

The Way Forward

SPRING

SUMMER

AUTUMN

WINTER

The magazine of  
Meadow Way  
Community Association  
**The Way Forward**

SUMMER 2007

# MEADOW WAY NEEDS YOU!



TO  
HAVE  
FUN

TO  
HELP

TO BRING CHANGE—TO MAKE DECISIONS  
BE A PART OF PLANNING YOUR FUTURE

In the Summer edition of **THE WAY FORWARD**

**KIDS STUFF**

**Building Update**

**In July**



**Summer Event**

Saturday July 21

Meadow Way Summer Fayre



Dear Residents

Since our last newsletter, the momentum for bringing people together as a community has really hotted up. In this process we've been rained on (May Day! Car Boot sales!); exhausted

ourselves running round the hall in the pursuit of a perfect figure (Aerobics on Monday nights; served several hundred hotdogs and hamburgers (Fun Days at the end of May), not to mention learning IT on a Wednesday morning and singing ourselves hoarse at our family services. On top of that we have sent scores of emails and letters and talked ourselves into the ground trying to get grants and raise money for your Meadow Way Community Centre.

Next on the agenda is our desire to start a committee with you young people so that your voices can also be heard loud and clear, articulating exactly what you think Meadow Way needs and to get involved with the planning and doing. If you are interested, drop round and let me know.

I would encourage you all to come to our residents meetings. Our last one was very important as it highlighted plans for the 6,000 homes going up near you. (See article on page .) We are also aware that many of you have real worries about the possible closing of Brooklands Middle School. Do come and talk to us about your concerns so that we can put some strategies together. Our meetings start at 7pm on the first Thursday of each month.

I would also urge you to support our car boot sales as every little helps trying to get funds together for the Centre. Our next one will be on Sunday July 8. Also in July is the Summer Fair. Look forward to seeing you all there!

Malcolm Ginn  
Chairman



In the few weeks since I became the Mayor of Leighton Buzzard I have attended a number of civic events, meetings and community events. I have seen that this town is full of people with a passion for doing something good.

Whether it be working tirelessly within their immediate community or the town's wider community, practicing skills such as singing, acting and playing musical instruments or doing something different with a community spirit.

Seeing the Meadow Way community association working hard to reach their targets for a new building again shows how much work the people of this town put in for their community.

## Meadow Way Community Association Survey Results

### No of surveys returned

The community association sent out 400 surveys, one to each household on the estate. Of those 400 surveys, 77 were returned. This represents a return rate of just over 19%.

### Users of the community centre

Of the surveys returned 35 indicated that they were current users of the centre. This is 45%.

### Do we need a new centre?

This was a resounding yes, with 96% of responses. Only one survey indicated no.

Two surveys had not responded to that particular question.

### Preferred features of a new centre

Play facilities 97%—Hall for events/parties 94%—Kitchen 87%—Environmentally friendly 83%  
Look nice 81%—Security shutters 81%—Café 77%—Parking 76%—Games room 75%—  
Fencing - 75%—I.T. Room 63%—Reception - 59%

### Other suggestions made by residents were:

- A shop • A bar • Conference facilities • CCTV • A pitched roof • An outside garden
- Adult presence at all times • Access for disabled visitors
- Priority should be kids facilities. • Meadow Way Residents must run the centre.

### Training courses

59 surveys (76%) indicated they would be prepared to attend training courses with just 12 (15%) replying that they wouldn't be interested in training.

### Supporting events

57 surveys responded positively to supporting events, which equates to 76%. 8 surveys stated that they wouldn't support events, which is 10%.

### Other events and activities—We suggested 7 activities and these are now listed in order of preference.

1.	Holiday activities	90%	2.	Mums and Tots	77%
3.	Social evening	77%	4.	Sports	75%
5.	Keep fit	74%	6.	Outings	71%
			7.	Drama	46%.

### Other suggestions made by residents were:

- Craft clubs—After school club—Yoga—Youth club—Slimming club
- Youth café—Activities for the elderly—Playgroup—Games night
- Quiz night—Karaoke night—Baby clinic—All day drop in

Of the seventy-seven surveys that were returned, the views expressed represented a total of 246 residents.

### And the winner is . . .

You may have noticed that there was an incentive to fill in and return the survey—£200 Argos voucher. The winning survey was drawn out on Friday 30th March and was Kathy Ballard. Kathy was highly delighted and used the voucher to buy new bunk beds for her children.



### We still need your views!

We would like to thank everyone who completed and returned their survey—we really do need your views and opinions. And to those who didn't return their survey—you still haven't lost your opportunity! We have some blank surveys at the community centre that can be collected on a Wednesday morning. We will also be out and about this spring and summer at various events publicising what we are trying to achieve and asking for members of the public to complete our survey.

If in my role I can help support the association I would be more than happy to. I hope to be supporting more people in the coming year in working within their community and perhaps more importantly seeing them put something back too.

From what I have seen so far of the association, this estate has great ideas on what makes a good community. Neighbours working together to raise funds for a building, organising sports days, producing this newsletter and anything that puts a close relationship with other residents back in to the estate.

Before I became Mayor, I worked with other estates around the Grovebury ward to either set up new associations or support existing ones. I have been involved with Steppingstone Place residents and also Sandhills residents in the setting up of their associations. Together with Pages Park community association Billington Park

residents association we have campaigned for more facilities, gained a voice in the council and neighbours have made friends with neighbours that they once did not know. These are just a few benefits from an association and I know this association is making good progress on all fronts.

The remaining 11 months will be interesting and hard work but a lot of fun too with any luck.

I look forward to meeting you all in time and hopefully taking part in the activities you have planned to raise funds and awareness for the group. You are also all more than welcome to attend my events as they come up during the year as they all help raise money for other worthy groups in Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.

Have a look at [www.cllrfahn.org.uk](http://www.cllrfahn.org.uk) for updates on what I am doing.

Adam Fahn

## SUMMER FAYRE

21 July 1 pm

### ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR!

Fair rides  
Bar-b-que  
Stalls  
Craft  
Face painting  
Entertainment  
Inflatable Fun!



### Are You a Drug User?

If the answer to this question is yes, then we may be able to support you. **CAN** is an established drug treatment agency in Bedford and we have started an Outreach service covering the whole of Bedfordshire (excluding Luton).

We provide a range of confidential services varying from one to one support, group work, and complementary therapies.

If this applies to you and you would like further information, we can be contacted in the strictest confidence on:

Laurie: 07817 825732 Carly: 07817 826046  
Karen: 07950 301451

### Yet more housing?

There is a risk. A new scheme may bring development on the land immediately adjacent to Meadow Way. However, we can look on it as an opportunity!

It's time for you to have your say and get your own plan!

The Greensand Trust, a small independent environmental charity working in the Leighton Buzzard area, has been working with local people in south Bedfordshire to draw up Plans for Open Space and implement parts of them. This Green Infrastructure Plan is an opportunity for residents to put onto paper their local knowledge of their surrounding area, their likes

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**FAMILY CHURCH  
WITH SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
*(loads of activities,  
fun and refreshments!)*  
1st Sunday of each month  
11— 12.30.

Family Church is run by Living Water Sanctuary who have



been coming here for some five years. Living Water believe that families are important and want to encourage you as much as we can. Sunday School is activity based and we always do loads of sticking, cutting, painting, growing and making. So do come along and try us out.

(Children under 9 to be accompanied by an adult.)

August 5  
September 2  
October 7  
November 4

**A WARM WELCOME AWAITS YOU**

and dislikes of local open space, and ideas for the future.

You may be wondering why green areas are being looked at when more important facilities are needed for the community especially with proposed housing growth for the area. However we must not forget green spaces as they have been pushed forward on the back of the Growth Agenda proposed by the government. They have realised that open space, access, safe environments and habitats for wildlife are important to improve quality of life. We must not lose this opportunity!

The Greensand Trust can help with the environmental impact of new development and look at open

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES First Thursday of each month

Police Surgery 6 pm  
Residents meet 7 pm

Line dancing every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm

### 1st Sunday of each month

Church at Meadow Way with Living Water Sanctuary Family Church from 11-12.30

### Every Wednesday

No Limits Youth Group for 13 plus age group.

**Car Boot Sale Middle Green**  
£5 cars £10 vans- 2nd Saturday of each month 1 - 4pm

August 11  
September 8  
October 6  
November 10

All enquiries for any of these events call Kath on 630275

*Please come and talk to us on a Wednesday morning from 10 am or hand in your suggestions.*

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Website: [www.meadowway.org](http://www.meadowway.org)

space ideas, cycle ways and footpaths. The Green Infrastructure Plan will become part of the Community Plan for South Bedfordshire District Council.

This is not exclusive to adults—we welcome ideas from younger people that live in Meadow Way as well!

So if you have any thoughts on the green space in and around Meadow Way or would like to see something changed contact Alexe Rose 01525 378101 or [Alexe.Rose@greensandtrust.org](mailto:Alexe.Rose@greensandtrust.org)





**Leighton-Linslade Opposes Unsustainable Development (LOUD) is an Action Group made up of ordinary people who are local residents of Leighton Buzzard, Linslade and the surrounding villages.**

**W**e have united in our opposition to further unsustainable mass housing development in and around our town.

Current Government policy requires massive housing development to take place mainly in the South and South East of England, instead of spreading it around the whole of England, Wales and Scotland. South Bedfordshire has been identified as one of the areas required to make a significant contribution to Government housing targets. At present, these targets are set as 42,700 new dwellings by 2031, 26,300 of which are to be built by 2021. Unless we do something to stop it, a significant proportion of these houses will be built on the Green Belt around Leighton Buzzard and Linslade.

It was in this context that **LOUD** came into existence last autumn, in direct response to the publication of proposals to build over 6,000 dwellings on 850 acres of Green Belt land on the eastern edge of Leighton Buzzard. A document entitled Eastern Leighton Linslade Partnership was submitted to the Joint Planning and Transport Committee (JPTC) (made up of mainly Luton Boro, South Beds District and Beds County Council councillors), by developers that revealed their extensive plans

The massive housing development envisaged would stretch southwards from Heath Road, around Shenley Hill, across Vandyke Road, Hockliffe Road, Stanbridge Road and then on to the bypass, the A505. This would effectively extend the eastern edge of the town to Clipstone and Eggington.

As if that weren't enough, the plan then has a 'second phase' proposing further development along Miletree Road all the way to Eastern Way, adding an additional 3,000-6,000 houses depending on the densities used.

And it is also now clear that this is not the only land around the Leighton Linslade area that is being considered as a possibility for development. The JPTC have highlighted land between the Stoke Hammond Western Bypass and Derwent Road in Linslade and also land off the Wing Road as possible sites.

However, it is not too late to try and do something about these development plans. As things stand at present, the Green Belt will need to be rolled back for these developments to go ahead. As long as the Green Belt remains in place around our town, the developments cannot proceed. **LOUD** is committed to fight to keep our Green Belt in place.

**LOUD** is putting a petition before the Houses of Parliament asking that these massive housing developments to be turned down around Leighton Buzzard and Linslade, and that our town is removed from the Growth Area for South Bedfordshire. In this, we are supported by both our MP and MEP, and also have the support of many of our local councillors in parish, town, district and county. The petition will give the town a voice and will clearly demonstrate to the decision-makers the extent of our opposition. Some of you may already know of the petition which currently has almost 8,000 signatures, and may even have signed it. **If not, the petition can be signed at the LOUD website, [www.lb-loud.co.uk](http://www.lb-loud.co.uk)**

The next three months are going to be critical. A document called the Core Strategy - Issues and Options, and is part of the Local Development Framework in the planning system has just been launched by the JPTC covering South Beds and Luton Boro Councils, which are responsible for meeting the Government's housing targets for the area. Through the Issues and Options process they will be asking Stakeholders, such as local councils, businesses etc and the public to choose from ten development sites which will include Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Luton, Dunstable, Houghton Regis and villages including Heath and Reach, Hockliffe and Toddington. This will then inform the JPTC where housing should be developed across the region and where the Green Belt should be rolled back. Not all of the options include Leighton Linslade.

This is the point at which we have the chance to make a difference. By taking part in the Issues and Options process, together we can help steer the development proposals away from our town. The more of us that make our views known, the greater chance we have of success.

To make this process open to as many people as possible, **LOUD** will be holding an Action Group meeting that is open to the public on Thursday 19th July, 8pm at Beadesert Lower School, Appenine Way (Planets Estate) where copies of the Issues and Options paper will be available to all who attend. We will discuss the best options to choose for our town and how to complete the document.

If we do not oppose these developments, then we could see our town more that double in size within little more than a decade. This will place an impossible strain on our already overburdened local infrastructure—we are already short of doctors, dentists, schools, sports grounds, community halls and virtually any other local facility you can name. Enormous numbers of dwellings, people and cars will flood into the area but, as the plans contain little provision to develop the local economy, few local jobs will be created. Traffic congestion and train overcrowding will become intolerable. The historic town centre of Leighton Buzzard will be forced into steeper decline.

Our Green Belt will be destroyed and an enormous area of green open space will be lost to our descendents forever. The flood risk for the eastern part of the town will be increased, as much of the land earmarked for development is on the floodplain of Clipstone Brook. The recent floods across the north of England show the risk we are all at from climate change and why it is essential that floodplains are kept free from development at all costs.

**LOUD** believes that all towns need to be able to expand gradually as the population grows, but any housing development must be properly planned and controlled, with the aim of creating sustainable communities. Building tens of thousands of houses with little or no thought for the existing community, economy, infrastructure and landscape is simply a recipe for disaster!!

And don't forget, it's not as if the Leighton Linslade area is not already accepting housing. The large new estates on the south side of the town, the developments on the old Brown's. Camden Motors and Dunham and Haines sites, the houses that are being squeezed into any available pocket of land, no matter how small: combined, these are adding thousands of houses to the town with little contribution to local infrastructure. We believe that, quite simply, enough is enough. The town cannot take much more development, let alone development on the scale that is being proposed.

We believe we are fighting for the very future of our area. If we do not act now, our historic market town will be lost to us forever.

To find out more about **LOUD** and how to get involved then either go to our website at [www.lb-loud.co.uk](http://www.lb-loud.co.uk) or contact Ann Gates on LB 375498 or Andy Wood on LB 377760.

## BUILDING UPDATE



COPY TO GO HERE

## BEING INVOLVED

Where do you want to be in five years? How do you see the future in your area? After reading the results of the questionnaire we know that everyone is agreed that we need a new community hall where everyone—including children and young people in particular—can have more activities and have fun. We have taken note that high on your agenda are activities for children and we are hoping to have a Mums and Toddlers group in place very soon. We are all in agreement that having a gym, community café, IT room, games room, stage area for drama, meeting rooms etc—not just for Meadow Way—but for the larger community—would be great. So if we all agree—who is going to make it happen? The committee here are working hard to get grants and donations to pay for the work. We are approaching developers to put something back into the community. We are also travelling around the UK to see other communities who are building a Centre or have already done so, to find out the pitfalls and any suggestions they may have to help us with our campaign for a brighter future for Meadow Way. However the campaign will only be a success if the community are 100% behind it. This is where we need YOU! Please come along to our residents meetings or drop in to see us on a Wednesday morning if you are around. Let us know how YOU can be involved in effecting change. And please support our activities—come to the Summer Fayre and bring your friends.

**Support our Car Boot Sales aerobics nights/line dancing/youth groups/ monthly Sunday Family Church services/fun days/open nights/outings as much as you possibly can. Help us to help you! Hope to see you soon!**

### Would you like to advertise?

We aim to produce a seasonal news magazine and in order to make this possible we will need to find advertising sponsorship. Would your company/ business/group/church be interested in advertising in *The Way Forward*? All it costs is just £25 for an eighth of a page or £40 for a quarter page. As advertising space is obviously going to be limited, please contact Malcolm Ginn as soon as possible for full details.

The next issue will be September 2007, all copy needs to be in by 3rd August 2007.

### WHAT TO DO ON A MONDAY NIGHT AT 7.30 pm?

See a repeat of *Open All Hours on One, boring . . .*

Find out more about the saga of the fire with Claire in *Coronation Street , yawn . . .* Wash up!

**Or what about joining our new aerobics fitness classes?**

#### For:

You could get fit and look good.

You don't have to travel into town (it's in your local community hall)

At £4 a session, it's cheaper than the gym

(If you are under 16, it's just a £1 if your Mum or relative comes too.)

#### Against:

You might miss those exciting repeats on the telly . . .

Er . . . Can't think of anything else!

**See you at the Community Hall**



### Would you and 3 or more friends like to have a go at activities for FREE?

If you haven't been on a course in the last 2 years, Spark Adult & Community Learning can arrange FREE activities at Meadow Way Community Centre for groups of 4 or more adults, through our Signposts project.

**Here are some ideas but let us know what you would like to have a go at:**

**Arts & Crafts • Knitting • Computing  
Digital Cameras • Buying & Selling Online  
Childcare • Yoga • Pilates • Fitness  
Aromatherapy • Reflexology • Bridge  
Painting • Family History • Self Defence  
Karate • Pottery**

We will arrange the following for your group:  
two FREE sessions at Meadow Way Community Centre FREE crèche provision if you need it.

1:1 advice about more learning  
or work opportunities.

To arrange activities for your group call Mandy at Spark ACL on 01582 818794





As you can see from our pictures, we have been attracting a lot of attention over the past few months, all good! Promise!

Top left, Black Thunder from Chiltern Radio showed up for an interactive lunch at our Fun Days at the end of May.

If you didn't get your face painted (see front cover) you'll just have to wait for the Summer Fayre on 21st July! As well as lots of sticking and gluing, we enjoyed pottery, origami, nail make-over, a quiz night with Danish and coffee, aerobics, salsa and hula hooping (front page). PC Litchfield organised the sports and bottom middle we see Mark saving the day in spectacular fashion!

LuBYA (Luton and Beds Youth Association) brought along their massive inflatable to add to the fun. Thanks Andy and team who put in the time and effort, we sure enjoyed it!

To spread the word about our campaign for a purpose built, eco-friendly new Centre, we have been taking to the streets of Leighton. Kathy, Mary and Keith all got wet in the line of duty at the May Day celebrations but mercifully the little sunshine we've had this summer shone on us at the market stall (Linda's the one in the Ascot hat!). We made over £70 from the donated bric a brac (every little helps!) and we aim to add to the kitty by repeating the exercise again.

And many thanks to all who have baked cakes (Mary); taught Salsa dancing (Ellie); cooked burgers (Sue, Kath, John); made copious amounts of tea (Keith); painted faces and braided hair, not to mention the yummy pizzas (thank you Lauren and the team from Hockliffe Street Baptist church and thank you Domino Pizzas); took photographs (Noel); arranged the children's activities (thank you Heather and Living Water Sanctuary); added to the fun (thank you Funkee Munkee); created works of art (thank you Family Learning) helped in many ways (Bonnie) and swept the floor (thank you Malcolm!—*didn't join in with the aerobics though!*)



SUPPORT THE WAY FORWARD



All age groups joined in with the aerobics—some more energetic than others!

Our Monday night aerobics sessions are great fun, (aren't they Sue??!! You know you enjoy it!! No pain, no gain!!!) If you want to join in, see page 3.



Shhhh we're concentrating on learning new skills at the Centre  
Thank you Mandy from Spark  
If you want to join in, see page 3 for information



Our MP Andrew Selous popped along to see us at our Open Evening along with other people who have been connected to the Centre over the years

# Meadow Way Children's Page

A chicken walks up to the circulation desk at a public library and says, "Buk Buk BUK."



The librarian decides that the chicken wants three books. She gives three books to the chicken, who goes away with them tucked under its wing.

Around midday, the chicken returns to the circulation desk, looking vexed, and says, "Buk Buk BuKKOOK!"

The librarian decides that the chicken wants another three books. The chicken leaves as before, with three books under its wing.

The chicken returns to the library in the early afternoon, approaches the librarian, looking very annoyed, and says, "Buk Buk Buk Buk Bukkooook!"



The librarian is now a little suspicious. She gives the chicken three books, and decides to follow it.

She follows the chicken out of the library and through the town to a park. There she sees the chicken throwing the books at a frog in a pond, while the frog says, "Rredit, Rredit, Rredit . . ."

## Trees

### Wordsearch

All the words below are associated trees native to Britain and have just been planted in Stone Lane Community Woodland in Heath & Reach. Unfortunately one word has been left out of the grid. Can you find out which one it is?

Ash Hawthorn Leaf Birch  
Hazel Oak Elder Holly  
Spindle Field Maple  
Hornbeam Wild Cherry

```

M E S P I N D L E Y
A T L P L E O W R H
E H A G U E P R S A
B C I S M N E L F W
N L Y G H H E A Y T
R M S E C Z Y L A H
O P T D A S L F I O
H U L H J O E D M R
B I R C H T A S X N
W E L D E R F O A K
    
```

Missing word .....



For many years young people in Mid and South Beds would cry "There's nothing to do!" "There's nowhere to go!" "I can't find out what I need to know!"

So one day, some nice people designed a website that would provide you with the things you were asking for and "ta-da" FunkeeMunkee was created!

FunkeeMunkee is dedicated to providing you with up-to-the-minute info on what's going on in YOUR area. We are also passionate about giving you a quality space where you can find people to help with YOUR issues.

We have been doing this for a few years now, but we need to know what YOU think. Take a look around and then email us by clicking on the banana—we love getting your views, so the more the merrier!

**... 'cos it's a jungle out there!**

## SCRAMBLED PROVERBS

A DRIB IN HET DAHN SI THROW  
WOT NI TEH SHUB

SNOTICA KAPES DUELOR HANT  
SWORD

KEMA YAH LEWHI ETH NUS  
HESINS

A HTICTS IN MITE VASES NEIN

STAL TUB TON ASTLE

## A BUTTERFLY TO CRAYON

