

## Chairmans Report – January 2024

- The Parish Council is working closely with residents regarding the initiative to establish a possible green buffer area in an around Wavendon House together with the area to the east of Cross End. Representations will be made to MK City Council to lobby for this to be included as policy as part of the City Councils MK Plan 2 (due to be published in 2025)
- Flooding and road safety – the Parish Council continues to lobby MK City Council to upgrade the frequency of the highways drains cleaning schedule. Recent abnormally heavy rain revealed the full extent of the problem both in the older parts of the Parish and, surprisingly in parts of Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm South as well.
- Work has started on the Bletcham Way (H10) extension with temporary diversions in place for footpaths and bus routes. Work on the road itself (allowing access to the planned Church Farm development) is scheduled to start in September. Any questions, complaints etc during the construction phase should be addressed to Diljeet Singh (Project Manager) [Diljeet.Singh@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Diljeet.Singh@milton-keynes.gov.uk) (Tel 07533 412682).
- The work on H10 involves using Phoebe Lane as a diversion route for pedestrians – but the lane is very muddy and challenging to access in parts. The Parish Council is lobbying MK City Council (who manage the route as public highways) so that its maintenance responsibilities can be adhered to, and for the quality of the route be upgraded on a temporary basis before a more permanent lit, paved solution is in place (pedestrians and cycles only) once Church Farm is developed.
- I have asked MKC (Rachel Munday) to supply grit bins and salt to be located outside Glebe Farm Combined School and St Marys CoE Primary School.
- The Parish Clerk and I met with Shaaron Forbes (Operations and Project Manager) at Glebe Farm school to discuss warm space and community fridge/larder issues and a verbal report of that meeting will be provided at the PC meeting. St Marys CoE Primary School are examining ways in which they can be involved.
- Discussions are ongoing between landowners O&H and the East West Rail company over the details of any potential proposals for Woburn Sands station re-location and until there is at least some preliminary conclusion to those discussions it does not seem that O&H will feel enabled to submit a ‘northside’ application for the land on the Wavendon side of the rail line. Wavendon Parish Council is pushing to ensure a buffer between the older parts of the parish and the new SEMK development at this point .The discussions appear to have been getting more detailed toward the end of 2023 so there has been progress but as far as timing is concerned a lot will depend on how much EWR will want to commit prior to having their full ‘statutory consultation’ package put together. That will probably determine whether we see the northside plans this side of the summer.... or not!
- Proposals for the remainder of the SEMK areas to the south of the railway (up to 2000 dwellings) are likely to be published in a more detailed form in the Spring and come before MKCC Planning Committee possibly in September.
- Following a very positive public meeting with the MKCC Traffic and Transportation Manager and members of his team, the Parish Council is awaiting proposals for traffic management improvements in the following areas of the Parish. I have asked Murray Woodburn (the senior officer who attended the public meeting late last year) for a written update on project solutions for highways issues.

\*Walton Road (including Stockwell Lane)

\*Newport Road

\*Lower End Road and Cranfield Road (including Crabtree Lane and Crow Lane)

\*Cross End (including major repairs to the lane itself)

- Wavendon Parish Council is working closely with MK Community Action to see if a Community House can be established in Eagle Farm South as a meeting / contacts point for new residents.
- Parish Council meetings are planned to be held at alternate venues during 2024 either at the old St Marys School building on Walton Road, the Hub off Dankworth Drive or the Community Space at Glebe Farm combined school. See the WPC web pages for details.
- Milton Keynes City Council had to implement an emergency closure at Cross End, Wavendon. The emergency closure was necessary to allow Milton Keynes City Council to safely repair defects in the carriageway which have rapidly deteriorated. Access to properties on Cross End was maintained. The dates of the closure and length of road closed are detailed below:

Date - 11th and 12th January 2024 for Cross End, Wavendon – its entire length.

Whilst the emergency closure was in effect the alternative route was via Lower End Road and Newport Road (and vice versa)

- I am delighted to report that Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership has been shortlisted in the Photo Competition in the 2024 Community Rail Awards! Please see <https://www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk/marston-vale-crp-shortlisted-in-community-rail-awards>

The photo is d) - Budding Bee Enthusiasts at Woburn Sands Station.

The winner will be determined by public vote.

Voting closes at 10pm on Monday 29th January 2024.

Every vote counts!

- I have been speaking (as the Parish Council Chairman) with Arriva regarding the planned start of the rerouted 3/3a service through Burney Drive. Arriva remain hesitant about setting a precise date for the Burney Drive service until they have received an absolute assurance from the developers on the opening date of the road. Arriva maintain that have been in a similar position at Newton Leys and ended up with a succession of different routes and timetables because the developer kept changing arrangements at short notice! The Parish Council has therefore followed up with developers L&Q (since Christmas) who inform us that Bellway has still not finished its works on the Glebe Farm section but that they are liaising with Planning Officers at MKCC on this on a regular basis and will remove the concrete blocks as soon as it becomes safe.

On the central section, the so-called Bloor Homes section, the City Council is still tracking progress in that area, and the route between Glebe and Eagle Farm being opened up fully toward the end of March - so that will be the point at which the 3/3A can run all the way through the development.

The Parish Council is also lobbying for a new bus stop and shelter to be installed on this route at a point on Dankworth Way (serving older parts of the Parish, The Stables and the new Wavendon Hub facility).

The Parish Council will continue to lobby all involved to make sure we can move to an active bus service for the area as soon as possible.

- Following the damning NAO Report EWR is recruiting for a new Chief Executive Officer - Milton Keynes | East West Rail Careers

<https://careers.eastwestrail.co.uk/en/postings/d27dd697-50bc-4428-87ed-0174e4707324>

I will keep you informed.

*Cllr David Hopkins*

*Chairman – Wavendon Parish Council*