



Wavendon Parish Council

Chairmans Annual Report 2023-24

This has been another busy and sometimes challenging year dominated by issues connected with the growth of the parish and its consequences, both positive and negative,

Firstly, let's start with the changes from MK City Council. Principle amongst these changes has been the introduction of the new four colour wheelie bin system from delivered under contract by Suez on behalf of MK City council. Broadly welcomed the system has been judged a success as has the associated street cleansing services.

MK City Council announced that it was undertaking a review of ward boundaries increasing the number of city councillors from 57 to 60 and the number of wards from 19 to 20. Residents are invited to comment by July 2024.

The population of the parish continues to grow apace, and we continue to dispatch a minimum of fifty *Welcome Packs* to new residents each and every month.

I can summarise the impacts under a few brief headings, namely.

- Highways
- South East Milton Keynes and MK 2050 (the new local plan)
- East West Rail
- Community Action and community facilities
- The Wavendon Hub

Highways

Growth in the levels of traffic across the whole of the parish and the need for speed restrictions and associated traffic management measures led to a well-attended public meeting on 23 November 2023 at which the MKCC Traffic and Transportation Manager and two colleagues from MKCC listened to concerns from residents from across the parish. A follow up meeting is set for 12th June 2024 at which proposals will be tabled to address the issues raised.

The wet winter has led to numerous potholes appearing everywhere and MKCC has attempted to address these maintenance issues using its own defined measurement criteria.

SEMK and MK2050 (including land east of Newport Road)

The Swan Hill development on the parish boundary close to Frosts Garden Centre (the first stage of the SEMK development) is now well underway and has caused some issues with highways delays and the removal of a hedgerow. Planning applications for land south of the railway are expected in September 2024 with an application for the land north of the rail line not expected until the Spring 2025. The Bletcham Way (H10) extension into Wavendon parish to enable Church Farm (and other SEMK land developments) to begin has completed Phase One and that will enable construction traffic on to site. Phase two (the bridge over Byrd Crescent in Wavendon Gate and the roundabout improvements) will commence in the autumn of 2024. Eventually this will provide a major artery into the SEMK urban expansion area and the (up to) 4000 dwellings that will accompany it.

Thanks go to Cllr Ron Jamieson and Cllr Steve Thomas for accompanying me at meetings of the SEMK Stakeholders Group (organised by MKCC) and the Woburn Sands Futures (looking at how to get the best out of the design and infrastructure of SEMK which is organised by former WSTC member, Michael Geddes).

East West Rail

Universal Studios announcement of a theme park on land close to Stewartby and Kempston Hardwick has provided fresh impetus to the EWR project, and a formal, statutory consultation is due to be published in June 2024. The opening of the line between Bletchley and Oxford has been delayed until December 2025.

Thanks to Cllr Len Van Den Berg for attending the virtual EWR Stakeholder meetings (organised by the EWR Company) along with myself.

Community Action

The Parish has been working closely with Aimee Tidman of Community Action and Shaaron Forbes of the Glebe Farm School Community Hub. The Parish has funded (with grant assistance from national government) community freezers, fridges and associated equipment and supplies to be housed at the Community Hub located at Glebe Farm School. The Parish Council has also been working closely with that organisation to deliver numerous community-based projects in the newest parts of the parish.

The Wavendon Hub

The Wavendon Hub is already working at full capacity in terms of rental hire use and the sports fields have finally been transferred and are in use managed by Woburn and Wavendon Lions FC. Our thanks go to Cllr Robert Hill for his tireless efforts to achieve this outcome.

Separately the Parish Council has worked with a community group to see the development of a local Wavendon Cricket Club based at the Glebe farm School. They play their first fixtures in May 2024.

Education

St Marys School Wavendon is academizing and is transferring into the IfTL Multi Academy Trust (from maintained school status) and this should be concluded by September 2024. Demand for places at both St Marys and Glebe Farm School has meant that additional year groups have been opened early in both schools.

Buses and Public Transport (including local rail services)

The Parish Council was instrumental in lobbying Arriva (bus operator) to reroute the number 3 and 3a bus through Eagle Farm South and Glebe Farm. It is hoped that the route will extend soon through Dankworth Way and Elmswell Road (Glebe Farm) with a new stop and shelter located at the Wavendon Hub on Dankworth Way for use of those visiting the Stables, the Hub and residents living on Walton Road. The 450 Woburn Sands to CMK service that passes through the village was rather on and off during the year. Currently operating again, it is hoped that a more substantial and resilient service might be achieved in the coming weeks.

The Marston Vale Line (closed for over a year) is now fully operational (apart from industrial action days) and the rail operator is offering a £1 fare initiative until the end of August.

Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm South

Progress has been made regarding.

- Allotments (hope to start to deliver sites during the coming council year)
- New play areas in the newest parts of the parish
- New retail opposite St Marys School
- New play area in the field adjacent to The Stables and Glebe Farm
- New retail and community facility opposite Glebe Farm school
- Traffic safety light-controlled crossing on Burney Drive at St Marys School
- 20 MPH on all residential areas in the newly developing parts of the parish
- Provision of post boxes and litter bins (dog bins included) where demanded.
- Information boards erected at key community intersections.

Wavendon Community Centre and former school building (and PC organised activities)

All the halls and meeting rooms are booked at close to capacity. The Parish Clerk and Cllr Hill work tirelessly to ensure the halls are maintained to the highest standards.

The Mayoress of Milton Keynes formally opened the Covid Memorial Garden at the former school building and thanks go to Frosts Garden Centre for donating the plants that make up the bulk of that gardens display.

Thanks go to Cllr Marlese Levermore for organising parish litter picks during the year and to Cllr Steve Thomas for organising the frequent Community Speed Watch activities.

Wavendon Volunteer Army

Our thanks go to Jim Pitman who has now moved away from the Parish but who was instrumental in organising the so called Wavendon Volunteer Army that has undertaken so many community initiatives that have made the parish that much better maintained and an attractive and desirable place to live. Parish resident Roger Penfound has picked up the mantle.

New Parkland in the MK2050 local plan

Roger Penfound (working with other residents and Cllr Thomas and Cllr Jamieson) is spearheading a campaign to achieve a parkland buffer zone on land east of Newport Road and surrounding Wavendon House and a formal submission arguing this case will form part of the Parish submission during the consultation phase of the MK 2050 Local Plan Review due in the late summer/early autumn.

Thames Valley Police

A Community Residents event was held in the Wavendon hub in April with presentations from MK City Council Trading Standards (concerning online scams), Neighbourhood Watch and Thames Valley Police. Thanks go to our outstanding PCSO Amy Ryan for organising. The biggest topic of concern turned out to be motorised scooters although questions were also raised regarding the recent armed robbery at the Walnut Tree Tesco retail and the tragic murder (many months ago) close to Glebe Farm. Crime figures for the parish remain very low overall when compared with other areas of MK.

My thanks go to my two ward council colleagues, Tracey Bailey and Victoria Hopkins (who was re-elected for another term in May 2024) and to all of my colleagues on the parish council for their hard work and dedication over the past twelve months, to the Halls Manger (declaring an interest as she is my wife!), to Robert Hill in his position as facilities manager and of course to our outstanding and community focused Parish Clerk, Alan Kemp.

Wavendon Parish Council proudly pursues a policy of 'One Wavendon' and the integration of old and new which we hope we can take forward well into the future.

Cllr David Hopkins

Chairman – Wavendon Parish Council

(May 2024)