

Focus



Focus # 392 on Middleton & Oakgrove

9 issues a year since 1979, not just at election time.
Printed on recyclable paper & distributed by volunteers.

To CONTACT Us

focusteam@live.co.uk

07803 036 656

www.focusteamlive.co.uk



[focusteamlive](#)



[@focusteamlive](#)



[focusteamlive](#)

TREE THINNING ON MIDDLETON



March, last year



January, this year

Thank you to the resident who sent us these photographs

We've had a lot of concerned emails recently about the tree and shrub thinning that the Parks Trust is undertaking on Middleton. The pictures above are of Blackthorn Alley, from the Fire station towards the river. Other examples are around the Medieval Fish ponds and by the Pavilion. The fear is that the Ouzel Valley Park is next.

The Parks Trust say that the work is necessary - some of the trees and shrubs date from the early days of Milton Keynes when a large amount of deliberate over-planting was undertaken to get the city looking as green as possible very quickly. The remaining trees will have more space in which to mature, and more light will get through to the ground stimulating the re-growth of the shrubs below. There will also be some re-planting to broaden the diversity of the species in these areas.

But there's concern about the impact of this tree thinning on many kinds of wildlife, particularly birds who will have fewer opportunities to nest. New housing developments in Milton Keynes are expected to demonstrate a net biodiversity gain. Residents ask if the same concept shouldn't also be applied to ongoing maintenance.

Here's a view from the Parks Trust:

<https://www.theparkstrust.com/blogs/the-parks-trust/what-is-coppicing-and-why-do-we-do-it/>

And from the Parish Council:

<https://www.broughtonandmkv-pc.gov.uk/services/landscape-maintenance/>

And from Plantlife, a conservation charity

<https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/plant-fungi-species>

What do **YOU** think? Let Sam know on:

focusteam@live.co.uk or 07803 036 656

The Liberal Democrat *Focus* Team

Working & keeping in touch all year round

WARD BUDGETS

Each year the Council gives every councillor £1,000 to spend on local organisations or activities in their ward. This year Sam, Kerrie & Uroy pooled theirs so we had £3,000 to spend across the seven estates we represent.

Here's how we've spent it in Middleton and Oakgrove, two of the seven:

1st Middleton Scouts, Cubs & Beavers	£450
Vulcan Explorer Scout Unit, Oakgrove-based	£250
MK City Colts, based on Middleton	£200
Middleton & MKV Residents Association	£150
Two Villages Archive Trust	£150



MK YOUTH MAYOR



Zoey and baby Hallie are our city's future. Published with permission.

OAKGROVE LITTER PICK

We're starting our litter picks again

Meet outside Costa **10.30 am Saturday 26 March**

Children welcome if accompanied by an adult

Litter grabbers, gloves & hi-viz jackets supplied

Our Lib Dem colleague in Monkston ward, Leo Montague, has persuaded the Council to appoint a Youth Mayor, nominated by the Youth Cabinet, three of whose members live in our ward.

Says former (adult) Mayor Sam *"I think that's a fabulous idea - our young people are the future of our city and must have a real voice in how it develops and renews itself"*

Sam, Kerrie & Uroy The *Focus* team

We aim to reply to mails, text or calls within 48 hours. Texting's usually fastest. If we don't, please get in touch again in case we've missed your message.

Thank you !



Stronger Economy, Fairer Society

Opportunity for Everyone