

## **Wavendon Snippets for February 2021 – Cllr David Hopkins /**

**Cllr Victoria Hopkins/Cllr Alice Jenkins**



*From Phil Warner – Marston Vale Partnership - Here is a summary of a couple of meetings we had yesterday one with London Northwestern and the other with the EWR Co. It may include things you know already but I thought you might find it useful.*

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*Stephen and I put a lot of questions to London Northwestern yesterday (3 February) . Their position is that they are now running a 69% service level which is complaint with the current DfT position that operators should be offering a 70 % service. They have chosen to make most of that reduction in what they call contained services , where services can be easily withdrawn and re-instated without having a major impact on other services, hence our two branch lines (and for WMR Nuneaton-Leamington). These three services are also most amenable to road replacement.*

*Depending on DfT constraints, they hope to re-introduce nine trains a day from early April, using the same timetable they introduced last December. From May this timetable will continue to operate except the that the 12.01 will be replaced by the 16.01. This will run until September when there will be another timetable change. They will consult in May, when hopefully the intentions of the Dft after the current Emergency Measures Recovery Agreement will be known. At present it seems unlikely that we will see a return to the full service even then, because that is unlikely to be sanctioned by the DfT. Kimberley College will retain its dedicated buses until the autumn term when school times might have settled down.*

*This is not the situation we would want - I guess those operators that continue to offer services on the lesser used lines have taken a different approach to WMT in deciding which services take a hit.*

*At Stephen's invitation I got to sit in on the meeting with the East West Rail Company yesterday. They will be consulting in March on their proposals for connection stages two and three between Bletchley and Cambridge. It seems that all the previous work was in vain as we are now back at the detailed design stage for Bedford-Bletchley with a budget of £500 million. This will upgrade our section of the line to being Cambridge ready and they will be consulting on this and connection stage three (route definition) next month. **They are now clear that retaining our stopping service will be an option they put forward but "as there will be such a large investment to build a railway fit for the future, they will be encouraging a flexible approach"** – and confirmed that they want to re-double the line at Fenny Stratford and re-model Bedford station. So inevitably they are asking if there is a better way to integrate the service as an alternative to keeping the local service as is. They describe it as a once in lifetime*

chance to look at future needs. Track and signalling will be replaced, and it will be interesting to see what they propose for Bedford



None in Woburn Sands				
WAVENDON	A421	16/05/20 24 hours	16/11/21 24 hours	ROAD CLOSURE
WAVENDON	Newport Road	15/02/21 24 hours	26/02/21 24 hours	LANE CLOSURE
WAVENDON	Newport Road	15/02/21 9:30am	26/02/21 4:30pm	LANE CLOSURE
WAVENDON	Newport Road	15/02/21 24 hours	26/02/21 24 hours	LANE CLOSURE
WAVENDON	NEWPORT ROAD Wavendon	15/02/21 24 Hours	26/02/21 24 Hours	ROAD CLOSURE

**Taken from the Highways Register of Roadworks and Events in Milton Keynes**



Milton Keynes has exceeded government housebuilding targets for a third consecutive year. More than 5,300 new homes have been built across MK since 2018, against a target of 4,866. Of these, 2,000 have been built in the last year despite the challenges presented by COVID-19.

We've set our own target of building 1,200 council homes by 2030, and to make them some of MK's most accessible and environmentally friendly homes.



There are Police and Crime Commissioner, Borough Council and Parish Elections scheduled for Thursday 6 May 2021. We want to make sure everybody is registered and can vote safely.

The choice on how to vote at next May's elections is yours, you can have your say by post, in person, or by proxy. If you're worried about going to a polling station you can apply for a postal vote. We will be sending out forms to every household in Milton Keynes starting on the Monday 15 February, look out for yours in the post.



South East Milton Keynes

Cllr Peter Marland (Leader of MK Council) launched the draft SPD (on 26 January) that will go out for 10 weeks consultation. The consultation materials will be accessed via the Development Plans Teams website from the 8th Feb.

We will be using the SEMK email address for responses [SEMK@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:SEMK@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

In terms of the consultation, we are going to go for 10 weeks, Monday to Monday, so it will start **on the 8th of February and finish on the 19th of April.**

If you are able to confirm what plans the Town and Parish Councils require for their newsletters and what format they want the images in that would be useful.

As a starting point I would suggest the Location Plan, The Redline Plan, The Concept Plan, and all the Plans from the Development Framework Section?

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- [www.mkweb.co.uk/mkcouncil](http://www.mkweb.co.uk/mkcouncil)

Where do I find out more about Milton Keynes Council's plans for South East Milton Keynes?

The documents are published at <https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6696/Committee/1354/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

Contact point at MK Council is Sabina Kupczyk (Principal Planning Officer - Development Plans)  
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Milton Keynes Council | Planning Service | Planning, Strategic Transport and Placemaking | Civic |  
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Recently EWR sent you important updates about the new East West Rail line, including information about new funding support from Government and what this means for the next phases of East West Rail.

The funding is for a specific part of the line in your area – between Bicester, Bletchley and Milton Keynes – and is expected to provide work for 1,500 people, injecting an estimated £1.1bn pounds into the local economy.

We recognise the importance of the announcement for you and your communities and we would be delighted if you could join us at an online event to introduce you to the East West Railway Company and walk you through our plans for the months ahead, such as the non-statutory public consultation being held this year.

The event will take place on **Monday 15 February at 18.00** and will be conducted online. The event is designed for you and will provide:

- Updates on the new investment and what this means for your communities
- Opportunities to discuss the new delivery plan and the three connection stages
- Discussion on what's coming up in the months ahead, including plans for public consultation in 2021

## **£760m commitment to support next phase of East West Rail**

**Funding for construction work breathes new life  
into the new East West Rail line**

**Following the Government's announcement on Saturday that they have committed £760 million in new funding to support the new East West Rail line, we're getting in touch to give you all the information you need to know about what the investment announcement means for the next phases of East West Rail and your local communities.**

**The funding is for part of the line between Oxford and Bletchley/Milton Keynes and means this section of East West Rail is expected to be up and running by 2025. Delivery of this stage is expected to provide work for 1,500 people, injecting an estimated £1.1bn pounds into the local economy.**

**Connection Stage 2 involves key work refurbishing existing railway lines between Bletchley and Bedford and major upgrades to both stations. Bedford station will be completely rebuilt and Bletchley station will be revamped.**

Initial planning work has already been undertaken by Network Rail, the Department for Transport and the East West Rail Alliance. We are now looking at ways to carry out the work while minimising disruption for local communities. This includes considering completing the construction work in this section of the route in one go, rather than the two that were planned. Early indications suggest it would make the whole programme shorter, less disruptive for local communities and more cost-efficient. We will share our proposals during a public consultation in 2021.

#### Consultation in 2021

We're planning a non-statutory public consultation launching soon to hear your views on more detailed plans for the line between Oxford and Bedford, which we have developed in response to earlier consultation with our stakeholders and communities. The consultation will also cover proposals for the exact route of the new section of railway line that would run between Bedford and Cambridge.

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/latest-news/project-updates/consultation-in-early-2021>



milton keynes

#### Pest control update

Baiting work starts next week in Stantonbury to tackle repeated issues with rodents. Landscaping the area to clear and cut back foliage will be undertaken alongside the baiting programme.

We urge residents to do their bit too by removing their food sources and not to drop litter and food waste as this will hamper the baiting programme. More information can be found at this link.

The council is partnering with Luton Borough's Pest Control Team to deliver the work.

#### Expanding free business support

As part of MKC's £2.25m COVID-19 economic recovery package, last year we offered local firms free membership of the Federation for Small Businesses (FSB) so they could access specialist legal, tax and employment support.

More than 100 local businesses took up the free membership, so MKC has added a further £10,000 to the pot so more MK firms can take advantage. MK businesses with fewer than 250 employees are eligible to join the FSB. Find out more online.

#### Draft budget proposals for 2021/22

MKC has published our draft budget proposals for 2021/22. Read more here [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/budget](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/budget)

These proposals and others will form part of our overall spending plans for the next financial year to deliver our priorities:

- Supporting the most vulnerable - including our long-term goals to reduce inequality and tackle child poverty;

- Getting the basics right - by continuing to invest in our communities to tackle issues such as graffiti, fly-tipping, crime and homelessness;
- Supporting jobs and green economic recovery - by supporting business and making sure our young people and those made unemployed can train or get a job;
- Action on climate change and sustainability - ensuring that as we recover from Covid-19 we tackle climate change and invest in green, well paid jobs;
- Continuing Covid-19 support – the support and services needed to manage the impact of the pandemic and support people will be with us for some time.



**The question to Cllr Peter Marland regarding the Bow Brickhill Station car parking & Red Bull Tilbrook Campus development**

**Question to Cllr Marland at Full Council on 20 January**

As Cllr Marland is aware, MKC and The Parks Trust sold land to Red Bull to enable its new campus development on Tilbrook in the Danesborough & Walton ward. Part of the agreement was the loss of the 29 place (free) station car park at Bow Brickhill railway station - however, this was tempered by the fact that the permission subsequently approved would include over 100 new 'community car parking spaces'.

Imagine then the shock and disappointment when the car park opened last week as an £8.00 per day fixed charge car park

MKC was a party to the sale of the land and approved the planning application. What assurances were contained in either the sale of the land or the planning permission that guaranteed the retention of the station car parking, provide overspill employee car parking to relieve residents of the Caldecotte residential estate and provide access parking to the leisure facilities at Caldecotte Lake and the Greensand Ridge.

Will Cllr Marland contact Red Bull immediately to reverse this environmentally catastrophic decision?

**Response:** Cllr Marland agreed to write to Red Bull on the basis that this was not in the spirit of the planning permission nor the agreement for the land sale

As a separate way forward, I have contacted Red Bull to ask to meet the Head of Infrastructure at Red Bull (as ward member)

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The law and government guidance relating to what you can and cannot do as a result of coronavirus (COVID-19) is constantly changing as we continue to respond to the pandemic.

Make sure you are up to date with the latest guidance at [gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus). The guidance will be different depending on which part of the UK you are visiting.

There remains a personal responsibility for everyone to reduce the spread of Coronavirus by adhering to the government legislation, following the public health guidance around social distancing and hygiene, as well as getting tested if you have symptoms and self-isolating when alerted.

### **What you can and cannot do**

From 5 January, the whole of England was placed into a national lockdown to slow the spread of coronavirus.

Find out what you can and cannot do during the national lockdown.

### **Face coverings**

To help control the spread of the virus it is now the law to wear a face covering on public transport and in most public indoor settings. A full list of when and where to wear to wear a face covering can be found on Gov.uk. There are some exemptions to wearing a face covering, for example, for children under 11 or for people with certain disabilities. A list of exemptions can be found on the Government website.

The police can take measures if members of the public do not comply with this law without a valid exemption and transport operators can deny access to their public transport services if a passenger is not wearing a face covering, or direct them to wear one or leave a service.

If necessary, we can use enforcement powers including issuing a fine of at least £200. More information on fines and the enforcement of face coverings can be found on the Government website.

### **Business closures**

To reduce social contact during the national lockdown, regulations require some businesses to close and impose restrictions on how some businesses provide goods and services.

Find out which businesses are closed and which businesses and services remain open.

### **What we are doing**

We are patrolling and talking to people if we think they are doing something which is against the guidelines.

If there is a problem, we want to resolve it by communicating clearly and encouraging everyone to behave responsibly.

As a last resort we can enforce the coronavirus law. We have the power to:

If there is a problem we want to resolve it by communicating clearly and encouraging everyone to behave responsibly.

As a last resort we can enforce the coronavirus law. We have the power to:

- disperse gatherings of seven or more people who aren't from the same household
- remove a person from a gathering to their home
- close any premises which are required to be closed under the legislation
- issue a fixed penalty notice of £200 (over 18s only)
- issue a fixed penalty notice of £400 for second time offenders, doubling on each further repeat offence up to £6,400 (over 18s only)
- issue a fixed penalty of £10,000 for holding or being involved in the holding of an unlawful gathering
- issue a fixed penalty of £1000 for failing to isolate after a positive test result, or after being informed to isolate by NHS track and trace following close contact with a positive individual
- If someone does not pay their fixed penalty notice, they could go to court, where magistrates can impose an unlimited fine.

### **Reporting a breach of the rules**

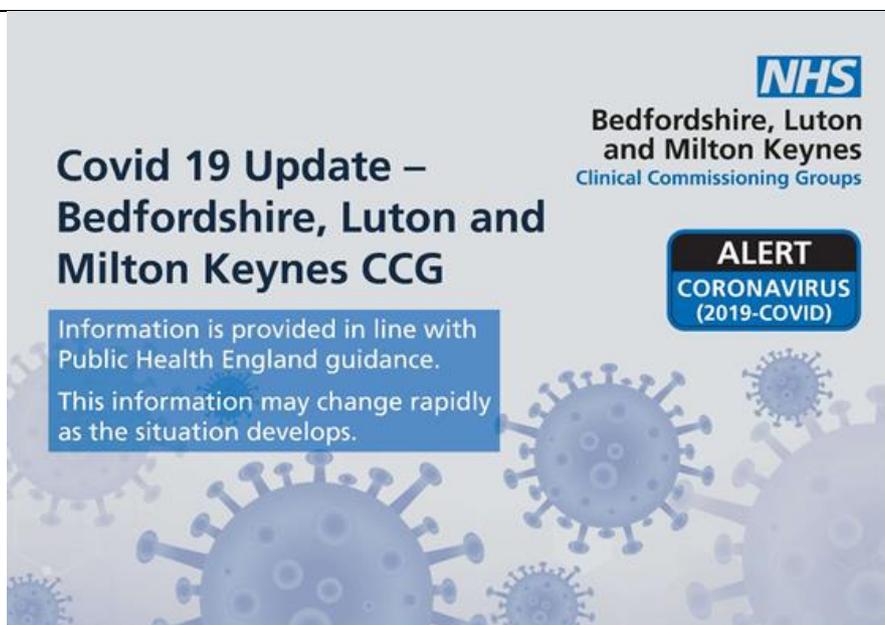
Please make sure you've read and understood what you can and cannot do before you get in touch with us.

If you wish to report a suspected Coronavirus breach to us, please report online. Please only call 101 to tell us about Coronavirus breaches if you are unable to report online. If the threat is immediate or a crime is ongoing, please call 999.

Please be mindful that this is an extremely busy time. We ask you to trust that we will target the most problematic behaviour.

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contact/find-a-police-station/>

<https://www.thamesvalley.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/>



#### **Covid Statistics for Milton Keynes**

The following figures cover the 7 days up to 4 February 2021

Total positive cases - 582 decreased by 34.4%

#### **Vaccination Rollout in Milton Keynes**

The next large vaccination centre opened on 8 February at Saxon Court in Milton Keynes.

Following Monday's announcement people aged over 70, or diagnosed clinically extremely vulnerable can now book an appointment via the national booking service on [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or by calling 119.

This may take a few attempts as the system closes bookings for a Centre when the first available ones are fully booked. Please keep trying as the system automatically refreshes as more bookings become available.



### **Explore the Greensand Country from your home**

Explore the Greensand Country from your home

As a resident of Danesborough & Walton you are in the fortunate position of also being a resident of Greensand Country.

Some of you will be aware of this beautiful and much-loved landscape of the Greensand Country

Or if you prefer to connect with nature you could try otter spotting on the River Flit. If you're lucky you might see an otter hunting in the river, or signs that an otter is nearby. Look out for bubbles under the water or slipways made by the belly of a sliding otter.

Greensand Country is a place where people feel able to slow down, unwind and connect with nature. Somewhere to escape urban life, breathe easy and feel uplifted. Come and discover it for yourself!

To find out more go to [www.greensandcountry.com](http://www.greensandcountry.com). As a resident of Little Brickhill you are in the fortunate position of also being a resident of Greensand Country.

Some of you will be aware of this beautiful and much loved landscape of the Greensand Country which is defined by the Greensand Ridge, a band of higher ground stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, which rises out of the surrounding vales to create a unique local environment.

Others of you may be completely unaware of just what is on their doorstep. The Greensand Country area contains all of Bedfordshire's remaining heathland, more than half of its woodland and 29 historic parklands. It is a landscape rich in wildlife and cultural heritage, with its own special qualities and sense of place. A 'green oasis' of peace and quiet, rolling countryside, breath-taking views and lots more.

In January 2017, a National Lottery Heritage Funded Programme was established to deliver up to 90 projects, helping to raise awareness of the heritage value of the landscape and to reverse the gradual decline in the distinct landscape character.

Led by a partnership of 24 organisations working together and co-hosted by The Greensand Trust and Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity, the vision was for Greensand Country to be a living and working landscape that is cherished by present and future generations.

The programme has achieved a number of major milestones, from creating new walking, cycling and horse riding routes, to rebuilding sandstone structures, training apprentices in heritage and landscape skills and the creation of the ever-popular Greensand Country Festival, which will return in May 2021.

The festival, like many others this year, was curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, however the Greensand Country Festival 2021 is determined to come back with a bang. The month long event will be a celebration of the area, which encourages those living within the landscape to get out and explore the outstanding countryside on their doorstep.

Watch out for a comprehensive festival guide being delivered to your door. This guide not only covers the festival but the entire Greensand Country experience, giving you lots of ideas of where and what to explore for the whole of 2021.

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown people have been spending more time outside and this has been a great opportunity to explore the local landscape. Greensand Country has numerous trails available to cycle, run or walk which will take you into the heart of the countryside. But there is so much more.

There are numerous hidden gems to find and explore. Use the Greensand Country interactive map (Interactive Map | Greensand Country) to plan your day out. There are places to shop, eat and drink. Why not support local businesses, by enjoying great experiences and discovering unique products in Greensand Country. Stop off at a pub or tearoom after a day of walking to enjoy locally sourced, and home cooked food. Or shop for antiques and unique handmade crafts in one of Greensand Country's picturesque villages.

For a fun day out with the kids you could visit Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway. This is one of the last survivors of 2 foot (610mm) gauge light railways built in Britain for industrial use. There is also beautiful Moggerhanger House and gardens. This grade 1 listed Georgian House is located in 33 acres of stunning park and woodlands.

Or if you prefer to connect with nature you could try otter spotting on the River Flit. If you're lucky you might see an otter hunting in the river, or signs that an otter is nearby. Look out for bubbles under the water or slipways made by the belly of a sliding otter.

Greensand Country is a place where people feel able to slow down, unwind and connect with nature. Somewhere to escape urban life, breathe easy and feel uplifted. Come and discover it for yourself!

To find out more go to [www.greensandcountry.com](http://www.greensandcountry.com) .

## **MK COVID-19 Community Champion Scheme**

We are calling on people throughout Milton Keynes to help us to reach their friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and thousands of other local people, with trusted information and advice related to COVID-19.

Throughout the pandemic, we have been keeping residents informed and up-to-date with local information and the latest government and health advice. In light of increasing infection rates and changing restrictions, keeping up-to-date with the latest advice is more important than ever.

Many people have wanted to help others throughout the pandemic but were unsure as to how to go about it. Being an MK COVID-19 Community Champion is an easy way to make a

massive difference, by sharing the latest information and advice with friends and families. This could be via local Facebook groups, WhatsApp groups, social organisations and clubs that people are part of.

MK COVID-19 Community Champions will be provided with the latest information to share at the click of a button – it's that simple. It won't take up a huge amount of time, but it could really help make a massive difference in helping to keep our families, friends and communities safe.

Anyone interested in becoming an MK COVID-19 Community Champion should visit

[www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/covid-champions](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/covid-champions)

to find out more information and sign up to receive updates from us. You can also email MKC here.

[Covidchampions@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk](mailto:Covidchampions@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk)

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<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/your-council-and-elections/covid-19-in-milton-keynes/mk-covid-19-community-champion-scheme>



## Latest news from your council



From the 1 to the 12 of February, we've funded an online business school where experts will share advice on setting up a business.

This will include specific sessions on how to attract customers or set up a website right through to how to do your taxes properly. Whether you're considering starting a business or need help in a specific area, there will be something for you.

All of the online sessions during this course are free. Simply visit [www.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/milton-keynes](http://www.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/milton-keynes) to learn more and book your space. Please pass the details on to anyone you think could benefit.

Milton Keynes Council is covering the cost of this course as part of our £2.25m local covid recovery package.

**February half term**

Like the DfE, we anticipate that MK schools will close as usual over the February half term. MK Council don't expect you to remain open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers.

Neither do we expect you to provide lunch parcels or vouchers for pupils eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) over half term. MK Council has the 'Covid Holiday Scheme' in place to support children and families in half term week as part of the government's Covid Winter Grant Scheme. More information about this can be found in the MKC services section below.

However, schools will continue to play an important role in contact tracing for the pupils and staff who've been attending.

As over Christmas:

- Staff or pupils who test positive, having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, should notify the school. The school should assist in identifying close contacts and advise members of the affected bubble(s) to self-isolate. This is important because the individual may have been infectious whilst they were in school.
- Where pupils or staff test positive, having developed symptoms more than 48 hours since being in school, the school should not be contacted. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace. You aren't expected to be on-call all the time. Staff responsible for contact tracing may designate a limited time each day to receive notifications of positive cases and to advise close contacts to isolate. This can be done via text or email.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to minimising the transmission of the virus in MK.

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### **Workplace COVID-19 safety**

An important message from Vicky Head, Director of Public Health for Milton Keynes

Our local COVID-19 infection rate is very high, and workplaces have become one of the most likely places to catch the virus.

In Milton Keynes, the new strain of COVID-19 (B.1.1.7. and first detected in Kent) is dominant. This spreads much more easily. One in three people with COVID-19 have no symptoms, which means your workforce may be passing it on to colleagues and customers without realising it.

There are straightforward things you can do to help break transmission.

- Allow your employees to work from home unless it is unreasonable for them to do so, in line with current Government guidance. This video case study shows how MK based financial services firm TSYS adapted operations while maintaining productivity.
- Tell us of any confirmed COVID-19 cases at your workplace by completing this online form and emailing [Health@bedford.gov.uk](mailto:Health@bedford.gov.uk) (MK shares a resource with Bedford). We can give advice and may even be able to arrange rapid testing for your staff.

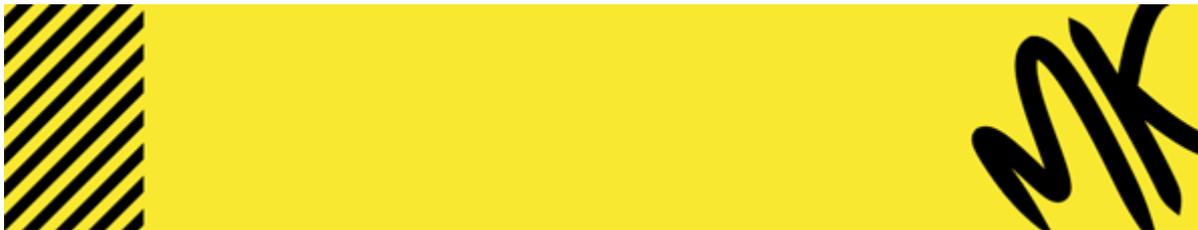
- Remind your employees to observe HANDS – FACE – SPACE and provide the right materials, such as hand sanitiser, screens, or wipes for shared desks/spaces. You can download free posters and other resources at [milton-keynes.gov.uk/safety-signs](http://milton-keynes.gov.uk/safety-signs)
- We are in cold and flu season. Some people with COVID-19 actually display familiar cold-type symptoms. Please encourage employees with any related symptoms to be extra cautious.

This may mean isolating and booking a test at [uk/coronavirus](http://uk/coronavirus) or via 119.

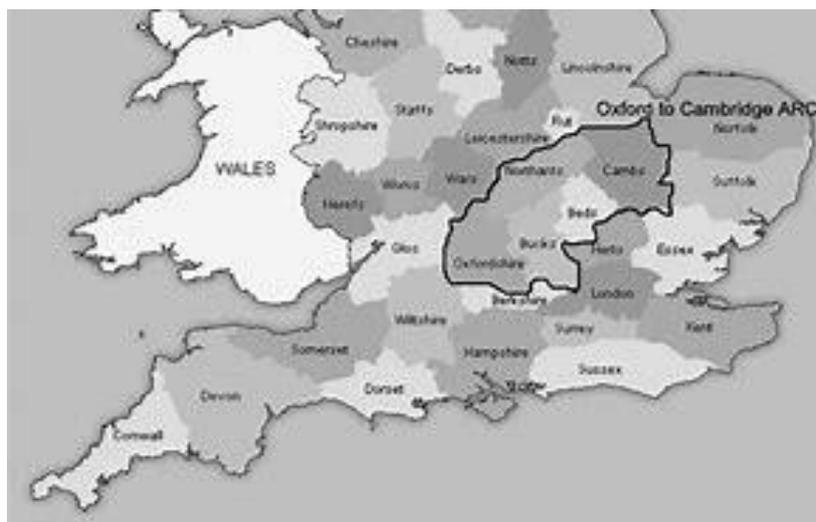
The pandemic continues to be challenging for many reasons. We have funded free virtual coaching sessions from local mental health charity MIND on how to recognise and support colleagues experiencing mental health distress or domestic abuse. These sessions are bookable by emailing [training@mind-blmk.org.uk](mailto:training@mind-blmk.org.uk) There are also short videos on this topic at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/free-MH-training](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/free-MH-training)

Thank you for your continued efforts.

Vicky Head  
Director of Public Health



And finally ...



<https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1705550/work-governments-oxcam-arc-spatial-framework-delayed-claims-council?bulletin=planning->

[daily&utm\\_medium=EMAIL&utm\\_campaign=eNews%20Bulletin&utm\\_source=20210127&utm\\_content=Planning%20Resource%20Daily%20\(286\)::www\\_planningresource\\_co\\_u\\_2&email\\_hash=](https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1676807/government-confirms-backing-oxbridge-corridor-wide-spatial-framework)

## **Work on government's OxCam Arc spatial framework 'delayed', claims council** **26 January 2021 by James Wilmore**

Work on the government's proposed Oxford-Cambridge Arc spatial framework has been 'delayed', according to a report prepared for one of the key councils in the sub-region, which says it won't reach an advanced stage 'until early 2024'.

Chancellor Rishi Sunak confirmed plans to develop a "long-term spatial framework to support strategic planning in the OxCam Arc" in his first Budget last March.

<https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1676807/government-confirms-backing-oxbridge-corridor-wide-spatial-framework>

The area to the north of London connecting Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge is seen by the government as a key economic priority and ministers have backed plans to build one million new homes in the so-called growth corridor.

The March 2020 Budget document said the proposed spatial framework would outline growth in the sub-region up to 2050, including the delivery of new housing.

<https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1450923/budget-2017-new-town-development-corporations-kick-start-five-garden-towns>

However, an officers' briefing note prepared for a meeting of Milton Keynes Council's planning cabinet advisory group this Thursday (28 January) claims that the framework had been "delayed" and firm proposals would not emerge for another three years.

The note, prepared by the council's planning and transport policy manager Andrew Turner, states: "It is understood that MHCLG are working with stakeholders in the Arc on progressing a spatial framework, however this has been delayed and the latest indication is that this won't reach an advanced stage, when there would be certainty over proposals, until early 2024."

The document went on to cite the timescale around the framework as a reason for members to consider postponing submission of the council's next local plan by three years.

<https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1705535/milton-keynes-council-cites-planning-white-paper-uncertainty-proposal-delay-local-plan-three-years>

Separately, according to a note by the Oxfordshire Growth Board - a joint committee of six Oxfordshire councils - a public consultation on the plans was expected to start last autumn.

In a meeting in November, the board was told that, following the government's Spending Review that month, there would be "further announcements relating to the establishment of a spatial framework for the Arc".

An MHCLG spokesperson told Planning: "We are levelling up all areas and the Ox-Cam Arc is a key economic priority for this government.

"We are working closely with local partners to develop the spatial framework and ensure it supports local areas to plan for sustainable growth. We intend to set out our approach in more detail shortly."

David Bainbridge, planning director at Savills, told Planning that MHCLG are "working on the initial stages of a long term spatial strategy for the Arc."

He said: "They have recruited to posts and have an engagement strategy in place. We are expecting to see an update on this shortly and had understood this was to be by the end of this month but this looks less likely now."

He added: "The arc spatial framework delay is not seen by MHCLG as a delay in that they have said about 30 months gestation and of course ground can be made up if they don't issue some sort of engagement on the early stage in the next few weeks."

But Bainbridge expressed concerns that the timescale of the framework "has introduced grounds for local authorities to say, as Milton Keynes are doing here, that they can only make so much progress preparing new local plans ahead of having the arc spatial strategy".

The government has previously missed a deadline for progressing the framework.

In the 2018 Budget statement, it said it would "explore options" for production of a spatial vision and said a "joint vision statement" would be published in the spring of 2019 as a "first step".

However, ministers confirmed in March 2019 that a decision on whether to develop a "spatial vision" for the Oxford to Cambridge growth arc had still not been made.

<https://www.planningresource.co.uk/article/1579009/spring-statement-no-decision-spatial-vision-oxbridge-growth-arc>

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### **Street Lighting Repairs**

MK Council is aware of delays with street lighting repairs and apologise to anyone who is still waiting for their reported faults to be actioned. MKC has programmed all the outstanding repairs and the engineers will be working through this list over the next few weeks.

All faults reported to MKC will be checked and any necessary repairs planned. Sometimes MKC will need to disconnect the mains supply to a light column which will include additional delays of up to six weeks as this is done by the power supplier, Western Power Distribution. Extensive or complex cabling faults will require additional planning and resources and these type of works tend to affect several lighting units. MKC may also need to schedule in traffic management to create a safe work site.

The Council Highways team and service provider Ringway, is working in difficult circumstances and extra demands have been made on our resources, such as the recent flooding events, gritting services and assisting the overall response by the Council and partners to the Covid-19 pandemic, including arrangements for the vaccinations centres across MK and helping to create space for social distancing.

There are over 58,000 street lights across Milton Keynes so MKC has a lot to manage but thanks to its LED upgrade, the number of maintenance repairs is significantly less than in recent years. LED lights are more efficient as they last longer and don't need as much maintenance and they use significantly less energy than the traditional sodium (orange) lamps. If you have already reported a fault to the council, please be assured that it will be reviewed by the Street Lighting team. MKC appreciate's your patience and understanding as they do this.

# COVID-19 Snapshot

As of 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 (data reported up to 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021)



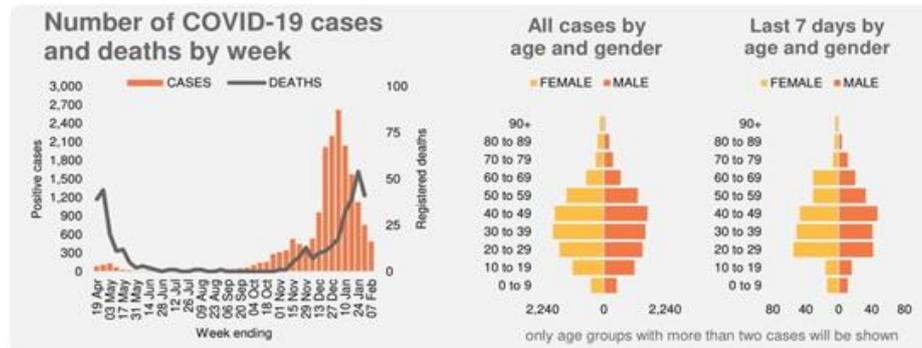
Population 269,457

<p>Total individuals tested</p> <p><b>118,235</b> 43.9% of population</p>	<p>Total COVID-19 cases</p> <p><b>18,177</b></p>	<p>Percentage of individuals that tested positive (positivity)</p> <p><b>15.4%</b></p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

<p>Individuals tested in the last 7 days</p> <p><b>2,424</b> ↓ -1,356</p>	<p>Covid-19 cases in the last 7 days</p> <p><b>487</b> ↓ -250</p>	<p>Test positivity in the last 7 days</p> <p><b>20.1%</b> ↑ +0.3%</p>
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Direction of travel compares current snapshot against previous snapshot

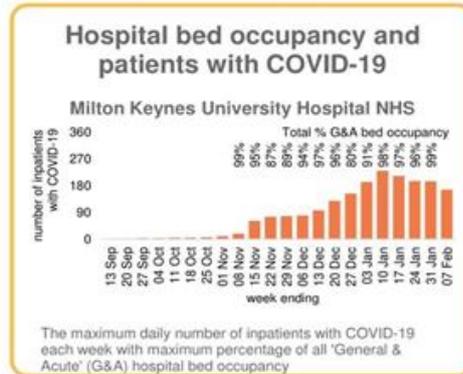
key: ↑ Increasing • no change ↓ decreasing



### Most affected wards in the last 7 days

Ward	Number of cases	Rate per 1,000 population Last 7 days
Campbell Park & Old Woughton	48 ↑	3.7
Woughton & Fishermead	38 ↓	2.1
Bletchley East	37 ↓	2.4
Bletchley West	37 ↓	2.5
Central Milton Keynes	37 ↓	2.2
Stantonbury	35 ↓	2.2
Broughton	30 ↓	1.7
Bletchley Park	29 ↓	1.9
Shenley Brook End	29 •	2.1
Wolverton	26 ↓	1.7
Bradwell	25 ↓	2.0
Monkston	23 ↓	1.7
Loughton & Shenley	18 ↓	1.1
Tattenhoe	17 ↓	1.4
Newport Pagnell North & Hanslop	14 ↑	1.2
Newport Pagnell South	12 ↓	1.1
Stony Stratford	12 ↓	1.0
Danesborough & Walton	11 ↓	0.9
Olney	9 ↓	0.8

only wards with more than two cases will be shown  
direction of travel compares current snapshot against previous snapshot



### Number of weekly positive cases per 100,000 population

Previous 7 day snapshot 25-Jan - 31-Jan	Last 7 days 1-Feb - 7-Feb	Direction of travel
<b>277.2</b>	<b>180.7</b>	↓ -96.5

rates based on ONS mid year population 2019

<p>Total deaths registered involving COVID-19 since 1st January 2020</p> <p><b>454</b></p>	<p>Deaths registered involving COVID-19 23-Jan to 29-Jan</p> <p><b>41</b></p>	<p>Direction of travel (compared to previous 7 days)</p> <p>↓ -13</p>
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(current snapshot against previous snapshot)

Please note: numbers in recent days may rise, reflecting diagnostic and reporting turnaround time. All detail within this report is the latest data available prior to publishing (10/02/2021).

Week-to-week comparisons are based on the data available at the time each snapshot was published.

Produced by: Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Milton Keynes Council Public Health Evidence and Intelligence Team - J Phillips.

Source: Public Health England (PHE), Office for National Statistics (ONS), NHS England.