



Working all year round in Blakelands, Pennyland, Bolbeck Park, Giffard Park, Great Linford

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BUDGET: SERVICES DOWN-CHARGES UP!

MK's Conservatives published their draft budget for 2011-12 recently. Many of the controversial items were well hidden, but they include:

Rubbish

Charges for collections of bulky waste items this April
New strategy charge for other services later -
black sack collection next perhaps?

Voluntary Organisations Slashed

Grants to many voluntary organisations such as Homestart, Mind, Community Mobilisers and Relate stopped as the Council commissions large general services instead
Cuts to arts and sports organisations such as MK Athletics (who hope to send several athletes to the Olympics this year), Interaction, and the Arts Workshops around the city

Community Alarms

Cuts to the planned "smart alarms" to protect the elderly and disabled from accidents

Birth, Marriage and Death

Increased charges to be born, married or die - crematorium and registry fees up

But Bureaucracy Continues!

No money for front-line staff but directors' pay unchanged and no senior staff cuts another year of money wasted on the notorious Council environment helpline

Cllr Christine Zealley said "The Council should be seeking efficiencies in back office services first before they cut front-line services that really affect people."



Cllr Christine Zealley finds fly tipping before the charges are increased. She said "If an increase is imposed we could all see more of this"

"The previous MK Lib Dem council worked hard to solve this problem without excessive charges".

TORY U TURN ON RENT INCREASE



Liberal Democrats and other elected members of the council voted, at the council meeting on 10th

January, against the Tory proposed rent increase of 6.1% for houses and garages and had them reduced to 4.0%.

The rents for shared ownership will increase by 5.1% for 2012/2013 in line with contractual obligations of their lease.

Your North Linford Focus Team would like to *thank* all the residents who contacted us on this issue. **Your support is very much appreciated.**



Pictured left Cllr Alan Richards highlights a broken timber in this public bench in Giffard Park.



Cllr Alan Richards tries to show the depth of the hole, which runs across the entire length of bridge 79. He said "This is a definite step up/down for anyone in a wheelchair and needs immediate attention".

COUNCILS RESPONSE

Ward Cllrs Alan Richards and Christine Zealley repeatedly ask MK council to make repairs in North Linford. Some of the long outstanding items on our ever growing lists are;

1. Resurfacing the canalside bridge No.79 which is near to the Lionhearts Cruising Club. This bridge is used by walkers/cyclists/mothers with pushchairs and wheelchair uses.
2. Fill holes in public foot paths/redways, or resurface as required.
3. Re-instate the brickwork at the bellmouth of Pritchard Court, Great Linford.
4. Start maintenance work on the Wedgwood Play Area, Blakelands.
5. Clear blocked drains, especially those near to the garages in Gibbwin. They are the responsibility of the Council's Housing Department.

To date the councils response has been "Only emergency work is being done at the moment" (no explanation has been given to exactly what that means). They went on to say "Nothing else will be done before March 2012".

Seeing will be believing.

We will continue to campaign on your behalf to get things done before March 2012.



Cllr Richards, pictured right, at the bellmouth of Pritchard Court. The damage to this stone work was caused by Council Recycling lorries turning in or out of the main entrance.



Cllr Christine Zealley stands by a hazardous section of red way in Great Linford. Cllr Zealley said "These badly surfaced redways are probably deterring residents from their using bikes?"



Lib Dems: working for you all year round