

SUMMARY OF THE PARISHES OPEN EVENING EVALUATION FORMS

Introduction

On Tuesday 21 August 2001, an open meeting was held for all of the Parish/Town Councils in the Milton Keynes Borough. The main purpose for the meeting was to discuss, with the Parishes, the Environment Directorate restructuring (the effect on landscaping arrangements) and the future section 136. However, there was also an opportunity to discuss crime and community safety and leisure facilities. The meeting was well represented by both the Parishes and MKC officers. At the end of the meeting the attendees were asked if they would complete an evaluation form. There were 22 returned.

The Parishes were asked to consider four questions.

1. What elements of the evening were useful?

The comments made fell into five areas with the personal contact with MKC officers and the informal nature of the event generating the most. This particular element of the evening was very well received with some stating that they found them far more useful than formal meetings. In addition to this many found the networking and exchange of views with other Councils/Councillors was useful. Others stated that they had found the crime and community safety workshop and the opportunity to find out more about section 136 beneficial.

2. What elements of the evening did you like least?

There weren't really any comments that criticised the content of the evening. However, there were a lot of comments stating that there wasn't enough time allocated to each session and many didn't like having to choose a session, preferring to attend all of the sessions

Other comments that were made included the room being too hot, the timetable shouldn't have been allowed to slip resulting in a late start and late finish

3. What subjects/topics would you like to see covered in any future event?

- Quality Parish Council
- Transport Strategy
- Area Forums
- Resources and Priorities - re maintenance and renewal of physical fabric of the city

- Further expansion of the partnership contract between Parishes and Milton Keynes Council
- Factors that affect parishes such as streetlighting, signpost, footways, transport, refuse, recycling and housing etc.
- Communication between parishes and Milton Keynes Council –response etc
- Traffic calming/TPP
- Further expansion of the community warden scheme
- Auditing
- Landscape
- Have the same type of evening to discuss a range of topics (instead of area forums)
- All of the topics covered at the event. (mentioned twice)

Apart from the last comment, none of the above were mentioned more than once.

4. Other comments and/or suggestions

The comments/suggestions that were made reinforced what had already been stated under the previous question with the main issue being that there wasn't enough time allocated to each workshop session. There were several comments stating that the evening had been very useful.

Conclusion

The evaluation forms have highlighted that the format and content of the evening worked very well. The majority of those who responded have indicated that it was a very useful event. The overwhelming consensus was that the informal nature of the evening and the personal contact with MKC officers assisted in the attendees getting the most out of the evening.

A wide variety of topics were suggested for future meetings and no complaints were made regarding what had been discussed on the evening. This indicates that the majority of respondents were happy with the content of the meeting and would like the same format to be used to discuss all other issues that affect parishes.