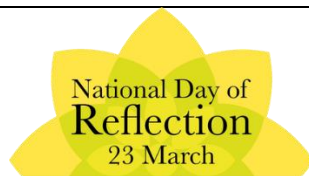


Wavendon PC - Chairmans Report – March 2024

- Unveiling of plaque to mark opening of Covid Memorial patio reflection area



Councillors are invited to attend the unveiling of the plaque marking the new Covid memorial patio at the former school building on Saturday 23 March at 10am. The Mayor of MK will be attendance. New seating and planting have been purchased / donated for this new area of reflection and Frosts Garden Centre has kindly donated planting to cheer the area.

- Upcoming Consultations

We shortly will be faced with

- Statutory Consultation on EWR (starting June)
- Historic Area of Attractive landscape Consultation (stage one closing 24 March)
- MK 2050 options for growth consultation
- LNRS Biodiversity <https://bucks.mknep.co.uk/nature-strategy/overview/>
- Planning applications for SEMK (Two or possibly three in tandem)

This represents an enormous workload for the clerk and councillors, and we need to consider how we draft in residents to assist in these tasks, for example via task and finish groups including residents with planning skills and those involved in the Country Park initiative.

- EWR Select Committee <https://committees.parliament.uk/event/20663/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/> I attended the select committee (virtually)

- **The 450 and future bus services**

The operator (Britannia) has undertaken to continue to provide the service until September, but MKCC needs to come up with a 'plan B' for September onwards. It has been suggested that operator Grant Palmer (and/or others) might tender to operate a fuller service and we need to press for certainty regarding this route.

The 3/3A on Eagle Farm South and Glebe Farm

However, much better news for this route from Arriva, Service 3/3A, Milton Keynes to Magna Park.

Details of the forthcoming change to service 3 are now on the Arriva website <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/latest-news/changes-to-your-milton-keynes-services-april-2024>

Arriva are making our 3/3A even better by extending our bus network to welcome new residents at Eagle Farm and Glebe Farm developments.

Buses will follow a bidirectional circular route between Broughton, Kingston, Glebe Farm, Eagle Farm and Magna Park to allow for easy local connections, as well as a bus direct into the heart of the city centre and the rail station, up to every 15 minutes.

They are also improving connectivity to Magna Park with bus timetables focused on shift times.

Timetable attached as per the website. Burney Drive will be served between Magna Park and Kingston, with new bus stops appearing in our journey planner and Google maps once MKCC have completed the behind the scenes work to add them to the national database.

Community Fridge and Larder Initiative

The clerk and I have met with Shaaron Forbes (The Operations and Project Manager based at Glebe Farm School) with regards the establishment of the community fridge / freezers and larders at the Glebe Farm Community Hub. Shaaron and I spent a morning with Woughton Community Council on Coffee Hall observing how their Fridge/Larger/Café/Job Club works. We hope to be up and running in April. the clerk will add more at the meeting.

No Entry / No Through Road Sign for Crow Lane

Following the request at the February meeting I have asked MKCC for No Through Road signage to be placed at the entry to Crow Lane, Lower End.

Defibs (Clerk Update) (Lower End at Crow Lane and Cross End)

Progress here and a verbal update will be provided by the clerk at the meeting.

Allotments (Clerk Update)

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting. However, by way of a reminder, at Eagle Farm there will be 22 allotments over four sites, six on site one, five on site 2, seven on site 3 and four on site 4 and at Glebe Farm there will be in total 29 allotment plots available and currently there are 39 residents to date that have expressed an interest in hiring an allotment.

EWR

Following the budget, Government announced continued commitment to EWR but particularly after completion of track from Bicester to Bletchley to the Bletchley to Bedford Marston Vale line using £240 mil of current budget funding - target by 2030 additional services Oxford to Bedford one train per hour. The Universal Studios announcement has added impetus, but it is now clear that this initiative will be served by a new station (long promised) at Wixams (the new town near Bedford) on the east midlands line.

Ongoing to Cambridge requiring new routes subject to much current objection on the "best" route and concern on value for money identified in the NAO report. Public consultation and Business Plan Development programme including Statutory Consultation summer 24 (June) remains as previously stated.

As reported above, the Transport Committee sat on the morning of the Spring Budget (coincidental) to listen to evidence from Expert Witnesses including Transport (Rail) Minister - senior civil servants and Mayor of Bedford - EEH and PR Partnership supercluster board chair - lively probing session with much focus on Bedford to Cambridge routes - a lot of focus on the advantages to Cambridge and Oxford Life science opportunities but concern on last mile connectivity are it seems the powers that be are doing this just to service the future pressures in those two keys university towns or all locations across the route

Business Council supports the EWR project to deliver Jobs and Growth and inward investment opportunities in MK and cities and towns across the route BUT it must address and deliver a modern future proofed, sustainable rail fleet with improved journey times and frequency whilst protecting environmental concerns and in particular addressing the connectivity issues and infrastructure needs at the Marston Vale Level Crossings including Woburn Sands, Bow Brickhill as well as the Bletchley Station interface.

Value for money must be sought but if it's worth doing it's worth doing well - a long way to go and for Bletchley to Bedford a critical period of detailed discussions with all Stakeholders is now required !"

Date for Community Highway Meeting Set

Wednesday 12th June at 7pm at the Community Hub off Dankworth Way. Murray Woodburn is on leave in May hence the delay following the local elections.

Date for TVP Meeting set (might well invite Hospital Trust to present at same meeting)

Set for Sunday 21st April at 3pm. Venue, The Hub off Dankworth Way. PCSO Amy Ryan to lead. May well invite Milton Keynes University Hospital -Lui Straccia (Membership and Engagement Manager) and Andrea Vincent (Governor) to attend to possible help boost attendance?

SEMK Stakeholders meeting

There has been no SEMK Stakeholders Meeting nor Woburn sands Futures Meeting since the last PC meeting and there will not be a SEMK meeting till May. Possible Futures Meeting to discuss transport issues but Mike Geddes yet to confirm.

Progress Report - Highways Update for March from Phil Jeffs

See updates below.

- *Newport Road/Dankworth Way lights - waiting for signal engineer to visit site to correct timing issue. Have chased again to find out when he will be visiting.*
- *Cross End/Lower End Road - Road Safety scheme. Works due to begin next financial year. This scheme will incorporate speed limit works on Cranfield Road as well. Statutory consultation will be required, so we will have to wait till after Purdah.*
- *Walton Road – No change from the last update Murray provided you with.*
- *Newport Road - 30mph proposal. See attached speed counts, I will now be liaising with Thames Valley Police on their thoughts of bringing the speed limit down to 30mph.*

*Phil Jeffs
Senior Highways Engineer
T: 01908 254055
M: 07586551322*



Activity

As Parish Chairman I attended

- East West Rail Stakeholders Group on 12 March
- Parishes Forum on 14 March (Cllr Thomas was also in attendance)
- Historic Area of Attractive Landscape Consultation Briefing on 29 February
- Civic Reception Celebration on 1 March

Walton Road Potholes

As you know, MKCC were due to attend on 20 February to undertake repairs on Walton Road (three potholes close to the church wall). However they failed to attend and the holes have worsened considerably and repeated requests for a fresh date from myself and the clerk have been met with a silence. We keep pressing.

Flooding

I have arranged a meeting with Stuart Proffitt (Strategic Director at MKCC) for the morning of 18 March to discuss flooding issues on Walton Road, Newport Road and Lower End Road plus the serious flooding on Cranfield Road (Crow Lane) and will report back at the meeting.

Community Speedwatch

The Community Speed Watch signs are now in place on Walton Road.

Confusion over closures at railway crossing

Paul Harrison reports – *'I have now checked with the Streetworks Team and can confirm that there will be no closures at the Woburn Sands Level Crossing this month. The only closure on our network at this location will be from 20th April 2024.*

We have sent an Inspector out to Woburn Sands today to have the advanced warning signs (showing the closure this week) taken down.

Diversion route signs will be displayed during the event, which will direct traffic around the closure should they be travelling to Woburn Sands along Newport Road from Wavendon.

Unfortunately, I am unable to confirm the closure or diversion route for the closure in Aspley Guise as it is not within the Milton Keynes boundary. Residents will need to contact Central Bedfordshire Council. I have looked on one.network and this closure is scheduled to start on 16 March and end on 18 March 2024. I have provided the link below for the closure details that is shown on one.network:'

<https://one.network/?GB137812021>

Paul Harrison - Network and Enforcement Manager

Other Issues

Lots to report, especially for residents in the newest parts of Wavendon

Local Centre – Glebe Farm

The Parish Council has received an update from developers L&Q about the local centre at Glebe Farm which seems most encouraging. I am repeating it verbatim so local residents will know as much as me for now, but I will keep trying to find out what I can and keep you updated.

They report 'We're expecting to exchange contracts with our purchaser in the next couple of weeks (there have been a number of complications). We (L&Q) will then be submitting an application within a month or so and subject to a quick planning consent I think they're looking at a 9-12 month build programme with a tenant lined up for the food store. I'd anticipate spring next year for the shop opening'.

Play Park and open space on the field north of the Stables Theatre

Fairly slow progress at this stage due to staff resource constraints in the Landscape Architects team at MK City Council. MKCC is verifying the deliverability of the designed scheme (again plans are a bit dated now) and assuming that does not need significant revision I would hope MK City Council can move forward reasonably quickly from there.

The council did find one or two oddities on its site inspection so they are trying to identify what those might be. Don't want to find we disconnect the water supply to the Stables or anything else so they will need to tread carefully!

Crossing at St Marys CoE Primary School

The Senior Highways Engineer as MK City Council has now come back regarding the (Pelican / light controlled) crossing adjacent to St Mary's CoE Primary School. He thinks it might take up to

a year for delivery as MKCC is still at the negotiating point and then the City Council will need design, technical approval and a completed safety audit. Again, the Parish will chase and confirm. Residents have also asked for a 20 MPH limit along the whole of Burney Drive, which MKCC has been asked to consider but may request 'a petition' in line with MKCC policy.

Bus Service along Burney Drive

Following pressure locally from the Parish Council, MKCC and Arriva now have got draft timetables for Burney Drive signed off with the Public Transport team, ready to commence 14 April 2024. The Parish Council is trying to do all it can to help ensure the road opens up as planned to enable that to happen!

The route onwards along Dankworth Way and Elmswell Road is something MKCC will look at further in the year, and will include a new bus shelter on Dankworth Way to serve the Stables Theatre, the Wavendon Hub and (after a short walk down Stockwell Lane) residents from the old part of the village (Walton Road etc)

Roadworks and road closures

The long overdue pothole repairs and resurfacing on the A421 at the Fen Street Roundabout are scheduled to be undertaken on 12-17 April. This may require closures and diversions so keep an eye on social media and the parish Website for more details closer to the date.

MK Plan 2 (MK2050) - Further possible developments for the next 25 years!

MK City Council is planning to provide for an additional 65,000 dwellings in the city boundary of MK in its new local plan. That is 30,000 that remain to be built from the current plan plus 35,000 in sites to be selected.

A long list of now 19 'areas' in and around MK have been identified including sites to the east of Newport Road in Wavendon and Woburn Sands (sites south of Lower End Road and Eagle Farm South etc).

Details of the presentation made to local Danesborough & Walton Councillors (City and Parish) are available at the Wavendon parish Council website

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

There is a planned consultation that will run for 12 weeks from late summer.

Protect our valued Greensand Ridge in Wavendon Woods at Woburn Sands

MK City Council is reviewing the Historic Areas of Attractive Landscape across MK, including the Greensand Ridge in Woburn Sands. The consultants undertaking the review are looking forward to receiving your comments on the proposed designation options as Special Landscape Areas in Milton Keynes.

A recording of a workshop session held in March is available on the MK City Council YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8MSTd4zGspl>

The online consultation hub is here. <https://milton-keynes-lld.co.uk/>. This site includes a tutorial video explaining how to use the hub – this is also covered in the recording of the workshop session. Comments can be submitted using points on the interactive map, or via the online survey. You can use either or both of these options to submit comments, the questions are the same on both.

There is also the option to submit comments via email to ncp.engagement@milton-keynes.gov.uk . Please also use this email address if you have any queries or issues regarding the consultation.

The Danesborough Fort Ancient Monument in Wavendon Woods (Woburn Sands Parish) is under threat from damage caused allegedly by Mountain Bikers. I have requested a meeting with Matthew Neilson (Bedford Estates), Jon Balaam (Greensand Trust), MKC Archaeology and Woburn Sands/Bow Brickhill Historical Society to agree a way forward. If the site can be designated as heritage at Risk and be placed on the Heritage at Risk Register, then work can be funded from grant.

Cllr David Hopkins

Chairman – Wavendon Parish Council