

Wavendon Parish Council

Monday 16th September 2024

Chairmans Report

I start with some sad news.

- Former Councillor David Ostler sadly passed away over the summer. David joined the PC on the 16 October 2017 and served until the 16 May 2022. Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this sad time.

I must also report the sad passing of two MK City Council officers.

- Road Safety Officer Keith Wheeler passed away suddenly at home on Tuesday 10 September. Many of us know Keith through his work on the various road safety projects in the village, not least Walton Road, and his support regarding SID's and Community Speed watch. Again, our thoughts are with his colleagues and family at this time.
- It is with great sadness that I must inform you about the very sad death of Luise Izod the council's public arts officer. Louise was working with Wavendon PC regarding identifying projects suitable for funding from our substantial 106 Arts funding pot.

Louise was an outstanding officer, totally dedicated to her role not just as a council officer but as someone who worked to deliver for the city, she was so proud to call her home. She helped deliver an enormous number of arts projects across MK all which contribute to making the city what it is today. She worked with me to deliver the Leaping Man statue in Wavendon, when other officers strongly resisted.

Louise fought breast cancer back in 2017 and again, very bravely over the past few weeks. She leaves a husband (Tom), two teenage daughters and mother and a tremendous number of friends and colleagues – and all out thoughts and prayers are with them all at this sad time.

District (Country) Park Initiative

- The District Park Action Group has produced an impression of just what the size and shape of the park might be, which (with their permission) I reproduce below. This begins to set context for the plan.
- They are essentially talking about the bright green areas along the driveway and around the Lake. If they could get a little more (4Hectares), at least half of which they would need to give up anyway to provide the necessary buffer around Cross End, then you could add in the central dark green area. The team recognize the turquoise-ish areas at the top are not as likely but going to their initial ask of 20Ha would give us the whole-coloured area. All this would provide a very usable and useful Park with great connections into both old and newer areas of Wavendon. But even the 12Ha one plus a buffer around Cross End would be a useful start.
- The Northern and Western grid roads are just samples, but there are not many other places they could go. The one to the East over towards Cranfield Road could run anywhere though so that one is more of a guess.



Sainsburys Local Store

- I am pleased to report that Sainsburys have kindly invited me to open their new store opposite St Marys Primary School off Wafandun Lane. The opening takes place on Monday 23rd September at 9am and I will be joined by four year-six pupils from St Marys who will hopefully steel the event and cut the ribbon.

SEMK Planning Meeting

- The meeting of Planning Committee scheduled for Thursday 3rd October 2024, 7.00 pm at which the SEMK applications were to have discussed **has been cancelled**.
- It is now planned that we hold the SEMK Stakeholder Group Meeting on that evening in Wavendon (Old School Hall).

Church farm

- Ground investigation and/or archaeology works by Connolly have both started this week (week ending 14 September).

Cricket at Eagle Glebe Cricket Club

- Cllr John Goss and I were pleased to accept the invitation to attend and present the trophies to the winning sides at the Eagle Glebe Cricket competition held at Glebe Farm School on 8 September. A large and enthusiastic crowd enjoyed a thoroughly enjoyable and competitive final and we were both made very welcome. A real sense of community at the event – and the weather held out (just about) until the final over!



MK Community Action

- The clerk and I met with Clare Walton (CEO Community Action) on 12 September. We discussed use of 106 funding in the newest parts of the parish and joint working moving forward. I have invited Clare to our October meeting.
- Attached to this report is a table that sets out the breakdown of the S106 applications Community Action has made for Wavendon and Walton. The Walton proportion is slightly higher apparently due recent housing at Towergate.

Road Improvements and Safety Measures Update

- I contacted Murray Woodburn at MKCC and the update on current projects are as follows:
- Cross End/Lower End Road - Road Safety scheme. Works due to begin next month. This scheme will incorporate speed limit works on Cranfield Road as well.
- Newport Road - 30mph proposal. Statutory consultation to begin next month (October)
- Walton Road Options - There remains some nervousness to consult on the possible scheme options when one of these options is not yet deliverable by the Council. The submission of an application to the Department for Transport for Moving Traffic Contravention enforcement using automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) was approved by delegated decision on 27th August and officers would prefer to await an indication of the outcome of this application before confirming the possible options for the informal consultation – as one of these is dependent upon this permission being granted. We can appreciate how residents will be frustrated by this delay, but we are keen to avoid a situation where a preferred option may be chosen by the community but may then not ultimately be deliverable. We will continue to work on the consultation materials for the various options in the meantime to ensure we take on board the comments on pros and cons of options that have been suggested to us by residents, and as soon as we have an indication from DfT on the outcome of our application, we will move forward with the informal engagement with the camera-enforced options included or excluded as appropriate.

Library Box

- Men in Sheds have completed the Library Box that will be installed on the play area adjacent to St Marys School in Eagle farm South. It will be installed in a week or so by the local building contractors.
- I have suggested that we commission another to be installed outside of the community Centre to allow access to library books at any time from our extensive library in the old school building.



MK Local Plan

I attended a select Committee meeting on Thursday 12th September that looked into the detail contained within the local plan proposals. For Wavendon (East of Newport Road) these include

- Development would not occur before 2038 to ensure infrastructure planning fully accounts for the demand created by development sites within the wider area once they are substantially complete (e.g. the Strategic Land Allocation, Church Farm and South East Milton Keynes). This approach would also allow us to consider how any proposed growth in Central Bedfordshire that adjoins the sites might interact and create a larger new community with different infrastructure demands.

- New development would be oriented around a proposed new Mass Rapid Transit link and service and network of strategic green and blue spaces.
- 3,000 new homes to be delivered by 2050.
- New 'Wavendon Strategic Buffers' proposed to protect the character and sense of place of Wavendon from any future infill development around it.
- Sensitive design and layout (e.g. landscape buffers) to protect character and sense of place of Wavendon House listed building and Registered Park and Garden, Cross End and Woburn Sands which adjoin the site.
- A network of new green and open spaces, including a proposed 12-hectare District Park.
- New secondary and primary schools and health facilities.
- A strategy and network for low and zero carbon infrastructure, ranging from individual buildings to the site as whole.
- New active travel and public transport routes/services, with a new Mass Rapid Transit system at the heart, so communities living there have an attractive public transport option for getting around.
- Make sure community amenities (e.g. shops, community meeting places, health centre, recreation and play spaces, parks, allotments) are delivered close to where people live so they can easily walk, wheel, cycle or scoot to them.
- New transport infrastructure connecting to the wider city (e.g. main access and MRT service through an extension of Keightley Gate, with secondary accesses from Newport Road and Cranfield Road) ensuring strategic and local traffic movements are managed appropriately.

Cllr David Hopkins

Chairman – Wavendon PC