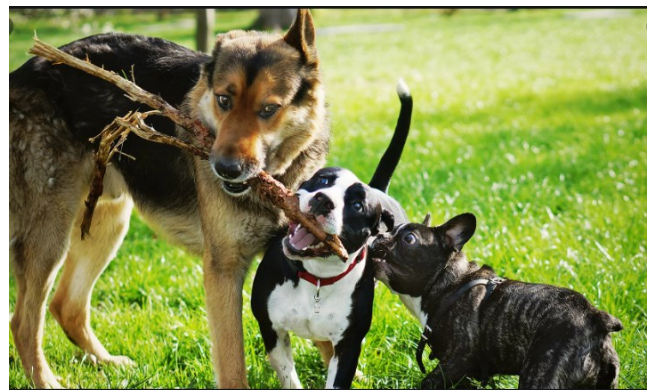
The disgust that dog mess causes to those who have stepped in it and sat by it in their local parks, is felt by responsible dog owners as much as any other visitor. Letters of complaint on the subject are received daily by MPs and Councilors across the UK, such is the offence and anger caused. Sometimes the complaints lead to the provision of more special bins and awareness projects, but they have also led to negative campaigns and policies that punish all dog owners, not just the guilty, selfish ones. You and your companion could end up being banned from your own local park. These are the places where other people picnic, and children play. Please be thoughtful no matter where you are.

### **The Law**






Local Authorities (LAs) including the Whitehouse Community Council, have the power to introduce and enforce dog fouling byelaws, under which a person in charge of a dog can be heavily fined for allowing dogs to foul in a public place. The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 applies to LA-designated land. This could include any land which is open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access, including roads and parks. Look out for signs stating this. It is no defense to claim ignorance of the dog's actions or the law; neither is not having a device available to remove the faeces. Failure to promptly clean up dog mess can result in a prosecution or fine.

### **Why clean up after your dog?**

-  We all know how unpleasant it is to see dog mess lying around the pavements and public spaces and it's even more unpleasant to step in!
-  It is simply unhygienic. Dog faeces may contain worms that can cause a threat to human health. The minority of irresponsible dog owners who do not clean up after their dogs damage the reputation of responsible dog owners who do.
-  Leave it behind and you could get fined! It is an offence to leave your dog's mess behind.
-  If you are caught not scooping your dog's poop you could be prosecuted and fined up to £1000.



### **Solutions**

-  Always carry a means to clear up after your dog, whether this is a simple plastic bag or a 'poop scoop' device.
-  You have a garden, train your dog to go there before you leave home – this way you can bag it and bin it straight away.
-  Don't rely on the rain to wash it away – this is just a lazy excuse to not pick it up! Respect your local authority's rules on dog free areas.
-  Keep your dog away from children's play areas and sports pitches if signposted and use dog waste bins if they have been provided.
-  Politely encourage guilty owners you meet to do their duty. You do not need to be rude, simply offer them one of your poo bags. Embarrassment over their unacceptable behaviour gets better results and is safer than abuse.



# Neighbourhood Watch—your community needs you!

Neighbourhood Watch is a national organisation with a mission to reduce crime, the fear of crime and to promote neighbourliness and stronger communities.

A silver lining of the Covid-19 crisis is that many local support groups have sprung up all over Milton Keynes, offering help and reaching out to vulnerable and isolating people. At its simplest, Neighbourhood Watch is not just about neighbours looking out for each other, but our organisation represents a way for support groups to sustain the precious and new-found connectedness in our communities.

By joining Neighbourhood Watch you can:

- Show that members of a community are looking out for each other.
- Feel safer and more connected in your community
- Work closely with the police helps to prevent and tackle crime.
- Reduce crime and the fear of crime
- Help others in need of support
- Save money on your home insurance.



An additional benefit of joining Neighbourhood Watch is that registered schemes can rely upon the Public Liability Insurance for the many street parties planned for when we eventually exit restrictions!

## Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators needed

Thank you to everybody who has taken an interest and played an active part in alerting neighbours when a crime or suspicious activity has occurred. The whatsapp messages have been very useful and have helped to keep Whitehouse safe. To ensure that we have a community wide registered watch scheme, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are needed for each street in Whitehouse. To find out more about what's involved or register to be one, please contact Eileen at [Eileen.Tait@whitehouse-pc.org](mailto:Eileen.Tait@whitehouse-pc.org)

## CALL YOUR LOCAL POLICE ON 101 – IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

### **When to call 101?**

You should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response. For example, you should call 101 if:

- your car has been stolen or your property has been damaged
- you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood
- you want to report a minor traffic collision
- you need to give the police information about crime in your area.

To speak to the police about a general enquiry, 101 has been introduced as part of the government's wider work to improve access to the police, ease pressure on 999, and help to efficiently and effectively tackle crime and disorder.

<b>999</b> Emergency	<b>111</b> national non-emergency medical number
<b>112</b> Emergency number. 112 will work on any mobile phone anywhere in the world.	<b>101</b> non-emergency number for the police

### **What is the difference between 101 and 999?**

You should continue to call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened. To contact the police for any other reason, call 101.

### *What does it cost to call 101?*

Calls to 101 (from both landlines and mobile networks) cost 15 pence per call, no matter what time of day you call, or how long you are on the phone.

### *Who will answer my 101 call?*

Calls to 101 are answered by police officers and staff in the control room of the local police force. This ensures that staff with local knowledge can answer and deal with the calls and respond appropriately.

# Summer Activities for our Youth & Adults


These events are free, but ticketed. Please sign up via our website for each of these events on Eventbrite to help us manage numbers and social distancing. Due to the current situation numbers will unfortunately be limited.

## WHITEHOUSE CHURCH SUMMER EVENTS


Whitehouse  
Nature walk  
Saturday 15th August  
2pm – 3:30pm

Booked groups of up to 6 people will take a short nature walk through Hazeley wood. Each group will receive a mini map to guide them to numbered points of interest and answer nature quiz questions. Children will get a small gift at the end. Aimed at families with pre-school and primary aged children. Book for free via our website.

For all information see our website and social media:

 [www.WhitehouseMK.church](http://www.WhitehouseMK.church)

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## WHITEHOUSE CHURCH SUMMER EVENTS

Kids Art &  
Photography  
competition  
Running from  
1st – 30th August


6 winners will receive  
a £25 Amazon  
voucher!  
The categories are:  
'Whitehouse'  
'Heroes'  
&  
'Natural world'

Open to all primary and secondary  
aged children and youth.


- 1.) Get creative with your artwork and photos.
- 2.) Upload a picture of your artwork or photo to Instagram.  
(Using your or your parent's account)
- 3.) Tag @whitehousechurch and add your age in the description.
- 4.) Add the hashtag #whitehousechurchart

Winners will be announced at the end of the summer with prize winners having their art/photos printed and displayed in Whitehouse in September.

For all information see our website and social media:

 [www.WhitehouseMK.church](http://www.WhitehouseMK.church)

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## Update on the progress of the new Secondary School

Graham Construction are progressing well on site, with works continuing to the external sports facilities & brickwork, and internally with partition walls, plastering, mechanical and electrical installations.



Building work is due to complete early in 2021

## Whitehouse Allotments

The first allotment site in Whitehouse is planned to be opened during the summer of 2021. This site will consist of a variety of plots of different sizes and we are starting to collect information from Whitehouse residents who may be interested in a plot when they become available.

If you are interested in a plot, then please complete the information below so that we can register your initial interest and keep you updated as soon as further information becomes available.

<https://whitehouse-pc.gov.uk/whitehouse-allotments/>



# For our Winter Newsletter in Q4

For our Winter Newsletter in Q4, we look forward to input & content from the Whitehouse Community!

**Children**, why don't you share your stories and any drawings you made during the lockdown period? The top 3 entries will receive special mention in our next Newsletter and the best drawing will be on the front cover of our Summer Newsletter.



**Adults**, have you encountered any unsung heroes who have made a difference to our Community during the lockdown period? Please send us your nominations and a short description of what they did, so we can tell others about them!



We are also looking for local community input for a title for our future quarterly newsletters, so please share your ideas and the winning entry will get full mention in our next edition!

Please mail all entries to [media@whitehouse-pc.org.uk](mailto:media@whitehouse-pc.org.uk)

## Useful contact numbers:

Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Childline	0800 1111
Citizens Advice	01908 604475	Victim Support	01908 607989
Age Concern	01908 550700	MK Hospital	01908 660033
MK Act	0344 375 5407		

## Community Council Contact Information:



[www.whitehouse-pc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehouse-pc.gov.uk)



@whitehouseCommunityCouncil



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