

**Minutes of the Community & Communications Committee
held on Tuesday 23 July 2024
commencing at 6.30pm
at the Springfield Centre, Springfield Boulevard, Springfield**

This meeting was open to the Public

Members Present

Cllr L Adura

Cllr O Cole

Cllr P Halton-Davis

Cllr K Kavarana (Chair)

Cllr B Barton

Cllr V Dixon

Cllr J Howard

Cllr M Petchey

In attendance

T Jones, Community Officer/Committee Clerk

14/24

Apologies for Absence

Cllr C Odunewu – personal commitment

15/24

Declarations of Interest

None

16/24

Members of the Public Present

None

17/24

Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting on 29 May 2024, having been previously circulated were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

18/24

Public Involvement – Deputations, Petitions and Questions

Members of the public may make representations in respect of the business on the agenda.

19/24

Grants

None

20/24 Communications - Programme & Priorities 2024/25

i. Communications Strategy

a. Social media reach data

Committee noted that our engagement on Facebook and Instagram is improving, driven by an increased number of posts and raising of our profile. The data for last 90 days vs 90 days prior shows an increase of reach on Facebook up 98% and 20.4% on Instagram.

In the last month, although visits to our Facebook page were down 8.1%, visits to our Instagram profile were up 447.1% with a 133.3% increase in follows. Our Facebook page also increased 100% in follows in the same period.

Committee requested that numbers, in addition to percentages, be provided with future updates.

ii. New website

Committee noted that the new CPCC website was successfully launched on 30 May. Officers are continuing to carry out edits and add new content where necessary. The functionality of the website, from an admin perspective, is much improved and the website providers are very responsive to any requests submitted.

21/24 Community Projects - Programme & Priorities 2024/25

i. Donation towards the Summer Play Sessions

Committee noted that a donation of £338 has been received from the Cricketers pub, from their community fundraising, towards the cost of one of the summer play sessions on Oldbrook Green. The donation will be acknowledged in the August edition of Homeground and on social media.

ii. Play Area Improvements – MKCC Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) 2025-26 (min 131/23)

Further to the Committees resolution to make an application to the CIF fund for play area improvements, Committee noted that the Committee Clerk and Estates Manager have met with the MKCC Officer responsible for play areas to discuss a proposal and that any applications for improving MKCC owned play areas must have prior involvement and approval of this MKCC Officer.

Committee considered a report from MK City Council on the condition of the Fishermead play areas. This report making recommendations on play areas requiring improvements as well as proposing the removal of some play areas where the equipment is in poor condition and offers little play value. The content of this report would form the basis of the application to the Community Infrastructure Fund 2025/26, with funding used to support improvements should the application be successful.

Committee resolved to accept the report and its recommendations, apart from Play Area ref: FISH14 (behind 192 Fishermead Blvd), which Committee considered still offered play value and once re-painted would be in reasonable condition. Committee also resolved that the provision of '20-Slow Children Playing' road signs near all play areas should be incorporated into the CIF application.

- iii. **Fancy Dress Tea Party** (min. C&C 83/23)
Committee received a verbal report on the arrangements for the Children’s Fancy Dress Tea Party on 26 October at the Springfield Centre, with activities including the reptile roadshow, face painting, crafts, pizza making (TBC), apple bobbing (TBC) with the following Committee members confirming their availability to support the running of the event: Cllrs Dixon, Halton-Davis, Kavarana with Cllrs Petchey, Cole and Adura to confirm nearer the time.

22/24 Homeground

- i. Committee considered and approved the proof of the August edition of Homeground magazine, with some minor amendments noted by the Committee Clerk.
- ii. Committee considered items for inclusion in the November edition of Homeground resolving that, in addition to the regular items, the following items be included; Springfield Picnic (front cover), a reminder of what goes in which bin, Spotlight on Fishermead to include our review of play areas & a What’s on in Trinity Centre, Christmas Party advert, report on summer activities, report on work carried out on Fishermead Community Garden and any news on Warm Spaces.

23/24 Projects – Committee Budget 2025/26, 2026/27, 2027/28, 2028/29 & 2029/30**

The Committee noted that project proposals for the next five years need to be submitted in October 2024. All project proposals must comply with the Project Policy, be detailed on a Project Request Form **(including full costings and breakdown of expenditure)**.

Completed project proposals will be considered at the October Committee meeting, where projects will be prioritised.

**Project Proposals are not required if there is an existing budget cost code – all cost codes will be reviewed as part of the annual Council budget process.

24/24 Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 22 October 2024.