

Unitary Councillor Report

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

February 2018

Newport Road closure and Walton Road issues will be discussed at the meeting

Sean Rooney (Head of Highways) has left the Council, with immediate effect, to seek new opportunities. Sean worked at the Council for fourteen months as our Head of Highways. Senior Management at MKC is establishing interim and permanent arrangements for his replacement and will update you as soon as these are finalised.

In the meantime, please direct any Highways requests to your usual colleagues or, alternatively, contact the customer services helpdesk who will be able to log your request and seek the most appropriate colleague to come back to you.

Contact: Tom Blackburne-Maze - Service Director – Public Realm

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David Hopkins met with Carl Devereux Clerk of Works Highways Team on Friday, 9 February to inspect the highways drains across the five parishes. A report will be provided verbally at the meeting.

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Highways – A5130 Newport Road / Station Road

Thank you for your recent emails relating to concerns you have in Woburn Sands. I'm planning on carrying out the following actions;

- Arrange volume, speed and pedestrian counts to take place on Newport Road between Wyevale's and Frosts Garden centres. This will help ascertain whether there is a requirement for a pedestrian crossing based on guidelines we have been given from the Department for Transport

- Consult with Thames Valley Police (TVP) on a proposed 7.5t (except for access) weight limit on Newport Road from Kingston roundabout to the county boundary with Central Bedfordshire Council
- Carry out initial conversations with TVP on the possibility of changing the speed limit to 30mph, this is why I'm arranging for speed counts to be taken
- I can confirm that Newport Road (A5130) has now been declassified
- The minimum width requirement for a footpath is 1.2metres. To increase the width of the footpath would require existing street furniture to be relocated, and potential relocation of underground services. All of this would come at a great cost to the Council

Contact: Phil Jeffs, EngTech MICE - Clerk of Works/Assistant Engineer - T: 01908 254055

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Keeping councillors informed - Parish and Town Councils Programme

Kay Pettit -Programme Manager at MK C writes - We have continued to work closely with Parish and Town Councils (including through the Parish Advisory Group (PAG) and the Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (MKALC)), to continue to develop the Draft Framework (which sets out how Parish and Town Councils can have an increased role in service delivery - at a level that suits them) . I have attached the latest version of the Draft Framework, which has been shortened significantly, following our joint work. It is now scheduled to be taken forward for a Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member for Place – Councillor Liz Gifford on 20 February 2018. The Delegated Decision is to enshrine the approach contained within the Draft Framework and it is anticipated that the Draft Framework will remain a draft and continue to be a living document, with regular review points – possibly quarterly, as we continue to develop our joint working.

On 20 December 2017 we supported colleagues from Waste and Environment Services in facilitating a workshop with 20 Parish and Town Councils who are interested in delivering their own landscaping services from 2020 (the contract end date for the Landscaping Maintenance Contract with SERCO). This is essentially the Draft Framework 'in action' . Following the workshop, those Parish and Town councils (23) who remained interested / subsequently became interested have been sent a pack of information which includes

- 1) The current specification (that SERCO based their winning bid on / work to) and an addendum with the detail of which service elements have been stopped in 2017-18 as savings.
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- 2) Indicative volumes and indicative spend (with the indicative spend is based on current costs, which is not necessarily reflective of the cost that would be incurred if parish and town councils undertook delivery, given that it is based on the way Serco currently deliver the contract).
- 3) Service Request information (detail and numbers of enquiries made to the service)
- 4) Instructions and guidance on how to Parish and Town Councils can obtain 'real time' maps of their areas for landscaping from the councils My Mapping System
- 5) An example of a current contractual agreement that was issued to the Parishes who took on delivery of their own landscaping services in 2014 before the commencement of the current Serco contract. We currently have such 'landscaping devolution agreements' with six Parish and Town Councils.
- 6) Details of the existing baseline services for Landscaping

We are requesting that these Parish and Town Councils submit an Expression of Interest by 28 February if, having considered the package of information, they would like to deliver their own landscaping from 2020. As the discussions with these Parish and Town Councils progress, we anticipate migrating to a firmer commitment from them in order that an appraisal of the options available can be undertaken.

If you would like any more information on the developments of the programme, please do not hesitate to contact me or Sarah. Equally, we would welcome any feedback that you may have on our journey to date.

Contact: Kay Pettit -Programme Manager – Parish and Town Councils (T: 07971 102 278)

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Travelling Show People – Planning Decision

Following my emails yesterday I today received confirmation from the Planning Inspectorate that the **appeal has been dismissed**. I have attached the decision notice to this email for your information.

Allen Saçbüker - Senior Planning Officer - ☎ 01908 253101 / 07795 475597

Our Strategic Housing Market Assessment which was published last year (see <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/draft-strategic-housing-market-assessment-november-2016>) did not identify that there was any need to make provision for new sites for Travelling Showpeople in Plan:MK.

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W: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/>

Milton Keynes Council | Planning Service | Growth, Economy and Culture | Place | Civic Offices | 1 Saxon Gate East | Milton Keynes | MK9 3EJ | <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk>



Danesborough Forum Notes

Budgets and Working Together:

Sarah Gonsalves gave an update on the Draft Framework document - Working Locally with Parish and Town Councils and a record of the discussions are noted below:

- The document is currently at version 1.6a and the meeting was informed that there is still time for local Parish and Town Councils to comment on the draft document.
 - Following consultation it will become a Milton Keynes Council Policy document.
 - The meeting was advised that there will not be a requirement for Parish and Town Councils to take on any additional landscaping services in the next financial year (2018/2019).
 - A budget consultation for 2018/2019 is taking place closing on 31st January 2018 with every effort being made by MKC to protect vital services.
 - All Parish and Town Councils are being asked if they are interested in taking on any services from 2020 but in order to have access to the financial figures each Council must inform MKC of an expression of interest by the 9th January 2018, in order to be able to receive the financial figures involved. No Council will be forced to take on any additional services. It was noted that Walton Community Council, Woburn Sands Town Council and Bow Brickhill have already notified MKC of their possible interest. Wavendon Parish Council and Little Brickhill Parish Council to notify MKC of their interest.
 - The Community Asset Transfer Policy is being reviewed and updated, if necessary.
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The Chairman thanked Sarah for attending the Forum meeting tonight.



General Data Protection Regulation:

Sarah Gonsalves provided advice on the new Government legislation that comes into force in May 2018 that all Councils must follow;

Each Council must appoint a Data Protection Officer and there is no reason why the Parish Clerk cannot take on this extra responsibility, although the task could be outsourced, if preferred.

It was noted that advice is also available from NALC & BALC.

The following documents will be circulated to all present after this meeting.

- Toolkit for Schools from Cambridgeshire CC – this might be helpful for larger parishes
- A brief guide to GDPR
- GDPR checklist – better for smaller parishes than the schools document.
- An example of an audit form that can be used for checking data held and the basis for holding and processing that data.

The Chairman thanked Sarah for attending the Forum meeting tonight.



Update on Plan:MK:

John Cheston gave the following update:

- The consultation closed on the 20th December 2017 with a very low amount of responses totalling 235.
 - All responses are being collated and should be available to view on the Plan:MK website later in January 2018. These will be forwarded to the Inspectorate by the end of March 2018 with a Public Enquiry likely to take place in autumn 2018.
 - With Central Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes Council's both submitting local plans this year is there any chance that the Inspectorate's could review each plan jointly, as in some instances some aspects of each plan could impact on each other. It was suggested that we should have dialogue with our MP. Cllr Hopkins agreed to write the Iain Stewart.
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The Chairman thanked John for attending the Forum meeting tonight.

Local Planning Issues:

Allen Sacbucker (MKC Senior Planning Officer) proved a comprehensive update and a copy of his report will be appended to these minutes.

Bow Brickhill Parish Council raised a concern regarding the re-instatement of hedgerows at the Blind Pond site. Allen Sacbucker agreed to speak to the MKC Enforcement Officer.

The Planning Officer was asked to ensure that parking restrictions are introduced on all Glebe Farm development sites for contractor vehicles to avoid a similar situation that occurred at the Gables site. The response was that in future there will be a requirement that this is covered as a condition in the Contractors Construction Management Plan.

Hayfield Partnership Planning (Aspley Guise triangle):

Cllr Budge Wells gave an update on this planning application for up to 650 high quality homes at Hayfield off the A421. He stated that there is still time for comments and the relevant reference numbers are below:

- Central Bedfordshire Council - Reference number – CB/17/04989/OUT.
- Milton Keynes Council Reference Number – 18/00028/CONS.

Some concerns were raised with this planning application regarding the dualling of the A421 and should this development be approved it must not have any impact on this road improvement project.

- With regard to the A421 project a business case is being prepared by Central Bedfordshire Council for submission to the Department of Transport in June 2018, in order to release funding for the work to commence in 2019.
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Cllr Wells promised to keep the forum updated on both the above issues.

A5130 Newport Road Downgrade:

It was noted that Central Bedfordshire Council have made a request to Milton Keynes Council to install a sign on the A421 travelling west to inform drivers that there is a 7.5 tonne weight restriction if they turn left onto Newport Road into Aspley Heath.

Cllr Hopkins agreed to follow up this request with Milton Keynes Highways department.

The Central Bedfordshire Local Plan:

Cllr Budge Wells from Central Bedfordshire Council gave a brief overview of the Local Plan that is currently out for consultation from the 11th January 2018 to the 22nd February 2018

Full details can be viewed on their website and responses can be made via www.centralbedford.gov.uk/localplan

Items for consideration for future meetings:

Unemployment and poverty issues – Kathryn Eames – TBA

Any Other Business:

Website – It is still the intention to create a dedicated website for the Danesborough Forum with a new target to complete this in June / July 2018. On-going.



MILTON KEYNES FIRST CITY TO GET GIGABIT-SPEED FIBRE BROADBAND - FROM VODAFONE AND CITYFIBRE

CityFibre to invest at least £40 million in future-proof full fibre infrastructure for the city

Milton Keynes is set to become a leading hi-tech city, with news that it is the first community to benefit from Gigabit-capable

full fibre broadband under the new Vodafone and CityFibre Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) programme. The project will see a private investment from CityFibre of at least £40 million into a state-of-the-art digital infrastructure for Milton Keynes. The news follows the announcement two months ago of a strategic partnership between Vodafone and CityFibre. Milton Keynes is the first location to be announced as part of this partnership, which will involve FTTP being made available in approximately 12 cities and reaching one million homes and business across the UK.

By using fibre-optic cables for every stage of the connection from the customer's home to the Internet, Vodafone will be able to provide residents of Milton Keynes with extremely fast and reliable broadband services capable of Gigabit speeds (1,000mbps). At that speed, hospitals will be able to download a 2 gigabyte CT scan in just 17 seconds instead of 11 minutes over a standard broadband connection and film fans will be able to download the latest 25 gigabyte Ultra-HD blockbuster in 8.5 minutes instead of 6 hours.

With population and employment growth and high levels of productivity, Milton Keynes has been identified by the Centre for Cities as one of five Fast Growth Cities in the UK, with

significant potential for the future. Vodafone and CityFibre are committed to helping the city, which celebrated its 50th anniversary last year, to meet this potential through the provision of a future-proofed digital network on a par with the best connected cities in the world. CityFibre will start construction of the new FTTP network in Milton Keynes in March this year. This will be an extension of its existing 160km full fibre network in the city. CityFibre will use modern build techniques to deploy the network quickly and minimise disruption. Once completed, nearly every business and home in Milton Keynes will have FTTP access.

Customers in Milton Keynes will be able to pre-register for the service from today from this link, with the first live services expected towards the end of 2018.

Milton Keynes was chosen as the first city because of the city's strong tech sector, the council's forward-looking commitment to 'smart city' initiatives, and the strength of its support for the project. The extent of CityFibre's existing fibre network in the city and the absence of any alternative digital infrastructure, helped make Milton Keynes a prime candidate for selection.

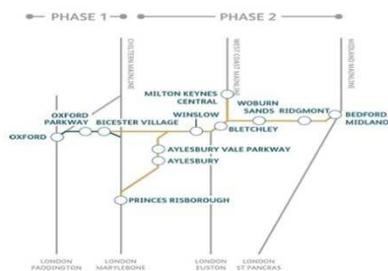
Advanced fibre networks are also critical for mobile networks, providing the very high-capacity backhaul connections required for new Internet of Things products such as smart home sensors, as well as future 5G mobile services from the early 2020s.

- FTTP is currently only available to around 3 per cent of premises across the UK. It is recognised as the 'gold standard' in connectivity for its speed, near unlimited bandwidth and reliability.
- The partnership between CityFibre and Vodafone was announced in November 2017. Under the agreement, Vodafone will market the ultrafast full-fibre services delivered over the networks, which will be built, operated and owned by CityFibre.
- Milton Keynes became a Gigabit City in 2016 with the existing network currently around 160km in size. Local businesses have been the first to reap the benefits of the ultrafast connection, experiencing a new level of productivity and innovation, and giving them a digital head-start over their competitors.

- Customers in Milton Keynes will be able to pre-register for the service from today at <https://www.vodafone.co.uk/broadband/ultrafast> with the first live services expected towards the end of 2018.

To find out more about CityFibre and Fibre to the Home, visit:

www.cityfibre.com/residential



East West rail

In July 2017 the Department for Transport (DfT) directed the EWR project to evaluate if the capital cost of the project could be reduced whilst still maintaining all of the benefits for local connectivity within the Oxford-Milton Keynes corridor. The project identified that savings could be achieved to the total project costs through a combination of changes to the construction methodology and the project's scope. The DfT have endorsed that these changes be taken forward. The scope change has resulted in alterations to the project necessitating the third round of consultation.

The third round of consultation on the changes instructed to the project team since round two have been held at several events in the Bicester to Bletchley area of the project. The consultation period runs from 12th January 2018 to 9th February 2018 and everyone is entitled to participate. The main changes to the project which is now shown on the plans are:

- Single line track from Aylesbury to Calveit Green (in lieu of twin tracking previously specified.)
- Reduction in the number of new bridges being built due to removal of electrification.
- Removal of haul roads.
- Alterations to service schedule resulting in reduced noise levels.

The Transport and Works Act submission will now be made in the spring of 2018 with an expected Order being made around the beginning of 2020. Main works will not be commenced until the Order is made although some enabling works will be commenced at the end of 2018. Environmental mitigation sites are currently being constructed in 4 areas with another 5 or 6 areas being worked on for early habitat creation. It is important that we have mature habitats in existence prior to any construction works commencing.

The enabling works will consist of de-vegetation, some under bridge structural works, compound set up (in 5 or 6 specific locations) and limited access works. We do not anticipate any main works being undertaken during this period

Charles Hurst - Stakeholder Manager

East West Rail - Network Rail | Victoria Square | Birmingham | B1 1BD

Email charles.hurst@networkrail.co.uk Tel: 07515 620485

Our Safety Vision - Everyone home safe, every day



Oxford – MK – Cambridge Expressway

The Oxford to Cambridge growth corridor could be the ‘missing link’ in forging a new east-west transport spine across southern England, according to one of the initiative’s key architects.

Alistair Gordon, director of the National Infrastructure Commission’s Cambridge-MK-Oxford study, told the Built Environment Networking conference that the exercise had implications beyond its geographical terms of reference. “We potentially see it as the first step in a strategic corridor that could take you all the way from East Anglia ports to the west of England and south Wales. It’s a missing link rather than a defined geography.”

Heather Smith, chairman of the strategic transport forum of councils in England’s heartland region, said at the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Economic Growth Conference that the western section of the re-opened Oxford-Cambridge rail route was due to be completed by 2023. The route of the central section of the Oxford to Cambridge had not yet been finally defined and was unlikely to be delivered until the mid-2020s, she added.

Smith said that the final route for the Expressway road, linking the two university cities, was expected to be determined in 2019 following the publication of proposals next year. She acknowledged that the timetable for designating the corridor was frustrating for developers who had sites along the route. “It’s quite difficult for housing authorities because the whole area is high growth and there is massive demand from housing and pressure from developers targeting sites.”

Gordon said that authorities needed to maximise the ‘once in a generation’ opportunity offered by the creation of the Oxford to Cambridge transport corridor. “The design and routing of these schemes are vital to tackling some of big challenges these areas face. The value of these schemes will be maximised if they facilitate housing growth in urban extensions and new settlements.”

He added that the NIA’s strategic view was that the number of stations along the east-west line should be limited with commuters brought onto the network by feeder services. “We would like to see faster links but local people would like to see more stations,” he said, adding that the NIA was launching a study with Network Rail and local councils into the provision of new rail stations in the Cambridgeshire stretch of the new east-west line.

He also suggested that local authorities in the Oxford to Cambridge transport corridor should explore setting up joint planning committees to achieve better join up planning for jobs and housing.

Smith said the forum's authorities were 'working towards' establishing a sub-national statutory transport body which could bring in access to additional funds for the area's road and rail networks.

The Golden Triangle is a term that was initially used to describe the grouping of elite, highly-funded universities located in the southern English cities of Oxford, Cambridge, and London. These universities are prominent in the world of education and innovation, or the 'knowledge' sector, both in the UK and on a global scale. Increasingly the term is also being used to describe the growth of the technology and life sciences sectors in the cities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Milton Keynes.

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The universities that form the Golden Triangle include:

- The University of Oxford, Oxford
- The University of Cambridge, Cambridge
- Imperial College London, London
- King's College, London
- London School of Economics, London
- University College London, London

The University of Oxford and the University of Cambridge form two corners of the triangle, while London's Imperial College, University College London, King's College London, and the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) make up the third corner.

Milton Keynes holds the honour of being one of the UK's leading cities in 'Smart City' technology. Smart City technology is a term used to describe a city's use of sensors to monitor air pollution, water, and energy usage, as well as living patterns to detect early signs of illness. Milton Keynes is also described as one of the UK's Fast Growth Cities, overtaking Cambridge as the UK's fastest-growing town or city with an economy on course to be £226 million larger by the end of 2017. Milton Keynes is also a leading city for tech innovation, and with the launch of MK Data Hub in 2016, the city has become a hub for data start-ups too.

David Hopkins / Victoria Hopkins / Alice Jenkins