

Chairman's Report – April 2021

Wavendon Voice

I wanted to note the efforts of Wavendon Voice in stimulating detailed responses to MK Council regarding the SEMK consultation. Thank you to the team for the excellent templates and support.

Note from Iain Stewart MP – Our local MP has written to the MKC CEO regarding the consultations underway at present.

From: STEWART, Iain (2nd Mailbox) <iain.stewart.2nd@parliament.uk>

Sent: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 12:37 pm

To: Michael.Bracey@Milton-keynes.gov.uk

Subject: SEMK and EWR Consultations

Dear Michael,

I hope this finds you well.

I have been contacted by a number of constituents in the Danesborough and Walton ward expressing deep concerns about the SEMK and new East West Rail consultation on options for the Marston Vale line. Given that each consultation impacts significantly on the other, there is unhappiness that the consultation periods at present are not aligned. The SEMK consultation concludes on Monday 19th April while the EWR one, launched at the end of March, is open until June.

Many residents may have made submissions to the SEMK consultation without knowledge of the options being presented in the EWR consultation. This issue is compounded by the lack of the traditional physical public displays and meetings which would normally be held in consultations such as these, given the necessary Covid restrictions.

I would therefore request that the deadline for submissions to the SEMK consultation is extended to that of the EWR one in order that the fullest range of opinions can be captured.

With all good wishes,

Iain

Broadband – note from the Infrastructure Programme Manager at MK Council

The council continues to try to influence suppliers such as Openreach and City Fibre to extend their coverage to the harder to reach areas and some areas within the main urban areas of the borough that cannot obtain superfast or fibre broadband. However, if these companies do not see the extension of their networks as a commercially viable proposition there is nothing we can do to force them.

The council is bound by strict State Aid (and equivalent post Brexit replacement) rules that prevent us from providing funding directly to local communities or creating our own “top-up” scheme to help residents to better afford the high costs of laying new fibre to their homes and businesses. The options I've outlined in previous responses, Community Fibre Partnerships etc. with Openreach will all involve local communities footing an element of the cost of installations, which may often be several thousand pounds per property.

The Government has told the council that it is taking over responsibility for the rollout of fibre and other gigabit capable technologies for the “final 20%” non-commercially viable properties. Their programme is called “Project Gigabit” and the initial stage of that work will commence shortly with a procurement for parts of a very large area of the South East Midlands known as Area 12, including some parts of the borough, starting in June this year. Unfortunately, Area 12 only covers areas where the Government considers there is little chance of commercial investment which means that much of the borough is not included.

I have attached a map of the areas of Milton Keynes that are included in the Area 12 procurement for information, however, please note that even if your community is included in the procurement area this does not mean that the successful supplier will install fibre in your area. That will be determined by the detail in the supplier’s tender which will be evaluated by the Government, not Milton Keynes Council.

I am currently bringing together evidence from across the borough to present to the Government in June which will aim to highlight the issues local communities that are not included in Area 12 face with the intended scope of “Project Gigabit”. If any of you wish to contribute to this please let me know and I’ll outline the information required from you about the problems you are facing.

Martyn Smith – Infrastructure Programme Manager

Planning Projects Team (Planning, Strategic Transport and Placemaking)

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SEMK

The Parish Council response has been submitted and Cllr Jamieson will cover off any questions later in the meeting.

EWR

EWR has delivered 250,000 copies of a pamphlet setting out the proposals for the future of EWR, which have direct and indirect impacts on our Parish. The pamphlet rather glosses over (literally) some of the more contentious issues. See more at www.eastwestrail.co.uk and at www.communityhub.eastwestrail.co.uk . Along with The Mayor of WSTC and Chairman of BBPC, I will be meeting will.gallagher@eastwestrail.co.uk in Woburn Sands on 19 April

DRT

The Direct Response Transport initiative launched on 1 April has got off to a mixed start with reports of contact centre phones not being answered and (as we anticipated) many of those who most use public transport also being those less likely to own and use smart phones etc and are those who prefer to offer cash in fare payments.

A DRT vehicle is parked in Woburn Sands every morning to meet the first calls of the day in our local area.



Work Priorities for 2021/22

As we come towards the end of the Council year it is time, as usual, to prepare the work programme and priorities for 2021/22

Wavendon PC Priority Work programme 2021 / 22	
Issue	Comments
<p>It is continually highlighted that maintenance of the area is essential for residents to continue to value the environment in which they live and to promote a sense of well-being.</p> <p>WPC commits to continue to work closely with partner organisations on a programme of maintenance to meet local need.</p>	<p>Priorities for the PC in 2021/22 will be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the natural and built environment of the Parish 2. Support and maintain community facilities and services within the Parish 3. Deliver the types of development which meet the needs of the community 4. Limit the impact of traffic and to encourage sustainable transport
Better quality landscape maintenance required of open space and the streets	Examine all options including WPC commissioned top up services
Provision of improved directional signage and way markers	
Improve quality of public realm (lighting, footpaths, seating, bollards)	Continue and expand street light improvement programme
Improve quality of public rights of way	Focus on Wavendon Country Park proposals on land between Newport Road and Cranfield Road
Grit, recycling and dog waste bins	Undertake parish audit for location and numbers of each type of bin being provided
The importance of being able to get around easily whether travelling by vehicle, bicycle or on foot is a key feature of the parish of Wavendon and Milton Keynes. Whilst residents feel that access in the WPC area is good, improvements could be made.	

Where there are existing deficiencies, WPC will work with partner organisations to seek improvement.	
Walnut Tree Local Centre	Seek to work with the owners / management of Walnut Tree Local Centre which is a service area for Wavendon to encourage the delivery of enhancements to the area, inc. bike racks, car park improvements and space for delivery robots.
Investigate the delivery of parking at key locations within the Plan area, working with Schools, MKC, landowners	Ensure car parking at new Glebe Farm school site and new community facility sites meets and possibly exceeds likely demand. Ensure they are secure – possibly with CCTV as appropriate
Public Transport	Work with partners to seek improved public transport / Demand Responsive Transport. Consider future transport issues (Mass Rapid Transit). Monitor success (or otherwise) of the DRT initiative
Key footpath and redway linkages	Seek support and funding for the delivery of key links to be introduced as evidenced by desire lines and new development opportunities
Street furniture and signage	Work with MKC and Paul Van Geete to ensure new street furniture provided where identified. Also work with Milton Keynes Council to 'de-clutter' some of the established areas as appropriate
Traffic Management	Reduction in congestion at identified trouble spots across the Parish. Examine 20 MPH areas as appropriate and residents demand. Work with partner organisations to identify key streets for environmental enhancements to reduce and slow traffic, improve safety and enhance the streetscape, particularly adjacent to existing leisure destinations, nurseries and local centres
South East Expansion & EWR Consultation proposals	Ensure delivery of SEMK SUE and EWR does not significantly impact on residents. Look, where possible, for planning gains and enhancements
Transport management	Pursue and challenge where necessary, details of any transport assessments in relation to new planning applications
Noise pollution	Monitor and engage with East West Rail consultation to ensure any impacts of the project, particularly noise pollution, are mitigated.
Responses to the Wavendon Hub (Pavilion) consultation showed that whilst there is a variety of open space, community and leisure facilities within the area, it would benefit from a diversity of offer. WPC commits to continue to protect local assets, whilst exploring opportunities to introduce new facilities and service provision to	Community Facilities

meet the needs of the whole community.	
Asset / Devolution Agenda – Management of Community Leisure and facilities as appropriate	Explore the potential to acquire and manage assets within the Parish offered by MKC through the devolution agenda
Sports Ground Enhancements	Develop a coordinated approach to sports facilities to ensure that provision meets the need of existing clubs, current and future residents
Outdoor Sports and Gym Equipment	Introduce additional outdoor gym equipment, where appropriate, within the Parish
Play Areas	Commitment to review ongoing maintenance and refurbishment of existing play areas and consider opportunities for additional provision as the parish expands
Broadband	Monitor strategic framework developments to ensure future proofed connections.
Community Hubs	Liaise with local service providers, including GPs, and developers to influence service provision
Open Space	A major feature of the development of Milton Keynes as a New Town has been the provision of landscaped and open spaces, including open areas adjacent to highways. These are important to the character of the area and provide a valuable resource for biodiversity whilst contributing to the well-being of local residents. Extensions to the linear parks through the new development area of SEMK and a new Community area between Newport Road and Cranfield Road
Better quality landscape maintenance required of open space	Work with voluntary organisations to improve the environment of Wavendon from management of the natural environment to the introduction of newly landscaped areas
Street Tree Planting	Identify areas where suitable, native trees can be planted or which might need replacing. Use planting as local neighbourhood traffic management programmes
<p>Crime is a priority concern for residents. The Wavendon area has a low crime rate and is a safe place to live and residents wish this to be maintained.</p> <p>The policies within the Plan ensure that all development will endeavour to 'Design out Crime' by applying the principles of Secure by Design. Responsibility for ensuring these principles are applied sits with Milton Keynes Council as the local Planning Authority. WPC further commits to review all planning applications in line with the</p>	<p>Modern equivalent of neighbourhood watch schemes across the parish.</p> <p>Regular community liaison (Have your say) meetings with TVP</p> <p>Continue to work in partnership with Thames Valley Police (TVP) about enhanced community engagement opportunities.</p> <p>WPC & TVP to share all crime & community safety news. WPC & TVP to foster and maintain good working relationship, especially with Local Team and PCSOs</p> <p>Promote the use of the Thames Valley Police Alert Scheme to residents and businesses across the Parish</p>

national and local planning policies and submit comments to support robust approaches to Secure by Design principles in all aspects of development.	
Work closely with partners to ensure safe routes across the Parish are maintained through monitoring and reporting defective lighting and/or landscaping.	
<p>Consultation has indicated (especially post pandemic and lockdown) a wish for additional activities within the area to provide greater opportunities for social interaction between all age groups but with a particular focus on the elderly and young people.</p> <p>WPC commits to work in partnership with statutory bodies and voluntary groups within the area to review provision and enable wider participation across the community.</p>	<p>Support those looking to provide holiday activities for children and young people residing in the Parish and surrounding areas.</p> <p>Explore opportunity for the development of a Paris Council managed online hub responsive to current events and environment and providing acute and timely information.</p>
Planning Applications	<p>Continue to submit written comments on all planning applications both within the Parish area and external to the Parish where they have potential for impact including issues relating to build materials, parking, noise and light pollution etc.</p> <p>Support the introduction of an MK wide design body to avoid the 'every estate looks like every other' feel about MK Expansion.</p>
Respond to Plan:MK (2) and other strategic planning documents	<p>Consultation on Plan:MK 2 expected later in 2021</p> <p>Monitor all planning applications and highlight infrastructure deficiencies to be addressed via Planning Obligations.</p>
Ensure all HiMO's identified within the Parish are reported to MKC to ensure they are registered.	New development area across the Parish offer opportunities for HiMO's
Public Art	Contributions are made from developments within the Parish but get syphoned off to other projects across MK. WE must devise a schedule of public arts projects (including a village sign on St Marys Green)

Cllr. David Hopkins

Chairman- April 2021