

## Unitary Councillor Report

### Report from Cllr David Hopkins, Cllr Alice Jenkins & Cllr Victoria Hopkins – Representing Wavendon at MK Council

February 2017

#### Walton Road

It is proposed to commence work on the Walton Road scheme on 6th March, weather permitting. Paul will be sending out letters to residents at the end of February advising them of the works.

Initially we cannot implement the 20 mph scheme as it is not supported by Thames Valley Police on the basis that there is no evidence to support such a limit. I therefore propose with your/Parish agreement to proceed as planned. We will then monitor speed using SID data and if this shows a justification for a 20, we will go back to TVP with the evidence.

Hopefully this will be regarded as a reasonable approach

David Hall

- **Plan:MK Proposals**



Land in the Bow Brickhill triangle bordered by the Bow Brickhill Road, the Bletchley to Bedford railway line and the old Watling Street (with the A5D running through the centre) will be allocated as Employment land in the *Plan:MK* proposals to be discussed at MKC Cabinet on 21 February

See below ...



**Relevant to Newport Road - EASTERN EXPANSION  
AREA - CITY STREETS AND SURROUNDING NETWORK REVIEW:  
PROGRESS REPORT**

A5130 – once the Fen Street link has been completed, the A5130 will be de-classified. Joint working between MKC and Central Bedfordshire is underway with a plan to de-classify the entire length in one go. **The timescale for this is October half term 2017** and part of the work will be look closely at HGV movements with a view to alternative routing. In tandem with the de-classification, the opportunity will be taken to look at speed limits (Proposal 19) and the overall condition of the route



## Local Planning Issues

There are so many things going on at the moment I thought I would drop you a line to set out the series of short term and longer term issues impacting the village.

- Firstly, an application for travelling showpeople. The details are below and the date set for representations is 23 February 2017. Please submit letters/emails to the planning officer dealing, Allen Sacbucker (01908 253101) or email [Allen.Sacbucker@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Allen.Sacbucker@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)

Town and Country Planning (General Procedure) Order 1995

Application no: 17/00099/FUL

Proposal: Change of use of land to form a site for travelling showpeople comprising 4 plots for mixed residential and storage use with associated access and landscaping.

At: Land To The East of 6 To 28 Lower End Road Wavendon

A public meeting regarding this application took place at 7.30pm at Salford Village Hall on Tuesday 31 January. The planning officer dealing attended to offer advice on the issues raised by this application.

- Secondly, a resubmission of the Wavendon Properties application that was only refused on 1 December 2016. Please submit letters/emails to the planning officer dealing, Allen Sacbucker (01908 253101) or email [Allen.Sacbucker@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Allen.Sacbucker@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)

Town and Country Planning (General Procedure) Order 1995

Application no: 17/00130/OUT

Proposal: Outline application (all matters reserved other than access) for residential development of up to 203 dwellings; doctor's surgery; open space; landscaping; pedestrian, cycle and vehicular access from Newport Road and Cranfield Road; supporting infrastructure (resubmission of 16/00672/OUT)

At: Land North of Cranfield Road Woburn Sands

- Thirdly, Plan:MK

As I mention above, the next stage of Plan:MK is about to go to consultation. There will be a special Cabinet Meeting on **Tuesday, 21 February at 6.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Central Milton Keynes. Members of the public are welcome to attend and can contribute to the debate.

Go to <http://cmis.milton-keynes.gov.uk/milton-keynes/Home.aspx> for details of the meeting or contact [simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:simon.heap@milton-keynes.gov.uk) for details of speaking at Cabinet meetings.

The MK Council Cabinet will be going out to consultation for 12 weeks on the contents of the Plan:MK document which will include proposals for the land east of Church Farm etc. as mentioned above.

- Finally, an organisation known as the Hayfield Partnership is on the verge of submitting an application to Central Bedfordshire Council for the first phase (750 dwellings) on land just across the county border at Lower End. They plan to develop up to 3000+ dwellings in four phases in the so-called Aspley Guise triangle. Go to the Wavendon Parish Council web site to view the relevant proportional documentation.

<http://www.wavendonparishcouncil.co.uk/>



I just wanted to drop you a line so that you have my email address should you ever wish to contact me directly. Following the results of a recent restructure in Milton Keynes I am now the neighbourhood Sergeant for the area.

I can provide you with a more detailed list of exactly what areas I cover should you need this but please do not hesitate to contact me with any queries and if it's not my area I will point you in the right direction.

Kind regards – Kate Story

PS STORY |P1533 | South Neighbourhood Sergeant |

Telephone 01865 542110 / 341 6520| Emergencies 999

Mobile 07800 702379

Station Broughton Fire Station, Milton Keynes

*Working in partnership to make our communities safer.*



## **L&Q completes the acquisition of Gallagher Estates**

L&Q completed the acquisition of Gallagher Estates on 2 February 2017, one of the largest strategic land companies in the UK, for an enterprise value of approximately £505m.

L&Q is a charitable housing association committed to solving the housing crisis. Land is a key part of the solution.

The acquisition of Gallagher Estates follows L&Q's merger with East Thames Limited, the launch of an ambitious plan to enable the delivery of 100,000 new homes and a £2.6 billion refinancing package which creates the platform for growth.

Gallagher Estates are a strategic land business based in Warwick. They control plots to deliver 42,500 new homes, mainly in the South and South Midlands. The business promotes sites through the planning process, from pre-allocation stage to securing implementable planning consents, before delivering serviced land to the market place. This acquisition places L&Q as one of the leading enablers of new homes across the UK.

Gallagher Estates will become a wholly owned subsidiary of L&Q, and will continue to be run by the current management team as a stand-alone entity.

David Montague, Chief Executive of L&Q said: "Our acquisition of Gallagher Estates is a defining moment for L&Q and shows commitment to our vision of creating 100,000 new homes in our capacity as lead developer and as an enabler working with key delivery partners.

“Through this deal L&Q will unlock land for development across a wider range of tenures, and speed up the delivery of new homes through our ability to invest over the long term.

“It will also add the significant skills and expertise of one of the UK’s leading strategic land companies, and allow L&Q to take a lead role in housing delivery on a regional basis, whilst generating significant resources for reinvestment into new affordable housing.”

Tony Gallagher, Chairman of Gallagher Estates, said “I am delighted to entrust the business that I have developed over many years to L&Q. They have impressed me at every level throughout this transaction. I have no doubt that they will achieve all their new housing objectives and that they will play a big part in resolving the under-supply of housing for UK Limited. I wish them all the luck in the world for the future.”

The acquisition does not include Tony Gallagher’s commercial and retail property development and investment activities.

L&Q expects the acquisition to become immediately accretive to L&Q’s earnings.



### **Milton Keynes 50th Birthday**

On 23 January 2017 Milton Keynes turned 50! It is hard to believe that in 50 years Milton Keynes has been transformed from 8,850 hectares of farmland into a city with a population of 261,000, home to 11,850 businesses and an economy worth more than £10.4billion. 50 arts, leisure and heritage events were held over the birthday weekend. This included a huge party organised with great partnership working between Milton Keynes Council and Destination Milton Keynes and hosted at Bletchley Park. The event was attended by nearly 300 party goers, enjoying fantastic entertainment and a 4ft birthday cake made by local cake artist Karrin Simpson, featuring lots of famous MK landmarks. There is more to come during 2017 as organisations, groups and businesses across the city have pulled together to create a programme of events inspired by the past, present and future of Milton Keynes. To get involved visit the official MK50 website <http://www.mk50.co.uk/> or follow the twitter page @CultureMK

### **Powerhouse Report**

What a great Birthday present as Milton Keynes is highlighted in the UK Powerhouse Q3 report for a GVA increase of 3.0% annually, overtaking Cambridge to take the top spot. This was heavily driven by a strong service sector and healthy business atmosphere, which continue to help production. Milton Keynes was also the strongest performing city in terms of employment growth, expanding employment in line with growth, with a 2.1% annual increase. UK Powerhouse is an extensive business study produced by Irwin Mitchell and leading economic think-tank Cebr.

To view the most recent UK Powerhouse report please visit the website  
<http://www.irwinmitchell.com/ukpowerhouse>

### Centre for Cities

The celebrations continue with results from the most recent Cities Outlook, reporting that Milton Keynes 'average weekly workplace wages' ranking jumped from 10th to 4th place, and 'change in real wages' jumped from 45th to 2nd place out of 64 other locations. These increases should help to attract and retain skilled employees and support recruitment in Milton Keynes. Centre for Cities is an independent think-tank dedicated to understanding and improving UK city economies, by providing economic data on UK cities. To view the Cities Outlook 2017 visit the website  
<http://www.centreforcities.org/publication/cities-outlook-2017/>



## Planning on border with AVDC

Report from Planning Officer - *I've spoken to Nicola Wheatcroft who is picking up the South West Milton Keynes applications from Sarah Hine now that she is on maternity leave. The planning application for the highways access to the SWMK (formerly Salden Chase) site is on the DCC agenda tomorrow, but is likely to be deferred. Once she has tomorrow's committee out of the way, Nicola is going to check where the council's consultation response to AVDC on the main planning application has got to, as she is aware that Sarah had prepared the response but is not sure how far it has progressed.*

*The call-in request last year was for the Eaton Leys site, and, as you suggest I believe we are still waiting to hear back from the minister on that one.*

Mrs Diane Webber - Senior Planning Officer (Development Plans)

Tel 01908 252668 - [diane.webber@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:diane.webber@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

<http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy>

Milton Keynes Council | Development Plans| Planning, Culture and Infrastructure |  
Civic Offices | 1 Saxon Gate East | Central Milton Keynes | MK9 3EJ



### **Public Bus Services**

MK Council will be retendering the 17 Service and will include an option to serve Little Brickhill.

Stuart Simmonds- Public Transport Technical Lead

T: 01908 252011 - E: [Stuart.Simmonds@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Stuart.Simmonds@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

Milton Keynes Council | Saxon Court | 502 Avebury Boulevard | Milton Keynes | MK9 3HS



### **East West Rail Managing Director Announced**



Phil Verster, Managing Director of the Network Rail/Abellio Scotrail alliance, is to become Managing Director for East West Rail

Network Rail and Abellio have announced that Phil Verster will be moving to become managing director of the East West rail project that was announced by Transport Secretary Chris Grayling last month. He will take up his new post in the spring.

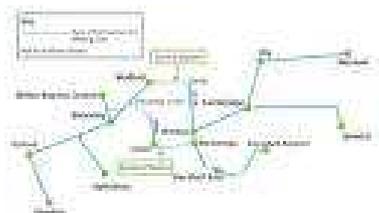
Phil's successor has been agreed and will be announced in the coming days.

Mark Carne, chief executive of Network Rail said: "Phil has done a great job setting up the ScotRail Alliance and overseeing the delivery of one of the largest programmes of rail modernisation in Scotland since Victorian times. I am delighted that a leader of Phil's calibre will be heading up the new East West rail project, recently announced by the Secretary of State. We have agreed a replacement to succeed Phil and will be making an announcement shortly."

Dominic Booth, managing director, Abellio UK said: "Phil has played a key role in helping us create the ScotRail Alliance, the first time an operating company has come together in such a deep alliance with Network Rail to deliver the very best for

our customers. We are currently investing in a fleet of 70 new trains, which will transform the rail travel experience of our customers.”

Phil Verster said: “Over the last two years I have worked with my team to launch the ScotRail Alliance, delivering hundreds of commitments and laying the ground for the exciting new train fleets that will start to arrive later this year. The opportunity to build on these same principles with the creation of a new business such as East West Rail is great for me and my family, and I wish the ScotRail Alliance team all the best for the future.”



**Next stage consultation** ....From: Moeng Sophie.

[Sophie.Moeng@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:Sophie.Moeng@networkrail.co.uk)

**Subject:: EWR** - We have considered the locations to host the next round of consultation carefully and have established that the Forest Centre in Marston Moretaine would serve communities along the route well. Therefore we will not be holding an event in Woburn Sands.

Thank you for showing me around the hall. I will be sending the Town Council the consultation pack in early May. - *Sophie Moeng* - Consultation Manager

4th Floor | One Victoria Square | Paradise Street | Birmingham | B1 1BD

Mob: +44 (0)7710 961 355 - Email: [sophie.moeng@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:sophie.moeng@networkrail.co.uk)

Plan:MK

There is a special Cabinet Meeting **on 21 February** devoted to *Plan:MK* and the proposed next stage of the plan to go to consultation in early Spring. The big issues are around proposed expansion in the rural north which has received plenty of local press coverage.

- Plan period now 2016 – 2031
- Hot off the press is a change to the planning period for Plan MK which will now be **15 years instead of 20 years**. The impact of this change is to take pressure off housing numbers.



### Council Budget

Cabinet have published their revised draft budget, which were presented at the Cabinet discussion on Tuesday 7 February. At that meeting Cabinet approved the draft budget, possibly making a few changes, for submission to Council for discussion at its meeting on 15 February.

The key changes since the initial draft are:

- The additional 1% (£1m) Tax levied for Adult Social Care. This takes the Council Tax increase to 4.95% before increases levied by other precepting authorities.
- For WCC area that will mean an increase on a Band D of c £80-£100 pa, (assuming Parish Council accepts proposals for Parish precept increases).
- The reduction in funding to Parishes who already do their own landscaping has been removed (£120k). This logically should mean that if WCC take on landscaping they will get a grant covering the full cost of the current service?

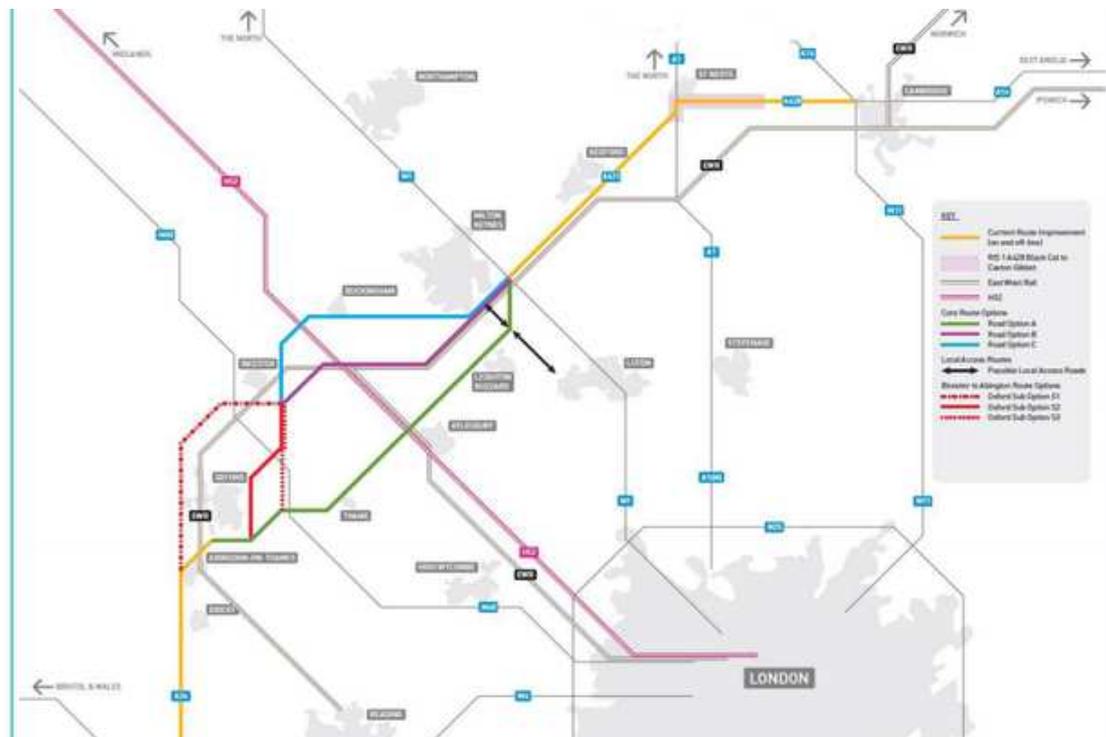
- Employee parking charge increases of 300% for low emissions and car shares will be spread over 2 years
- Residents parking permit charges halved to £25pa
- More staff for managing temporary accommodation solutions.
- Several one off funds created – Waste Strategy possible options, slippage and other problems at the new Residual Waste Facility plant, emergency accommodation.

If you want to know more go to the Council web site and access the Committee Papers for 7 February Cabinet meeting.



It has been announced that Sir Peter Gregson will lead the project within MK 2050 for a new university in MK, working with the Open University, Buckingham and University of Bedfordshire. This is a big step forward as it cements Sir Peter in the leadership position.

## Oxford – Cambridge (via MK) Expressway



Good signs that this proposed development corridor is gaining traction, with strong mutterings about sponsorship for infrastructure development including the Expressway for which MK expressed its preferred route in December.

A planning moratorium on land east of Church Farm until 2026 is proposed to allow the route of the expressway to be designed – expect an announcement in the autumn 2017 as to a preferred detailed path for the road.



### Consultation on Clinical Priority and Best Value

NHS Milton Keynes Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is undertaking a public consultation from Wednesday 1 February until Wednesday 29 March 2017. The public consultation is called Clinical Priority and Best Value – a consultation on changes to podiatry services, adult hearing services, supply of medicines, procedures of limited clinical value and community inpatient services.

They need to hear your views to inform any future decisions and therefore hope that you will be able to attend one of the following consultation events:

- Tuesday 14 March 2017, 6pm- 8pm at Christian Centre, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes. MK6 2TG
- Monday 20 March 2017, 1pm-3pm at Christian Centre, Strudwick Drive, Oldbrook, Milton Keynes. MK6 2TG

To register your interest, please complete this simple form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/mkeventregistration>



**Marston Vale Community Rail Steering Group** At its meeting a few weeks ago there were announced a few timetable changes on the Marston Vale Line (Bletchley to Bedford) to be introduced from the May 2017 timetable change. Attached is the timetable with changes highlighted. London Midland has outlined the reasons/benefits of the changes below.

#### **Monday to Friday:**

- Earlier 1st arrival into Bletchley (0653) to connect with 0700 mainline train to Euston. This London bound passengers will arrive Euston at 0739 as opposed to 0806 currently. Also provides a connection to the 0706 Southern to East Croydon.
- 0812, 0912 & 1012 arrivals at Bletchley to provide a connection with the xx17 Southern services to East Croydon. Also it makes the busy 0819 connection to Milton Keynes Central more robust too.
- Retimed 2055 to 2100 from Bedford to coincide with finishing times for evening classes at Bedford College.

**Saturday:**

- Overall I have tried to have as much of a clockface timetable (trains departing at the same time each hour throughout the day) as possible; we can't achieve as much during the week due to school finish times.
- xx:01 ex Bletchley which is a really good time for connections from Birmingham, London and Clapham will run from 1001 through till 1701. After that we have 1750 and 1847 which still connects with Semi-Fast trains from Euston. In the opposite direction from Bedford trains run at xx55 from 1055 until 1755 (with the exception of a 1700 departure).
- Four AM arrivals at Bletchley (0712, 0812, 0912 & 1012) which connect with the xx17 Southern services to East Croydon.
- Less service gap in the evening. 1h17m as opposed to current 1h30m at Bletchley. Can't reduce anymore due to traincrew breaks.

If you have any questions please let me know. There could be further changes in June, including the introduction of extra morning trains and retiming of one of the trains in this timetable (0731 ex Bletchley). However this is not yet confirmed as it is related to a rolling stock cascade which is still to be decided.

There will of course be public timetables produced but this is an early warning. You may want to publicise what I hope will be generally positive changes.

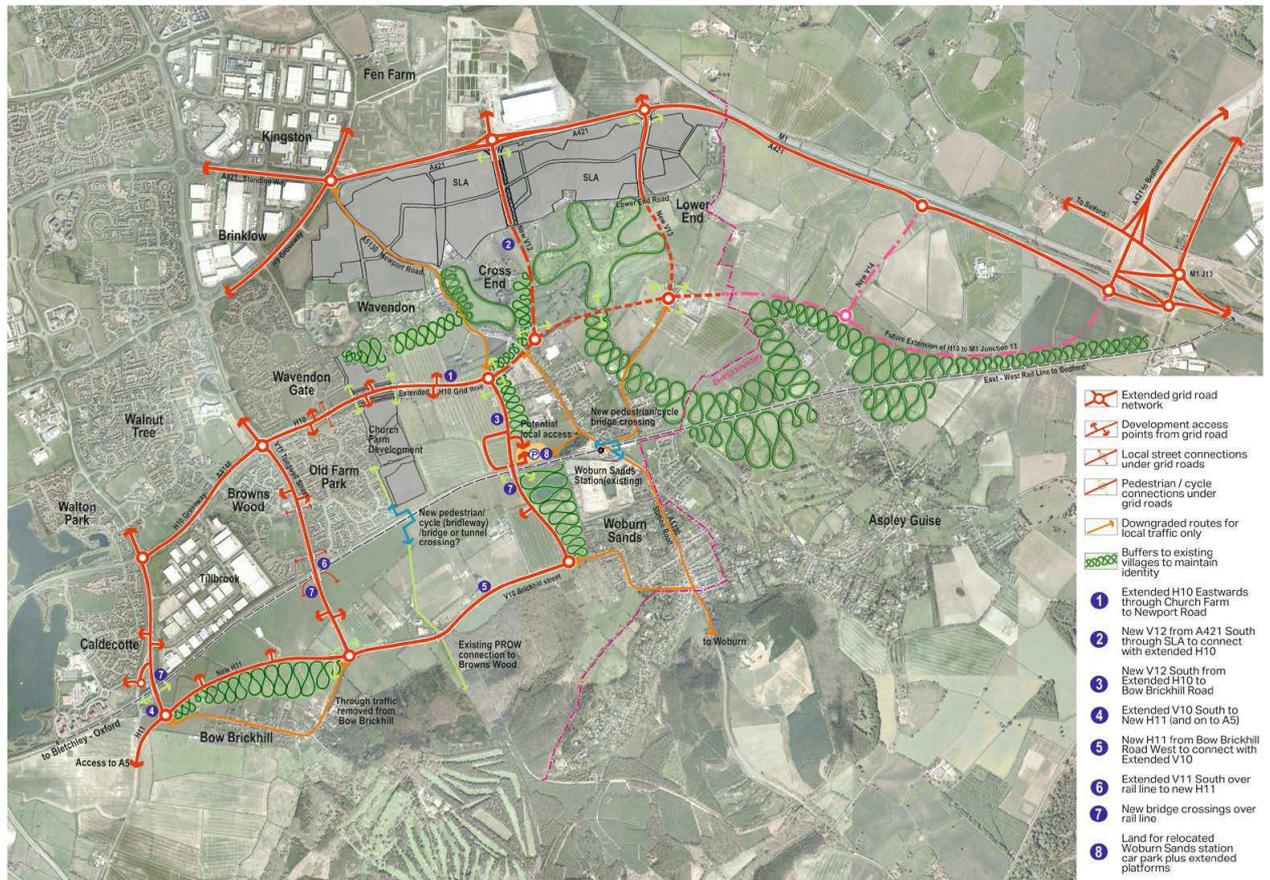
Details: Richard Cousins - Marston Vale Service Delivery Manager, Bletchley Station, London Midland, Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, MK3 6DZ

0779 405 4295 - [richard.cousins@londonmidland.com](mailto:richard.cousins@londonmidland.com)

The logo for 'Plan:MK' features the word 'Plan:' in a purple, sans-serif font, followed by 'MK' in a large, dark grey, stylized font where the letters are interconnected.

**Presentation by Heather Pugh of  
David Lock Associates on behalf of JJ Gallagher, Gladman and O&H  
Properties to Danesborough Forum**

- Substantial landowners in MK
- Actively promoting land in south MK through the emerging Plan:MK
- Experienced in delivering large scale and long term infrastructure/development projects



### Relationship with Wider Context

- Re-emergence of strategic planning (at least as far as infrastructure is concerned) with East West Rail and O2C Expressway -both of which have potential impacts and benefits for the South MK/M1 Junction 13 area
- MKC (officers and Members) appear keen to see infrastructure planned/safeguarded as an integral part of strategic development proposals
- Increasing risk to successful strategic infrastructure planning and delivery as part of Plan:MK from speculative applications in the area. Some of these applications risk prejudicing delivery of strategic infrastructure but at present there is NO policy to defend refusal of these prejudicial schemes.
- MKC have now recognised the need for some high level thinking on (a) how expansion of MK might be structured and (b) how 'big picture' infrastructure is going to be co-ordinated, funded and delivered.



## **Greensand Trust**

The Greensand Trust has secured £3.1 million to reverse the decline in the character of the Greensand Country landscape. We would like you to become involved.

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Council (BRCC) and the Greensand Trust are thrilled to have gained funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to deliver a Landscape Partnership programme and an array of exciting projects which will help us raise awareness of the hidden heritage of the Greensand Country and to reverse the gradual decline in the distinct character of this beautiful and loved landscape.

'Greensand Country' is an island of distinctive, beautiful and loved countryside, based on a band of higher ground stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, rising out of the surrounding clay vales. It contains all of Bedfordshire's remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland, and more surviving historic parkland than any other landscape in the country, often surrounding notable manor houses. This landscape character is a legacy of its underlying Greensand geology, which led to much of it being regarded as 'marginal land' not suitable for agriculture, as well as its management over centuries by major estates

However, the landscape's very distinctive character has been weakening over decades due to modern development and changes in land use. Valuable habitats are becoming fragmented; views of and from the area are being lost or impaired; houses are being built of the wrong character and traditional heritage skills are dying out. Just as significantly, there is a low level of understanding locally of the importance of the area's landscape value and heritage.

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership has been formed by a range of partners in the area who will work with landowners and local communities to take a joined up approach to meeting the challenges in the area.

The programme is being led by Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and the Greensand Trust.

We are bringing £3.1 million into this beautiful place.

How can you as a Parish Council make the most of this for your Parish and how can you become involved?

Do you have some patches of grassland or heathland that you would like funding to enhance?

Do you have a churchyard in which you would like to increase the diversity of wildlife?

Do you have any walls or other structures made of sandstone in your parish that you would like to restore? (Not including the main church building or houses).

Is there anyone in your community who would like funding to carry out a heritage project which enhances the understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of your place or improves the management of that heritage?

Would you like to create interpretation on your local footpaths, cycleways or bridleways to increase people's awareness of their heritage?

There will be much more too!

There will be lots of events, workshops and festivals going on so your community will be able to find out lots more about your landscape and learn lots of new skills.

Footpaths, cycle ways and bridleways will be improved and there will be lots of information so that your parishioners can learn about the hidden stories and the history of this place.

We will run apprenticeships and will train professionals and those not in education, training or employment the skills that are needed to look after this landscape for the future.

There will be lots of opportunities to volunteer.

We are currently recruiting three staff.

If you would like to learn more or get people in your community involved please see <http://bedsrcc.org.uk/rural/greensand-country-landscape-partnership/>

Or contact Claire Poulton on [clairep@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:clairep@bedsrcc.org.uk) Tel: 07534484971

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is made possible by National Lottery players. Without them we couldn't fund the project.

Claire Poulton - Programme Manager - 'Greensand Country Landscape Partnership'.

Landscape Partnership Programme of the Greensand Country for the Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity and the Greensand Trust.

Our '2020 Vision' for the end of our 5-year Landscape Partnership scheme is for the Greensand Country to be a living and working landscape that is cherished by present and future generations.

Mobile: 07534484971

E mail: [clairep@bedsrcc.org.uk](mailto:clairep@bedsrcc.org.uk)

*David Hopkins / Alice Jenkins/ Victoria Hopkins  
Danesborough & Walton Ward Councillors*