

A NEW APPROACH TO PARKING AT WATERMEAD!



By kind permission of the Bucks Herald

A new approach to parking on Watermead saw this Peugeot deposited in the lake last April. The driver blamed the steering. Happily he was uninjured, but this was potentially a serious incident.

The car was a company car, whose insurers quickly agreed to settle - not much else they could do really, since the Peugeot is not amphibious and was not designed to be driven into lakes. LCAM negotiated with

the insurers and arranged for the repairs. It will take some time of course for new trees to grow.

There was a prompt response by the police and Fire Brigade, once they had persuaded themselves it was not a hoax!

The recommended method for leaving Watermead by car continues to be the Spine Road, although this is one method of avoiding the early morning congestion.

Village View on the Internet

Web address:
www.watermead.co.uk
(website on the way!)

Editorial mailbox:
jbray@fdce04.europe.dg.com

In this issue:

Fighting Fabric - taking off from Watermead
by local balloon pilot Stuart Seager

Caring for our community - Roy Hutchings thoughts for the future of Watermead.

REGULAR FEATURES:

Chairman's View
Wildlife Watch



Mystery, the black swan, has one last look before leaving. Aaah!...

St James the Great Community Forum

If you have any interesting articles for inclusion in the next edition please contact a member of the editorial board. Details inside.



Michael Shrimpton appearing on BBC Newsnight
(By kind permission of the BBC)

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

The insurance company have sensibly agreed to settle after the driver of the Peugeot decided to drive into the lake. I don't know - these funny little European cars seem to get everywhere.

It is said that the steering wheel locked, but we understand that the vehicle was equipped with brakes.

The problem of vandalism is still with us. The key is to report any incident of vandalism to the police and the Lakeside Land Board. The police are starting to take the issue much more seriously. I am particularly grateful to our community officer, PC Kevin Isaacs, who has been doing some very good work and deserves the thanks of the community.

Happily there is photographic evidence of the worst recent incident, on the bandstand. It should be possible to get the pictures blown up to provide evidence which will stand up in court.

I have been asked to say something about the finances of

Lakeside Land Ltd, given that not everybody is a shareholder (there is of course no reason why more residents cannot buy shares, although that is not an invitation to subscribe). Shareholders of course receive the audited accounts and financial statements of the company.

The four main sources of income are the village hall, the *Village View* itself, fishing rights and LCAM.

The main item of expenditure is maintenance. Profits are not distributed to shareholders in the form of dividends but retained for the benefit of the community. The directors are unpaid and serve on an honorary basis, as a service to their local community.

Shareholder value is reflected of course in the estate - a well maintained estate helps to keep property values high. The cricket pitch for example was an eyesore but with the help of the mighty 'Green Machine' is once again an attractive feature.

Of course more could be done, but we are gradually getting to grips with the task. Further directors are very welcome!

The 'Green Machine' will make a huge difference to our ability to maintain the estate. Many of you will have seen our new maintenance director, Roy Hutchings, valiantly mowing the cricket ground. The purchase of the 'Green Machine' (a John Deere) was further to a resolution at the annual general meeting. It's actually quite fun to use and volunteers, as always, are welcome.

LCAM is now starting to make a difference. The second phase of the fountain refurbishment should be complete by the time this issue is published, along with the painting contract, which were both huge jobs. We will then tackle the bent lamposts (courtesy of service vehicles reversing into them!).

LCAM is a subsidiary of Lakeside Land Ltd, with shareholder participation by Piazza residents.

In the interests of transparency it is proposed to publish Lakeside Land's next accounts in the *Village View*.

W

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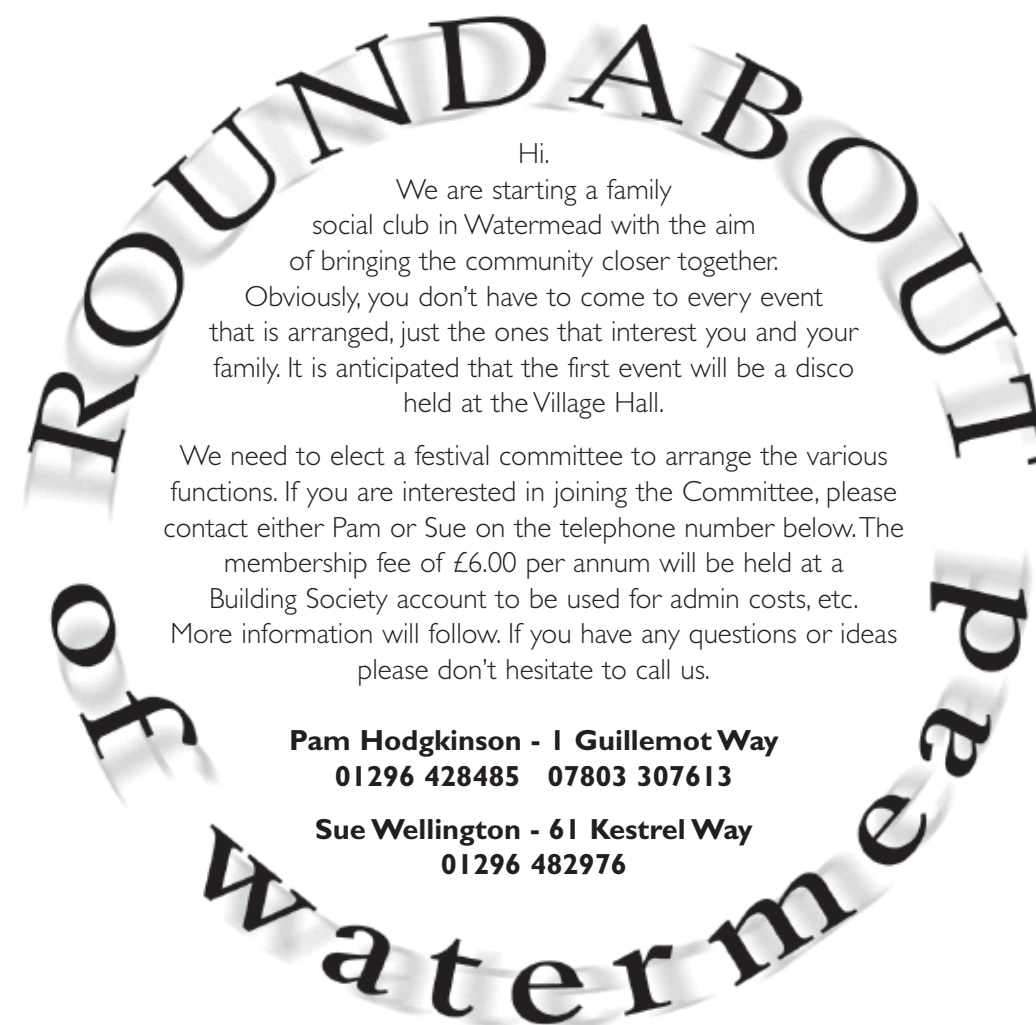
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OPENING TIMES:
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Mon, Fri 9am - 5pm
Sat 10am - 1pm



Hi.

We are starting a family social club in Watermead with the aim of bringing the community closer together. Obviously, you don't have to come to every event that is arranged, just the ones that interest you and your family. It is anticipated that the first event will be a disco held at the Village Hall.

We need to elect a festival committee to arrange the various functions. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact either Pam or Sue on the telephone number below. The membership fee of £6.00 per annum will be held at a Building Society account to be used for admin costs, etc. More information will follow. If you have any questions or ideas please don't hesitate to call us.

Pam Hodgkinson - 1 Guillemot Way
01296 428485 07803 307613

Sue Wellington - 61 Kestrel Way
01296 482976



Fighting Fabric

by Stuart Seager - local balloon pilot

Looking back through my log books I discovered that my first ascension from Watermead took place on the 6th May 1990. It's hard to believe that I've been fighting the fabric at Watermead for nearly a decade!

But why *Fighting Fabric*? Well read on...

The reasons that I undertake evening flights from Watermead are many. Firstly it's very convenient, I hail from a farm five minutes up the Buckingham Road and can time the journey to the second. Other Balloons using the site are based at Great Missenden, High Wycombe, Hemel Hempstead, Watford and even London.

Its an easy to find location for passengers coming from far afield (I flew a couple who drove up from Plymouth earlier this year).

Watermead lake also happens to be situated very near the centre of ordanance survey map 165, Aylesbury, therefore during most flights I don't have to change maps and re-orientate myself whilst I'm often also preparing for the landing.

Apart from the practicalities, it's a great launch site, always very relaxed on a summers evening amongst the walkers, cyclists, fishermen, picnickers, joggers and model boaters. By the time we've got the balloon standing up and completed all the pre flight safety checks, there is often a sizeable crowd to see us drift gently off over the lake, or climb to cross Aylesbury to the South. The great thing about ballooning is that we go somewhere different every flight, its never the same, apart from taking in the usual perspective of our beautiful countryside, we discover villages that we would never have known or found otherwise, not to mention the pubs!

To the north and east of Watermead lie large areas of land almost entirely cropped, enabling us to low fly. There is no better way for a balloon pilot to sharpen his/her skills whilst maintaining level flight two feet above the ground with the occasional hop over a hedge or tree.

To drift a few feet over vast carpets of poppies, blue linseed flowers or intense yellow oil seed rape flowers lit by a strong low sun is an indescribable experience which usually leaves the baskets occupants in spellbound silence.

Then there are the fast exhilarating flights on swift smooth winds, no playing over the cornfields, but total focus for the pilot, cruising at 2000 feet flying, navigating, fuel management, maintaining contact with the retrieve vehicle and air traffic control, planning ahead for a landing around Oxford, Bicester, Dunstable or High Wycombe, and then picking out that field free of crops, livestock and power wires for a fast but safe landing.

Residents of Watermead might remember the Autohaus Balloon, a multicoloured spiral pattern, overlaid with BMW logos, active at Watermead from 1990 to 1995. Well you may be pleased to know that she is still alive and well, if a little older and tireder. No longer rated for commercial flying she is flown gently from the occasional balloon meet and still looks stunning!

I currently fly "Polly," the Parrott & Coales (Solicitors) Balloon, constructed in 1995 and flying her fourth season. She is a fine balloon to fly and should be with us for two more seasons. Look out for her green and cream livery with burgundy artwork around the equator.

Flying Polly in October 95 along with pilot Len Vaughan, she helped us win the Great British Long Jump with a flight of 262 miles from Bodmin Moor, Cornwall to the Lincolnshire Wold.

In March this year Polly took Len and I to over 31,000 feet ascending from an RAF fighter base in Lincolnshire, we wore oxygen masks and lots of clothes, well it was minus 49 degrees centigrade up there!

Traditionally when balloon launch sites are chosen an element of cover is thought to be desirable usually a thick belt of mature trees is favourite. This cover reduces the surface wind speed and aids an easy inflation. The down side of this practise is that you can find yourself leaving the shelter and ascending into the real wind speed which may be far stronger than one would wish for.

Living out on the exposed Vale of Aylesbury and flying from Watermead with little cover there are few surprises, we know what is really happening. Many balloonists describe Watermead as the windiest launch site in Bucks and often have to cancel flights on site. Sometimes you just have to "fight the fabric". Once a balloon is rounded out and hard, the wind will flow around the fabric surface and all becomes more manageable. In

a gusty airflow 8-10 knots, it can be very difficult to round the balloon envelope out, the fabric hanging in loose folds is caught by the wind and blown in all directions, the burner flame is deflected, the ground crew are thrown this way and that, the restraint line from balloon to vehicle is straining, in short we are fighting a fabric monster, but with determination and patience, waiting for that lull in the breeze, the monster can be tamed and ready to take us on our next adventure.

Polly is: 70 feet high, 50 feet wide 120,000 cubic feet volume (5X5 Bedroom houses), carries 5 passengers and a 160 litres of propane. She was constructed in June 1995 by Lindstrands of Oswestry and always carries a full valid certificate of airworthiness.

Her pilot is Stuart Seager, 43 years of age, commercial licence granted 1990, total experience over 12 years approaching 1000 hours, has also held a fixed wing licence (PPL).

If this article has whetted your appetite and you would like to come and help "Fight the Fabric" and experience lighter than air flight with a friendly crew contact Stuart & Heather Seager or Greg Knight on **01296 641153**.

See you in the sky!!



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5 ~ 5.45pm (5 ~ 8 years)
5.45 ~ 6.30pm (9+)

Salsa Class

Starts Monday 6th September (4 weeks)
7.30 ~ 8.30pm

Contact Judy 482818

Chinese Physical Culture

(including Health Exercises)
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Contact: Paul 01280 815282

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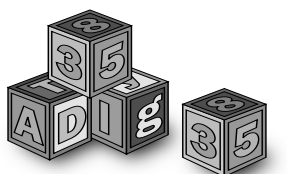
1st Thursday of the month:
7.30 ~ 9.30pm
Contact: Suzanne 487954

Watermead Cygnets Playgroup

Monday ~ Thursday
9.15 ~ 11.45am
Contact: Dot Toler 432405

Mother & Toddlers

Wednesday 2 ~ 4pm
Friday 10am ~ 12noon
Contact: Sue 482976



by Roy Hutchings - Maintenance Director, Lakeside Land Ltd

I have lived here for four years and have often wondered, as I'm sure you have, how it all started and, to some extent, what went wrong. A few enquiries gave me the chance to produce a thumbnail sketch of the 10 year history of Watermead.

The idea of Watermead was first conceived back in 1977/8. A lot of work and

Above: Roy Hutchings. Below: Micheal Shrimpton.

was a drainage programme. Digging the lake and using the spoil to make the ski-slope satisfied that requirement. The lake would also provide

There was a jogging track through the village, which is now almost impossible to find and a lighting system that was vandalised almost as soon as it

The only way to be sure of defeating the proposal was to buy the proposed site. A company was floated called Lakeside Land and shares were offered for sale. It had to

Other than the above sources Lakeside Land has no other income. We did investigate using the little Bandstand for weddings, but the fees for a license to conduct weddings put that idea beyond

Who is responsible for Watermead's public areas? As I have said, for the most part the answer is 'US', the residents. If Watermead was left untended it would become a wilderness and the

In my view there are two ways that the upkeep of Watermead can be maintained: either by everybody assisting with the work entailed or everyone contributing with the funding. I am aware that someone will say, "I'm not in unless everybody's in". Well that gives somebody the power of

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Christmas - 4th December 1999

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*If you have any suggestions for content/articles
please contact any member of the editorial board*

veto which is not workable in such a community as ours. So, let's not be deterred by the tiny few, lets look at the opportunities.

FUNDING

For example - if every household paid 50 pence per week we would have over £25,000 a year which would pay for a full time maintenance team and the tools they need for the general repairs that are beginning to be so obviously needed. The answer to my question earlier, *what went wrong?* in my opinion was the failure to make a service charge as part of the development plan. I am told that it couldn't be done. I

know of many village developments in the United States that are beautifully kept and it is made possible by levying a service charge on all owners which provides the maintenance for all to enjoy.

MAINTENANCE WORK

The grass needs cutting at least once a week to avoid collecting the cuttings and putting them on the pile. This is estimated to be 12 hours a week using the 'Green Machine', and does not include the area north of the ski-slope and around the back of the Big Lake. The paths require re-instating over lots of areas. Some tree areas need re-planting, the seats repaired and repainted and a few more

litter bins would be a great asset. Unfortunately, offers to help now and again at a weekend is not workable. If the weekend is wet, the grass doesn't get cut and the next weekend the grass would be too long to leave lying and would have to be collected as well. It could be that if there was a roster people could undertake to join a band of helpers and help for just one week a season maybe in the evenings or weekends. This idea might provide the one thing that Watermead lacks - it has the location, it has the housing styles, it has the facilities, but as somebody observed to me, "it's a bit thin on community spirit!"

This is not intended as a

comprehensive proposal, merely food for thought. I refuse to be negative and say that it has all been tried before and it won't work. I would love to hear your reaction to these thoughts. Please write to any one of the team (see details on the back cover) or call me on 01296-39-76-75. Pick up a pen, or the telephone, right now. Try it, I'll listen.

I make a plea to all residents like me, proud of Watermead. If you are taking the dog for a walk, walking around the meadows, along the lakeside or just going to the shops, don't pass a beer can or discarded drinks carton, pick it up and put it in a litter bin or take it home.



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"No more room on top" Duchess and family

Hello Folks!

I suppose it was inevitable, but Mystery, the black swan, was finally driven away during the nesting period. I must say I got used to having him around and miss him, still at least we had the pleasure of his company for a few months, and you never know, he may return!

Now, onto our regulars, George and Lady hatched successfully this year (no flooding), six Cygnets in early May, followed

closely by Henry and Duchess with seven cygnets (Henry always has to go one better). The large lake was indeed a battle ground before final nesting sites were claimed. They did exactly the

same as last year now they have hatched. Henry is trying to take over the whole lake for himself and family, pushing George and family through the stepping stones. He's always moving the goalposts to suit himself, although it has to be said, George is catching him up and fights his corner. I can never understand how places like Slimbridge have hundreds of swans, geese etc, all living alongside each other, and we have two large lakes totally governed by Henry and George. It's such a pity because any visitors are either driven from one end of the lake to the other until they fly off, or up onto the bank and denied access to water. We need some birds with guts to land here and take the terrible duo on (not in a horrible way). There is enough room for everyone, alas, I fear word has gone out, this is a No Landing Zone!

I think Bertie, the Heron, has found himself a partner. He's been flying around with a companion close behind, and they spend alot of time in the Willows. It would be great if they nested.

The mallards seem to be producing ducklings at an ongoing rate, just when you think you've seen the last little bundles of fluff, up pop a few more. The adults will be looking motheaten for a bit. It's known as the Eclipse, in other words they shed their old feathers and new ones grow, returning them to their former glory. During this period they tend to stay where they feel safe as it's a vulnerable time. A lot of ducks have been using the boats and moorings as a nice place to perch and watch the world go by.



Bertie in the Willows



"With all these mouths to feed, thank goodness for Tesco's 7p loaf!"

The coots are rearing their young at the moment. You hear them long before you see them. Funny little creatures because unlike the ducklings who feed themselves from the start, the Coots feed their young. If you throw bread into the water, the youngsters wait until the parents bring the food to them, they don't help themselves. The Moorhen population is also growing rapidly.

Well, as we go through summer (confusing though the weather is at present), its nice to watch the youngsters grow up and join the 'Elders'. Talking of which, some of the older Mallards are becoming very bold. I opened the door to be confronted by two Drakes so feeling emotionally blackmailed, I returned to the kitchen to get some bread, only to find one of them standing



"More please" Coot feeding young



"Hey! Not so fast" Lady and her family on nest

and the other on guard in the hall, this is now a regular occurrence. Although the numbers have increased, (the quack has gone round - pardon the pun!) A few neighbours have reported similar behaviour. One Lady actually gets a wake-up call at 7am by tapping at her front door - talk about cheek - whatever next?

Have a great summer. Bye for now. Linda Jones

Waterlilies

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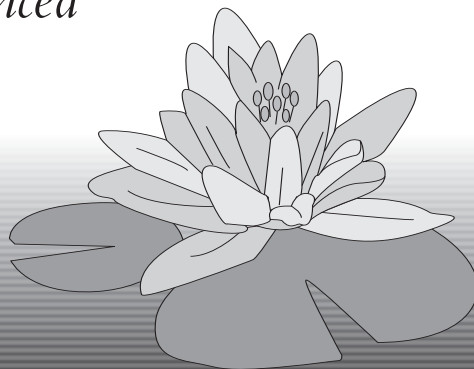
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Thank you

We at St. James's are very grateful for the opportunity to occupy a page in Village View, as distributing the church's own magazine in Watermead, other than to those who order directly (and pay!) would be quite impossible.

The summer season

Traditionally, the Trinity season runs from around mid-May to late October, all the great festivals being celebrated between December and May. It is a time for taking a wider view of our faith, and its place in the world. And of course, the holiday season is coming up. Regular members of the church disappear for a couple of weeks, strangers visiting families in the parish appear to join in our worship, and are made welcome. And if it is a really hot summer, those of us wearing heavy robes look with envy at rows of short sleeved dresses and shirts!

Socially, it is also a time for the Summer Fetes, at Berton and Hulcott, which will probably have occurred as you read this. However,

St. James the Great, Berton

we organise various other social events during the year, and are always looking for new ideas. For example, we will hold a Garden Party in early September, and later in the autumn will run a Quiz Night, and other events.

On 3rd October, our deacon, the Revd. Christine Brewster will be ordained priest, and in the evening will celebrate her first Eucharist. Refreshments will be served after this great event, to enable everyone to meet Christine and congratulate her. Later in the year, we hope to hold a concert around St. Cecilia's Day, in which young music students will demonstrate their talents. The last one was very popular.

We are already starting to collect the names of those who would like to be confirmed next year. Young people and adults are equally welcome to enquire, without making any immediate commitment. An introductory meeting for anyone considering confirmation will be held in the Vicarage at 3pm on Sunday 26th September 1999. Anyone interested will be welcome to this

informal icebreaker which will last about an hour, and include a cup of tea. Please ring me first, if you prefer.

Our main Sunday Services are at 9am Sung Eucharist, and 6pm Evensong. There is a Family Service on the third Sunday of the month at 11am, and Sunday School at the same time on other Sundays. We have just started an informal evening Eucharist at 6pm at All Saints, Hulcott, on the third Sunday of the month, for those who may find morning services difficult to get to. There are other services that you can find out about by ringing me on 426743. The same number will also give you details of our social events.

To arrange baptisms, marriages or funerals, please ring our Vicar, the Revd. Peter Faulkner on 423920.

Anne King



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Watermead Community Forum

by Mary Singleton - Watermead Community Forum Director

Thank you to all the people

who contacted me to volunteer with

helping to pick up litter around

Watermead. For clarification we do

not pay contractors to do this. To

those people who regularly pick up

rubbish - *many thanks* for helping

to "keep Watermead clean".

are now in place and all bins should

be regularly emptied from now on.

So dog walkers please use them!

I discovered from a fellow

BBONT member who lives in

Bedgrove that they were to receive

more dog bins. To cut a long story

short - the fact that Watermead

needs more dog bins (I can think of

at least 10 suitable locations) was

bought up in a recent relevant

committee meeting at the Council.

This was reported in the Bucks

Herald at the end of June. We are

now in consultation with local

councillors on this matter relating

to Watermead. It is my opinion that

Watermead is overlooked by the

local council in many ways - it is

apparently believed by them that it

is private land and therefore not

eligible. We still pay our council

tax, don't we? Members of Lakeside

Land Board will be discussing this

with Raj Khan and Shushana

Kendrick soon. If you have any

concerns you would like raised at

the meeting please contact either

Michael Shrimpton, myself or any

other member of the Board - our

contact details are on the back

cover of this newsletter.

I have noticed that some people

are dumping garden waste on land

on the periphery of Watermead.

Please don't do this. Green bags are

available from the local council for

a modest charge. If you leave these

out with your wheelie bin, the

"binnies" will remove them. Or you

can take it down to the dump in

Rabans Lane - a five minute drive at

the most.

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			Mobile:	0468 350751

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Maintenance Director	Roy Hutchings	2 Sandpiper	Tel:	01296 397675
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OTHER CONTACTS

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Watermead Community Forum Director	Mary Singleton	6 Redwing	Tel:	01296 428569
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Lakeside Land Ltd is the Watermead community company representing the interests and views of the Watermead community as a whole. To this end we have included the published mission statement below to underline that commitment.

LAKESIDE LAND LTD MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Lakeside Land Ltd to:

- Represent the interests of the whole village as Watermead's Community Company
- Encourage positive development in keeping with the unique character of Watermead
- Provide a forum for community involvement and feedback
- Support and encourage local enterprise
- Protect and enhance Watermead's natural environment
- Manage the company's assets efficiently and maximise revenue for the benefit of the community

*NB: Nothing in the above shall conflict or take precedence over the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the company