



Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG)

Covering Brinklow, Kents Hill, Kingston, Monkston and Monkston Park

Date - March 2010
Issue 3

What is a NAG?

A Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) is set up to deal with the key issues identified by public consultation. NAGs are made up of volunteers who will plan and organise tasks to be completed on your behalf and that of the community. NAGs are a key part of the success of neighbourhood policing.

Who forms a NAG?

The NAG involves the local community and includes our local residents, parish and Ward Councillors, the police, fire service, MK Council and other organisations such as local businesses and schools to make this NAG area a safer place.

Are you looking in the same places as us?

Our thanks to those residents who let us know their top 3 concerns. Although a little better than last time, we are still very surprised by the overall response that we had!

Is it because you haven't got any concerns? If so, that seems to be a far different view than the one that we in the NAG, and those residents who did respond, share!

Are you not worried about all the litter in our streets and green spaces, bad or illegal parking, noisy neighbours, vandalism and other inconsiderate and anti-social behaviour? Do these issues really not matter to you?

We shall continue to work to improve the quality of life in our communities, make things safer, reduce crime and bring a sense of pride to where we live.

TOP THREE PRIORITIES for 2010

RESIDENTIAL
PARKING

LITTER

ANTI-SOCIAL
BEHAVIOUR

Not surprisingly, these are the same top 3 concerns as in 2009

These are your responses to the other questions we asked about the 2009 Priorities being better, worse or about the same in the last 12 months:

Anti-Social Behaviour	Same
Residential Parking	Same
Litter	Same

We asked you about the Community and Neighbourhood Policing:-

Do you know who your Neighbourhood Police Officers are?	64% Did not
Do you know of the Policing Pledge?	77% Did not
My Community has continued to improve and I am happy where I live	46% Agreed
I am satisfied with the level of Police presence where I live	43% Agreed
If I had an issue I would be confident in the police response	40% Agreed
My fear of crime has reduced and I feel safe in my neighbourhood	7% Not safer

Environmental Visual Audits (EVAs) have now been done!

Throughout January members of the NAG have carried out a thorough review of all the areas within the parish.

They have been looking for signs of litter, poor parking, damage, vandalism, graffiti and other issues that could affect our quality of life or have a negative impact on our communities.

They have come up with quite a long list of items to tackle over the next few months - some of which fall into our top three priorities - whilst others may need a more specific, targeted approach to resolve.

Next time – come and join us on our EVA walkabout in your area!

Litter

It is not surprising that Litter remains a top concern judging by the amount of rubbish that is strewn about our neighbourhoods.

We have added new bins in known 'hot-spots' but there is little doubt that carelessness is largely to blame for the amount seen in our streets and green spaces. All areas are 'litter-picked' by MK Council every five weeks but, the rubbish soon comes back.

We are working with schools to raise awareness and urging traders to be more responsible within their areas. However, we urge everyone to be more socially responsible.

If things do not improve Communities Wardens and Police Officers can issue Fixed Penalty Notices so you have been warned!



NAGs - working with you and for you to make things better!

Residential Parking

It comes as no surprise to us that parking remains a concern and we get lots of complaints about issues concerning residential parking.

This includes parking on pavements, on verges, on bends and across junctions, restricting access across driveways or dropped kerbs, or just simply inappropriate or poor parking behaviour.

Most of the poor parking behaviour contravenes the Highway Code and you could be liable for a Fixed Penalty Fine if the problem persists. Additionally, Milton Keynes Council has now issued a draft order that will prohibit waiting on pavements and verges.

If this order is approved, a by-law will be introduced and this type of parking behaviour will have to stop or you will get fined!

Neighbourhood Policing?

Neighbourhood policing is a way of providing a tailor made service in this area to tackle crime and other issues that stop you from feeling safe.

Police officers and staff work with other agencies like the Parish Council, MK Council, SaferMK and some of your fellow residents in the community who have volunteered to be NAG members.

Their aim is to identify the issues most important to you and your sense of security and finding ways of tackling them.

Under neighbourhood policing Thames Valley Police is committed to providing staff dedicated to your area that you will be able to identify and work with to tackle the issues you have raised.

By logging on to the Thames Valley Police website at 'your neighbourhood' link you will be able to get more information, get to know who your local police team are, and keep up-to-date with things going on in this area.

Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-social behaviour (ASB) can ruin lives by eating away at our quality of life and the privacy and respect that we all want to enjoy - free from fear, disturbance, nuisance or menace.

ASB can come in many forms and legislation is in place to deal with this on your behalf. It may be a Police matter, an issue that the Local Authority is empowered to deal with; or a combination of both.

It is important to remember that there are agencies there to help and the NAG members and Parish/Ward Councillors are also there to support and help resolve issues that may arise.

It is absolutely crucial that whatever the problem it is not suffered in silence! Keeping such issues to yourself is not helping you - in terms of getting it resolved but also your own peace of mind/health could suffer. Whilst an ASB-related concern goes unchecked there is a risk of escalation making the original problem worse and the resolution more difficult to achieve!

There are many ways you can let the authorities know - including anonymously - so please do not hesitate!

Each NAG Newsletter will try and deal with some specific aspects of ASB and, over the course of 2010, we hope to cover all types in our ASB Info column.

Noise Nuisance in our neighbourhoods is usually about amplified/loud music and late night parties. In the first instance, please ring **01908 252398** or the out of hours number **01908 226699**.

Noise can intrude into every area of your life and can literally assault you with its unconsenting effects. Excessive noise affects your quality of life, it makes you jumpy, it makes you irritable, and it can prevent you from sleeping and cause many stressful side effects. Noise is **anti-social behaviour!**

Please be considerate to your neighbours and if you must play loud music - please close your windows and doors at all times. Remember, many residents work shifts and need their sleep in the daytime.

ASB Info!

Fly-tipping is the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land or a highway that has no licence to accept it.' Illegal dumps of waste can vary in scale and the type of waste involved and, in our area, is typically household rubbish, unwanted mattresses and furniture and electrical goods that no longer work.

At the other end of the scale - though much rarer in our communities - there is a growing trend for large-scale tipping which involves construction and demolition waste.

Fly-tipping can be linked to anti-social behaviour - it can create a fear of crime and a poor impression of an area. It can also lead to more serious pollution of the local environment; can be hazardous to human health; and encourage rats!

Penalties on conviction for fly-tipping crimes are viewed similarly to dumping hazardous waste. The offender will have to meet the costs for the enforcement and investigation, and for land to be cleaned of fly-tipped waste as well as any fine imposed for the act of fly-tipping.

Milton Keynes Council offers various services to help dispose of your waste. Dumping on the roadside or in a quiet corner of one of our estates is a mug's game and an expensive one at that!

Drinking in Public Places - all the estates - residential and commercial covered by our Parish are in a **Drinking Control Areas**. This means that a Police Officer can require you not to drink in the public in our estates and failure to do so may result in confiscation of the alcohol and/or a Penalty Notice of Disorder (£50 or £80). Current legislation can impose a fine of up to £500.

Do you know what your children get up to when you are not there? There are signs that some of them could be drinking alcohol and smoking cigarettes - in play areas, in green spaces, on verges and even in houses and flats! Please keep a watchful eye!

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
For all Emergencies	999
Thames Valley Police	0845 8 505 505
Bucks & MK Fire	01296 744400
CrimeStoppers	0800 555 111
Milton Keynes Council - Environmental	01908 252570
Milton Keynes Council - Out of Hours	01908 226699
Anti-Social Team (0900-1700hrs)	01908 691691
Kents Hill & Monkston Parish Council	07926 512523
Milton Keynes Mediation Service	01908 200828

Litter - If you can't find a bin - please take it home with you!

Help us to make a difference and to be proud of our communities