

Chairman's Report (January 2021) – Wavendon Parish Council

- **MK Council have suspended consultation work** in connection with Highways Initiatives etc until further notice
- **National lockdown: Stay at Home** - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

Leaving home

You must not leave or be outside of your home except where necessary. You may leave the home to:

- shop for basic necessities, for you or a vulnerable person
- go to work, or provide voluntary or charitable services, if you cannot reasonably do so from home
- exercise with your household (or support bubble) or one other person, this should be limited to once per day, and you should not travel outside your local area.
- meet your support bubble or childcare bubble where necessary, but only if you are legally permitted to form one
- seek medical assistance or avoid injury, illness or risk of harm (including domestic abuse)
- attend education or childcare - for those eligible

If you do leave home for a permitted reason, you should always stay local - unless it is necessary to go further, for example to go to work. Stay local means stay in the village, town, or part of the city where you live.

If you are clinically extremely vulnerable you are advised to only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. We recommend that you do not attend work

- **Message from the Woburn Sands Climate Group** – *'A hearty 'thumbs up' response all round from the Climate Change Group members here for your WPC colleagues to join us, you'll be pleased to hear, David. However, I think that it may be pragmatic for us to undertake one or two projects independently, for practical reasons: for example, it would complicate our community emissions assessment work by expanding the area of our 'community'. So I thought that we might perhaps each (WSTC and WPC) conduct our own area-bound community emissions exercise (though of course sharing technical information and tips), but certainly team up with each other for other projects that are less community specific – such as that concerning redways, for example, for which coordinating with neighbours would be positively desirable; indeed, the two groups working together might carry more weight in our approaches to MKC and other bodies (e.g., for responding to the MKC cycling and pedestrian survey that you also alerted us to, for which, thanks). Does that make sense to you?'*

- **MKC LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING PLAN**

MKC are consulting on their Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy which was recently published, along with Gear Change which is a vision for cycling and walking https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/904146/gear-change-a-bold-vision-for-cycling-and-walking.pdf . These documents seek to emphasise the government's ambition to invest in active travel. Following that local authorities have been encouraged to identify new schemes and gaps in their active travel infrastructure through the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs) (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-cycling-and-walking-infrastructure-plans-technical-guidance-and-tools>).

LCWIPs enable local authorities to take a long-term approach to the development of connected, attractive, cohesive cycling and walking networks, based on evidence drawn from members of the public and on existing and future travel patterns by identifying missing links and current barriers that prevent people from walking and cycling more. Having a plan in place will help put MKC in a stronger position to secure future investment from a range of funding sources and to ensure that the future growth improves and adds to their existing active travel network . While Milton Keynes benefits from having an extensive network of Redways (346km), parts are now 50 years old, some areas are not connected and improvements are required. Our LCWIP will focus on identifying :

- 1) Missing links (gaps in the existing infrastructure)
- 2) Upgrades to existing routes
- 3) New cycling and walking infrastructure

General maintenance issues (overgrown vegetation, potholes, missing signage etc) are out of the scope of this consultation and need to be reported through the MKC portal.

MKC are looking for support and local knowledge to ensure that they focus on the right schemes and that no part of the borough is missed out and no users are left behind (wheelchair users, e- scooters etc).

MKC would like to know whether there are any barriers that prevent people from walking, cycling or wheeling that the LCWIP could pick up. Some examples of issues that MKC believe exist on the network that would enable people to walk and cycle are:

- Missing sections of Redway or dedicated cycle path (no facilities at all or missing a direct link or route)
- Busy roads with no safe walking and cycling routes
- Difficult junctions
- Missing safe crossing points – areas where greater priority could be given to people to safely cross the road, reducing severance and fear for those who are less mobile or want safe routes to schools, work, shops, places of interest
- Chicane barriers / staggered barriers or other obstructions that make routes inaccessible for mobility scooters and adapted bikes
- Locations where the speed and volumes of traffic should be reduced to support safe cycling and walking

A map of existing Redway infrastructure is available at https://www.getsmartertravelmk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MK_Redway_Poster.pdf

MKC are inviting the submission of scheme suggestions to include in their LCWIP. This can be done by email to lcwip@milton-keynes.gov.uk including:

- 1) Location of your area of concern (including the estate and address)
- 2) Description of the problem and scheme suggestion
- 3) (Optional but beneficial) add a map of the area where the problem is and the proposed solution

The deadline for submitting suggestions is 30th January.

There will be a public consultation on the draft LCWIP around Spring 2021

- **Suspension of food and garden waste collections from Thursday 14 January**

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on us all, and in MK the cases are seriously high. As a result of reduced staffing, we're suspending food and garden waste collections throughout MK from Thursday 14 January until further notice.

Our waste collection partner Serco has seen an increase of COVID-19 positive tests and staff requiring to isolate or shield. The situation is one that changes rapidly. In recent days nearly 40% of the waste collections teams have been unavailable. So, to protect our core services we now need to prioritise collection of black and clear sacks.

We appreciate this is an inconvenience to residents, and we are sorry for this. We will continue to do our best, with the support of our partners, to maintain services under difficult circumstances.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a serious situation. As well as ensuring that protective measures are followed, we have arranged access for front line crew members to have rapid COVID-19 tests (with results known within an hour) to identify people who have the virus with no symptoms. Around one in three people with COVID-19 have no symptoms. These people can then isolate and break the chain of transmission.

The Food and Garden Waste suspension will be reviewed weekly and we will look to give as much notice as possible when the service restarts.

In the meantime, please dispose of food waste into black bags and keep any green waste in your garden. MK's tips remain open, although we do ask residents to consider whether any journey is essential, in light of the national lockdown. Black bag waste and clear recycling sacks will continue to be collected on your regular collection days. The waste collection pilot remains unaffected at this stage.

We're doing everything that we can to continue to provide essential services in these extreme circumstances and we thank you for continuing to support our crews as front line key workers.

To check your collection day please go to: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/collection-days

Please help us by sharing this important information with your friends, family and neighbours and those without access to the internet.

- **Two refuse collection workers have passed away after both testing positive for COVID-19.**

It has since been confirmed that there has been an outbreak amongst the city's refuse workers, and two drivers have sadly died.

Mark Sturgeon, Senior Contract Manager, said: "Sadly we have recently lost two of our colleagues on our Milton Keynes team to COVID-19. Our deepest condolences go out to their families and friends. Both colleagues worked as drivers on the contract but within separate teams. They will both be sorely missed by all who knew and worked with them."

COVID-19 Snapshot

As of 6th January 2021 (data reported up to 3rd January 2021)

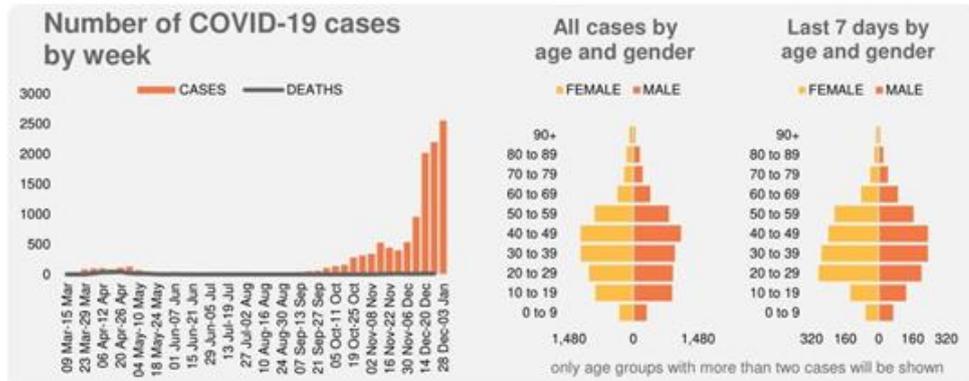


Population 269,457



Direction of travel compares current snapshot against previous snapshot

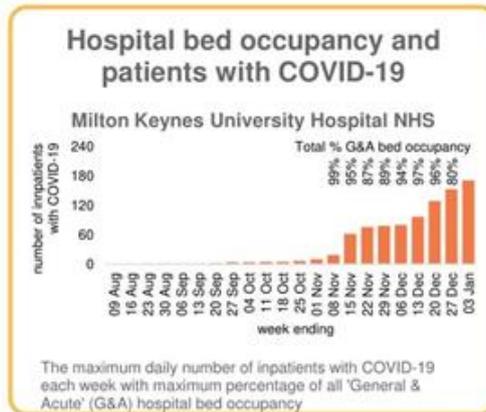
key: ↑ Increasing ● no change ↓ decreasing



Most affected wards in the last 7 days

Ward	Number of cases
Broughton	221
Bletchley East	210
Woughton & Fishermead	182
Bletchley Park	151
Central Milton Keynes	149
Stantonbury	145
Wolverton	144
Loughton & Shenley	135
Bradwell	132
Bletchley West	131
Stony Stratford	131
Campbell Park & Old Woughton	122
Danesborough & Walton	121
Tattenhoe	118
Monkston	117
Newport Pagnell South	108
Shenley Brook End	105
Newport Pagnell North & Hanslope	98
Olney	35

only wards with more than two cases will be shown



(current snapshot against previous snapshot)

Please note: numbers in recent days may rise, reflecting diagnostic and reporting turnaround time. All detail within this report is the latest data available prior to publishing (06/01/2021).

Week-to-week comparisons are based on the data available at the time each snapshot was published.

Produced by: Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Milton Keynes Council Public Health Evidence and Intelligence Team - J Phillips.

Source: Public Health England (PHE), Office for National Statistics (ONS), NHS England.