

Attendees

Chair & Olney ward councillor
Olney Town Council
Volunteer friend
MKC Community Engagement Manager
Grounds Café
Emberton Parish Council
Park User
Emberton Park Sailing Club (1)
MKC, Youth participation worker
3 members of MK Youth Cabinet
MKC Arboricultural Officer
Milton Keynes Anglers Association
2 X Static Caravan Representatives
Gardening/grounds volunteer
ECP Park Manager

Apologies

Portfolio lead for Public Realm
Olney ward councillor
Head of Waste and Environment
Emberton Park Sailing Club (2)
Park user

Chair welcomed everyone to an in-person meeting.

The **MK Youth Cabinet** visited as a focus group to the park on Tuesday 29 June and attended the PLUG to provide their feedback on the park for consideration;

- Young people provided a local and non-local perspective
- Consider a path around park to take pedestrians off the 'road'
- Diversity of play areas is good
- Consider app to find trails, scavenger hunt
- Park is environmentally friendly
- Lack of maps around the park

- Clear the trail towards bird hide – it does not feel safe
- Refurbish bird hide
- Sand pit area could also have something for older young people, such as a shelter
- Sand pit area could use some buckets
- Outdoor gym equipment good, but location next to café poor. It could be quite intimidating for people wanting to use the equipment
- Carbon neutral – how carbon neutral are the café and caravans?
- Sensory area – is hidden and could do with expansion
- Possible fund raiser for the park – inflatable event on water?
- Olney duck race/riverside festival – expand beyond the local
- Big banner at entrance – different languages
- YCab video – how to make a den – Could this be encouraged at Emberton?
- YCAB – Emberton Country Park should contact Community Trees:MK

2. Notes from the previous meeting were agreed as accurate. Update on matters arising not covered in later agenda items were provided by Penny Fletcher;

More work to be taken forward to change rules for park on this.

Action outstanding: To formalise this for park

Vehicle use in the park - Survey undertaken, awaiting a report back for next steps.

3. **Trees and Emberton.** Information session and written report provided by arboricultural officer. See attached. Some comments/considerations to explore;

- After trees taken down, what happens to wood – branches chipped and used for mulch.
- Replacement of trees after they are removed – look at replanting.
- Applying for grants from Forestry Commission. Right tree, right place.
- Possible chainsaw sculpture competition
- Only partly fell poplars/trees, use remaining tree to sculpt totem poles in situ.

4. **Volunteers** – Volunteer coordinator role discussed, with some useful comments to be included.

Action: Please see attached revised role profile for your information and to promote.

Information now also available on the website www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/ecp-volunteer

Once coordinator/s in post, we will look to expand out to other volunteers.

Green Gym is a group of volunteers who visit different locations to socialise, achieve a physical sense of well-being and belonging and to conserve and garden/cultivate. They recently visited Emberton Park to see if it would be a good fit and we are waiting to hear back.

The Youth Offending Service will be working with young people on a one to one basis to do odd jobs in the park on a trial basis for three-months

Contact local GP practices at Cobbs Garden and Newport Pagnell for social prescription: **Action contact once coordinator role complete**

Volunteer friend/champion role to continue.

5. Operational update

- The new payment entry system is working well but is a little slower than had been hoped
- Park ranger left, and new person has now joined the park as a temporary park ranger
- Camping bookings will move to a centralised function with MKC Customer Services to free up park staff to physically manage the park more. Go live date 6 July 2021
- Security contract arrangements – Meeting took place. Better communication and reporting to be put in place. All park users encouraged to call 101 if non- emergency or 999 for emergencies. Security staff will cover whole park but will give greater attention to hot spot areas; statics and camping
- Large metal container cleared and removed from car park
- Management plan making progress

6. Updates from park stakeholders

Statics - Welcomed the new static representatives. They gave a little update on recent static meeting with park staff – leading to review of waste, communications, security and more. Regular meetings have been put in place.

Issue with Elsans – to be addressed directly with gatehouse staff and not through PLUG.

Café – Very low take up of litter pick kits. Promote more via ECP Facebook page and all PLUG members encouraged to support litter pick kits and/or to promote it.

Cafe interested in YCab/Duke of Edinburgh awards locally. **Action: share contact details between. Complete**

Sailing Club – Still processing through insurance and repairs following flood at Christmas. Electricity supply – they wish to proceed to upgrade to three phase enhanced supply from front of Emberton. Request to raise with Facilities. **Action: Liaise with Facilities**

Anglers Association – Would welcome sight of the aquatic survey results in September with a view to the lakes being stocked appropriately with fish.

7. Zoning discussion

Postponed to September meeting. First main item on the agenda. **Action: Check officer availability to attend.**

Other – Vision to be used within management plan

Condition survey required for benches around the park: **Action To implement**

Dates of future meetings in person, by café at Emberton Country Park,

Wed 22 September **PLEASE NOTE START TIME WILL BE 18:00 AS WE MAY WELL WALK TO PARTS OF THE PARK TO DISCUSS THE DRAFT VISION – SUNSET IS ABOUT 19:00**

Tues 19 October