

Wafas A N D Wallas

YOUR LOCAL PARISH MAGAZINE

www.wavendonparishcouncil.co.uk

April 2021

Welcome to the Spring edition of Wafas & Wallas

– still with a focus on the SEMK development proposals and the forthcoming East West Rail consultation. Also, lots and lots of other activity across the Parish as we emerge (hopefully) from the lock down and start to enjoy all our fabulous community has to offer. And, it's time to register your child at the exciting new St Mary's Primary Wavendon School Nursery opening this September



**We STOPped
the Ox-Cam
Expressway!**





Wafas & Wallas – Your Parish Newsletter
SPRING 2021 EDITION

Editor: **David Hopkins**

80 Walton Road | Wavendon | Milton Keynes | MK17 8LW



For any local issues contact me at;
David.hopkins@milton-keynes.gov.uk

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on behalf of the people
of the ancient Parish of
Wavendon
(including parts of
Hog Sty End)*

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Wavendon Parish Council

For any issues that you would like to raise with Wavendon Parish Council please contact, in the first instance, Parish Clerk - **Alan Kemp**

Wavendon Parish Council Clerk
clerk@wavendonparishcouncil.co.uk

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Wavendon Parish Council

Cllr David Hopkins *(Chairman)*

Cllr Arthur Braddish

Cllr Robert Hill *(Vice Chairman)*

Cllr David Ostler

Cllr Ron Jamieson

Cllr Yogi Thakker



**Looking to hire the
Wavendon
Community Centre?**

**Contact Susan Hopkins
Hall Manager:**
T: 07512 685198
E: sueanne.hopkins@gmail.com



From the Chairman of the Parish Council

During the pandemic, we've seen a welcome upsurge in voluntarism and generosity across villages and towns up and down the nation.



In Wavendon, St Mary's Church was especially quick to mobilise resources and get stuck in. Within just a few days of asking congregants and other locals to help, dozens of volunteers had come forward. This marked the start of several busy months of leafleting, using social media, delivering essentials and checking on vulnerable members of the community.

This is the right response. The virus spreads through networks of face-to-face encounters, and so it is right that we strengthen these very same networks for the future. We know from the Ebola outbreak in West Africa that community engagement is key to public health. And the same applies to COVID-19. In fact, during this pandemic, health staff in Europe tracked and traced a single canteen saltshaker responsible for the spread of the virus around an entire factory.

While the NHS struggled to get supplies to those shielding across the breadth of the nation, hyper-local community groups outpaced them by a long stretch. It is estimated that 4,000 spontaneous 'mutual aid groups' were set up during the lockdown, and some 83% of people aged over 70 received an offer of support. Official systems then faced a new task: to be led by and support the mutual aid effort in all its informality and spontaneity.

This should become the norm: local solutions to local problems, supported by tiers of local government which are poised to invest in the bright ideas of local people. The pandemic has proved that [local] councils can flex and innovate at speed when led by their communities who have heaps of invaluable information and first-hand experience about what works in their neighbourhood.

There is legislative change afoot which must capture lessons learned over the last few months. The

Devolution and Local Recovery White Paper will provide the sector with an opportunity to recalibrate the relationship between tiers of government. Additionally, the Housing White Paper should give local people greater influence in building a vision for their area through local design codes and deeper consultation processes.

Now is the time for local councils to be given new esteem and assert their expertise in community engagement. Local councils are the first tier of government and are therefore well placed to set an example. We need a new generation of local councillors who are ready to learn from the community, follow their lead and respond not just with short-term funding but a genuine longer-term investment in the places we are proud to live in.

Tree planting



Estimates vary depending on different surveys, but the average tree cover across England is between 12% and 16%, compared to the EU average of 35%. In view of the benefits that trees bring, which range from capturing carbon and improving air quality to helping to prevent landslides and providing a feeling of wellbeing, it is a most laudable aim to wish to see more trees planted. But the way to approach this is not to arbitrarily identify a spare plot of land and stick on it some trees that might be available via a free tree scheme. Tree planting can be harmful to the environment if the wrong species or location is chosen. And, don't only consider planting all the same species.

SEMK SUE

Locally, regarding the South East Milton Keynes Strategic Urban Extension (SEMK SUE) Wavendon Parish Council and a group of residents are lobbying MK Council to include a new Linear Park running through Wavendon with a similar proposal on the boundaries of Woburn Sands.

It would connect the existing Caldecotte Brook Linear

Park in Browns Wood with the proposed Wavendon Park on the former Wavendon Golf Course. That could potentially then continue the Linear Park eastwards crossing (or tunnelling under!) the M1 motorway and onwards towards Marston Vale in Bedfordshire, thereby enabling long distance cycling, horse riding and walking activities. This could also offer a fresh impetus to the stalled MK to Bedford Canal project.

The best and most versatile agricultural land is obviously not a suitable location, but nor is mature pastureland in many instances – and there needs to be an awareness of where waterways are located in order not to damage them.

Re-wilding

Myths about re-wilding abound.

Re-wilding is about conservation – enabling natural processes to shape the land, repair damaged ecosystems and restore degraded landscapes. Its focus is on the retention of habitats, the reversal of soil erosion, the creation of wetlands where appropriate and encouraging specialist ecosystems. The preservation and investment in the Greensand Ridge (Wavendon / Brickhill Woods) is a prime local example.

Whilst there is a stirring example of bigger schemes, such as the trailblazing one at the Knepp Estate in Sussex, WildEast in East Anglia, Kingfishere Bridge Fen in Cambridgeshire, the Ennerdale Valley in the Lake District, Burbage Moor in the Peak District and a joint scheme between Kent Wildlife Trust and the Wildwood Trust, there are also parish-level schemes emerging. For instance, Corfe Castle Parish Council in Dorset are working with the National Trust on re-wilding a Trust-owned field as a community-led project. In addition, there are instances of community-led urban re-wilding schemes, sometimes on local authority-owned land.



The Climate Change Task and Finish Group at MK Council urged Local Councils to consider what role they might play in climate change initiatives and Wavendon & Woburn Sands has an active group doing just that.

Swallowfield School
LEGACY PROJECT

BUY A BRICK AND BECOME PART OF OUR HISTORY

It's an exciting time at Swallowfield School and we are asking families and businesses to become part of the brickwork...literally.

Swallowfield PTFA are selling engraved bricks that will be built into our school to help support our incredible school expansion to a Primary School.

Can you help our community?

- **£125 FOR SINGLE ENGRAVED BRICK**
(ideal for families/ alumni)
- **£250 FOR DOUBLE ENGRAVED BRICK**
(ideal for company names)

For more details and to register your support, please visit www.swallowfieldowerschool.co.uk/bricks
Alternatively, order forms are available from Woburn Sands Post Office.

Reporting Issues to *Milton Keynes Council*

Issues that need to be reported to Milton Keynes Council can be done via the link noted below. This covers reporting items such as street lamps, waste and recycling, missed collections, defect on roads/potholes etc.

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pay-report-apply/report-it

applications
now being
considered

We are excited to announce that our

Nursery

will open in September 2021

Contact Mandy Roberts: t: 01908 582182
e: admissions@stmaryswavendon.milton-keynes.sch.uk

WOBURN SANDS COMMUNITY MARKET DATES

A Community Market is held bi-monthly on the **second Saturday** from **10:00-14:00** - February, April, June, August, October and December around the Institute and Memorial Green (*look out for signs confirming market days during the pandemic).

This is a market for locally produced food and crafts and is run by volunteers and some Councillors.

Interested in becoming a Parish Councillor in Wavendon?



Parish Councillors are elected representatives who volunteer their time freely to work on behalf of local residents. Individuals may also be co-opted at the discretion of the council if there is a vacancy.

By becoming a parish councillor you can become a voice for our community, somebody who residents will look to for help, guidance and support. You will be involved in local decision making and strategic planning for the benefit of the people you serve. Seeing your community change for the better, as a result of decisions you have helped make, is something that can give you a sense of achievement and pride.

Eligibility for Parish Councillor (one of the following):

- (a) is registered as a local government elector for the parish; or
- (b) has during the whole of the preceding twelve months occupied as owner or tenant, any land or premises in the parish; or
- (c) his/her principal or only place of work during the preceding twelve months has been in the parish; or
- (d) had during the whole of the preceding twelve months resided in the parish or within 4.8 km thereof.

INTERESTED THEN CONTACT:

Alan Kemp the Parish Clerk by post at
57 West End, Long Whatton, Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 5DW

or via the telephone on **01509 844241**
The Parish Council can also be contacted by email at;
alanj.kemp@btinternet.com

What does your local Parish Council do?

Local Parish councils form the most local level of government and cover many rural and urban areas. They provide and/or maintain services such as allotments, burial grounds, bus shelters, open spaces and public buildings.

Local councils are elected bodies and meet regularly (eleven times a year). To find out more about your local council and when they meet contact the Parish clerk.

More information on local councils can be found in the All About Local Councils guide published by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC). Further publications can be found on the NALC website. <https://www.nalc.gov.uk/library/publications/800-all-about-local-councils/file>

New Demand Responsive Transport System

MK Council is rolling out a new demand responsive transport system (DRT) as a more efficient, cleaner and greener way to get around the city.

The new MK Connect service will start on 1st April. MK Connect Vehicles will pick up passengers from close to wherever they are within minutes of booking and take them to their destination. Journeys are quick and easy to book via an app or over the phone. Journeys are not restricted to bus routes and are expected to be faster in most cases. Passengers should be collected and dropped off within 400m of their location and destination, although it is usually less.

The service is being run by Via and will replace the subsidised bus services currently paid for by MK Council because they are underused by customers. Commercial bus routes will continue to run. MK Council and Via are working together to promote the changes and show people how to use the new system. Passengers using a wheelchair or who have a disability will be matched with a fully accessible vehicle, and the service is accessible to passengers with vision, hearing and other requirements.

Cabinet Member for Climate and Sustainability, Cllr Jennifer Wilson-Marklew said:

“

The new MK Connect service will be a more efficient and greener way for people to get around the city. As a non-driver and frequent bus user myself, I know that the service in Milton Keynes doesn't work for the majority of people. MK Connect, a partnership with Via, could change that for thousands of people currently let down by routes that don't run where or when they need them. ”

Cost

Single journeys cost £3.50 during peak hours (7am-9am, 4.30pm-6.30pm) and £2.50 at all other times; less than equivalent journeys on the former bus routes. Concessionary bus passes and All in 1 Youth cards will be accepted as well as the MK move pay as you go purse.



For more information about MK Connect and how to download the app, please visit:
<https://ridewithvia.com/mk-connect/>

For information on the upcoming changes to bus services <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/bus-and-taxi/bus-timetables-maps-and-travel-updates>



MK Council to roll out a better, faster and greener way to get around Milton Keynes

MK Council is rolling out a new demand responsive transport system. The MK Connect service will start on 1 April. MK Connect Vehicles will pick up passengers from close to wherever they are within minutes of booking, and take them to their destination. The service is being run by Via and will replace the subsidised bus services currently paid for by MKC because they're underused by customers. Commercial bus routes will continue to run.



Spring Brings Shoots Of Recovery For Local Grassroots Football In Wavendon?

After two seasons of hugely disrupted grassroots football activity - or more appropriately, inactivity, there are last the first signs that our community can once again start to benefit from all fun, friendship and healthy activity we've all missed so much.

During this latest episode of UK Lockdown, Woburn & Wavendon Football Club has resorted to online fitness sessions to keep engaged with well over 500 local members. Two levels of online activity have been held every Saturday morning, one for younger boys and girls and one for older members, and although not the football we all want to be involved with again, the regular activity has helped maintain fitness, delivered some much needed interaction with team mates and the Club, and above all provided some essential fun and positive engagement. At the same time other football-related activities continue at Wavendon Rec. such pitch work - you may have seen the aeration and drainage procedures as well as regular line marking.

Of course, all of this is no substitute for actually training and playing football. Far too much time for far too many has been spent indoors in front of screens in a passive state. The combination of the amazing vaccines and vigorous testing has given us all hope that there is light at the end of the tunnel. The hope is that April will see a return of training and matches, enabling grassroots football to take its place in re-building lives and communities. The FA has extended the season into June to enable completion of fixtures, and with the prospect of better weather, longer days and lush green pitches, there is so much to look forward -fingers crossed !



Woburn & Wavendon FC is one of the area's largest & oldest youth football clubs. With approaching 50 teams from Under 6 through to adult (both girls, boys, mixed & disability), there's an opportunity at all levels. Our well established club is at the heart of the local community, and offers:-

- Regular pro-coaching.
- Weekly training provision for all teams (including Winter floodlit).
- Some of the best local playing locations, including Wavendon Recreation Ground.
- First team playing kit and training kit provided.
- Fun, friendship & footballing development.

To find out more about opportunities for playing or volunteering, please email:-

GetInvolved@ww-fc.co.uk



SEMK Proposals

What you can do to find out more and be part of the decision-making process, before it is too late

YOUR OPINION MATTERS

A public consultation on the plans for SEMK is now being conducted by Milton Keynes Council.

The consultation period ends at 5pm on Monday 19th April 2021.

You are strongly encouraged to make your views clear, as the final implementation of the plan will affect all of us living in the area.

The Wavendon Parish Council will publish a draft of its full response in March on its website

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

Read and download the full SEMK consultation document and response form from the following:

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/assets/attach/68646/SEMK-SUE-Development-Framework-Consultation-draft-Jan-2021-Low-Res.pdf>



Or you may write with your comments to:

MKC Development Plans | Civic Offices | 1 Saxon Gate East | Central Milton Keynes | MK9 3EJ

Or email: SEMK@milton-keynes.gov.uk

The primary topics for consideration Wavendon & Woburn Sands include:

Gypsy & Travellers Site

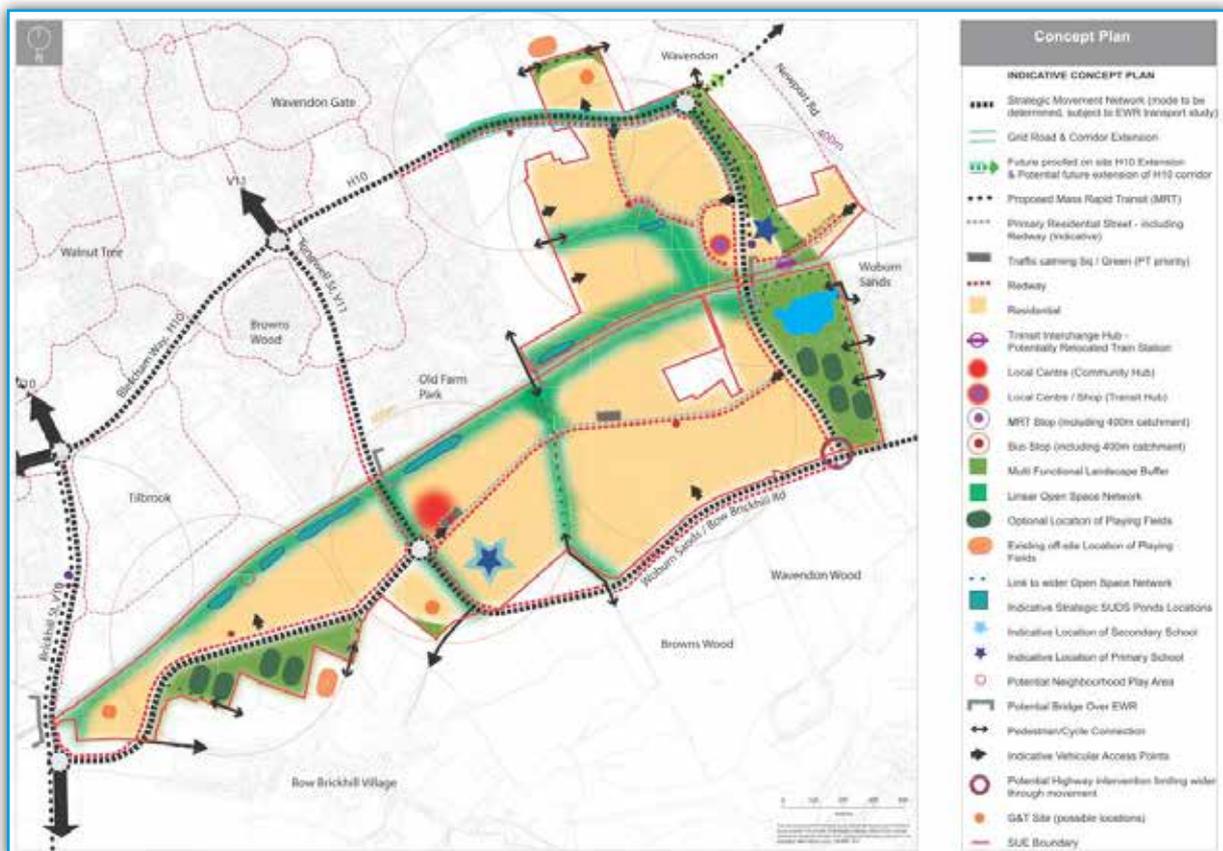
H10 grid road extension onto and beyond Newport Road

Housing densities

Wellbeing 'Sense of place' & Identity

Environment, wildlife and green buffers to protect Wavendon on its southern and western boundaries

And a linear park extension into a new Wavendon Park to the east



Homes

(comments with an acknowledgement and thanks to WSTC)

We agree that housing density should decrease towards Church End and Newport Road. We would want all the new homes to be built to the highest standards of energy efficiency. We would support the formation of a Design Review Panel as part of the planning process to help achieve the ambitions for MK to be Different by Design and to become one of the greenest cities in the world.



Road Network

There is a lack of evidence base thinking in to the proposals for the road networks relying on data prepared several years ago in advance of the Plan:MK. The Wavendon Parish Council response will go into a lot more on this issue, but we do not support grid roads per say going through the estate. We need to avoid an increase of traffic on the already congested Newport Road and large volumes of traffic entering Woburn Sands via Bow Brickhill Road simply because The Leys and Hardwick Road are not designed for the levels of traffic endured today, let alone that coming through and from the SEMK SUE developments.

All primary roads in the SEMK development area should be tree lined and have cycle lanes plus access to the MK wide redway system.

Walking and cycling

An increase in the provision for these is very welcome and will provide an environmentally friendly way for people from the new development to use the facilities of Wavendon and Woburn Sands.



Railway, bridges and the station

Much of this will be determined by the East/West Rail plans which should be published by the time this edition of Wafas comes to print. It will be important to provide at least two roads across or under the railway in the new development. There seems to be no good reason to move Woburn Sands station. The station is an integral part of our local heritage.



Buffer and Open Space Areas

We support the concepts of all the green zones and buffer areas, but suggest that the area around the lake in Woburn Sands should become a Country Park accessible to both Woburn Sands, Wavendon and the new development and we support a doubling of the proposed buffer zones south of the Recreation Ground in Wavendon to a minimum of 100 metres in depth. A new Country Park should flow into access points to Parklands. There should be a linear park extension following the route of the major gas pipe that travels through the site. There would be support the proposal that there should be no merging of housing between Wavendon, Woburn Sands and the new estate. Therefore, for example, the proposed Swan Hill area between Newport Road and the SEMK should instead be a green buffer.

Many will welcome the option of including playing fields in the Country Park to the west of the Groves since these will be a valuable additional facility for the current residents of Woburn Sands as well as being accessible to the residents of Wavendon and the broader SEMK and beyond.

Local Centres

Two areas are marked on the map and as long as these serve daily needs and complement what is on offer in Wavendon and Woburn Sands, we have no objection.

Schools & Medical Centres

Obviously, the two new primary and one Secondary schools proposed are an essential part of the proposals. There is no mention of medical facilities and this must be addressed in conjunction with Asplands Medical Centre, the centre at Brooklands and other nearby GP and Dentist surgeries.



Wavendon Linear Park

The proposal by Milton Keynes Council to designate land between Wavendon village, Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill, for the development of 3,000 homes is unwelcome news for many residents in the Parish, who have already suffered years of construction traffic, noise and pollution from nearby developments.

However, should the proposal, known as the South East Milton Keynes Strategic Urban Extension (SEMK SUE), go ahead, Wavendon Parish Council and a group of local residents are lobbying MK Council to include a new Linear Park running through Wavendon.

It would connect the existing Caldecotte Brook Linear Park in Browns Wood with the proposed Wavendon Park on the former Wavendon Golf Course. There would be opportunities to continue the Linear Park eastwards over the M1 motorway and onwards towards Marston Vale in Bedfordshire, thereby enabling long distance cycling, horse riding and walking activities.

Close to Wavendon it would utilise existing rights of way, such as the Bridle Way leading into Phoebe Lane, and join with an area of green buffer south of the recreation ground, which would provide possibilities for informal leisure activities.

The proposal is at an early stage, but MK Council has welcomed the idea, subject to further detail. Wider connectivity for walking and cycling is a key feature of the expansion of Milton Keynes, as is the desire to expand the network of green spaces and linear parks, which have been a hallmark of the city since its inception.

The SEMK SUE is currently out for consultation until the 19th April and local residents are urged to get their comments in before the deadline to Milton Keynes council on the consultation form, which can be found at

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/south-east-milton-keynes-strategic-urban-extension>



'Wavendon Voice' is a group of residents campaigning for the protection of our village environment in the face of massive new developments that surround us.

One of our projects is to fight for the creation of a new linear park on the former Wavendon golf course. Much of this land was formerly the park attached to Wavendon House and contains a half mile carriage drive from the Newport Road to the house as well as a lake and a series of feeder ponds. The grounds were set out in the late 19th century by the garden designer, Richard Woods, who was a contemporary of the renowned Capability Brown.

Already, Wavendon House and the surrounding formal gardens, including the lake, have been granted grade 2 listed status which enhances the chances of preserving that land. But this was not extended to the wider park. We need to challenge this.

Following the closure of the golf course in 2018, developers put forward a proposal for the construction of more than 700 houses on the site but were advised by MK planning that this would not be approved at that time - however it is almost certain that they will re-apply.

The land is designated as being for 'open space and recreation' in **Plan MK** (the current strategic plan) but new strategies, including the SE development plan and the aspirational MK50 plan have re designated the land as having potential for future development.

On behalf of Wavendon Voice I have lobbied a number of planners as well as our local MP, the Parks Trust and Historic England. I believe there is considerable support for a linear park but in the face of pressure from the developers, the voice of local people will be paramount in making our case.

One piece of good news is that just before Christmas, MK Council placed a tree preservation order on the entire former golf course and surrounding land. As the land contains a wealth of very old and more recently planted trees providing a beautiful landscaped environment, this development is very welcome and suggests that MK planners are beginning to hear our voice.

We are watching the situation closely so that we can react quickly if the need arises. If you would like to lend your support, please drop a note to **wavendonvoice@gmail.com** providing your name and e mail and we'll get back to you. Please put '**Wavendon Park**' in the subject box.

Roger Penfound

Dankworth Way



Wavendon Parish Council were delighted when Milton Keynes Council agreed to its suggestion to name the new link road drawing up to The Stables Theatre in Wavendon, Dankworth Way.

The link between the village and Sir John (Johnny) Dankworth goes back to the 1960's when John and his wife (Dame) Cleo Laine chose to move to Wavendon from nearby Aspley Guise. In 1969 they created the Wavendon Allmusic Plan (WAP) as a registered charity with the vision to 'engage the widest range of people with music in all its diversity'.

Sir John and Dame Cleo began the realisation of that vision with the development of The Stables Theatre in converted outbuildings at their former Rectory home, presenting concerts and education activities. The first performance took place on 6 February 1970 making February 2021 the 51st anniversary of what has become the world-famous Stables Theatre.

It is now nearly 21 years since the new Stables Theatre opened its doors, with a second phase of development opening in 2007. John sadly passed away in 2010 but Dame Cleo still lives at The Old Rectory in the village and we are proud to have the opportunity to remind visitors to the Stables that this is indeed 'the Way' John would have wanted to be remembered, guiding music and theatre goers to the venue he took such delight in founding and supporting.

Wavendon Volunteer Army

On a sunny morning last December and maintaining social distancing the Wavendon Volunteer Army sprang into action.

The Parish Council had arranged for the supply of 26 **flowering cherry trees** to be planted on St Mary's Green in the Centre of the Village.

This will hopefully provide a wonderful flowering feature in the spring to bring a bit of cheer in these difficult times and help our pollinating bees.

There was an excellent turnout of volunteers with 10 volunteers able to assist during the morning tea, coffee and cakes were supplied by Sally and Sue which was much appreciated as whilst sunny it was cold. Apologies to those who were not in the photoshoot!

REMINDER, the Wavendon seed swap is live and various seeds have been swapped but there are still seeds available. The swap is situated within the bus shelter on St Mary's Green.

For those who watch Countryfile we have registered the planting of the trees on their "**plant a tree**" website under name of Wavendon Choice. We also included the 9 fruit trees planted in the grounds of the community centre.





stmaryswavendon.co.uk

Welcome!



We warmly invite you to join us **online** while the church building is closed. We offer a range of support, **open to everyone**, with most of it **available at any time**. With support in prayer, weekly services, and groups for all ages as well as our ever-popular monthly quiz, we're here to help you through until we can welcome you back in person. Revd Matt Trendall is glad to answer your enquiries at **01908 582839**

Watch at any time

crafty church for kids New activities recorded fortnightly

daily inspiration A nugget of hope to uplift you every day

worship We record a weekly 30-minute service for you to watch.....

log on at 9.30am Sunday for a collective experience - or at any time!

Links available at any time through our website:

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

Join a group by live link (Zoom call)

weekly: adult bible study - youth (15+) - children's (5-8, 9-14)

monthly: quiz night 7.30pm on 3rd Tuesday of every month

Fun for all ages. Join a team (6) on the night or make up your own

For more info on all these activities, email Revd Matt:

matt.trendall.mk@gmail.com

Prayerchain For confidential support in-prayer, whether urgent or ongoing, you can reach this dedicated group by emailing us at any time: **prayerchain.wavendon@gmail.com**

Would you be interested in getting together for a virtual coffee morning? We'd like to offer you the chance to stay in contact with others, especially if you're new to the area or are otherwise finding it hard to get to know people/stay in touch....

Please email Alise alisetrendall@gmail.com if you're interested

See our Facebook page: St Mary's Church Wavendon Village

Community Forum with Thames Valley Police (Virtual)



Damage to Property or risk of serious harm then please call 999.

Finally, I would just like to finish with some **Vehicle Crime prevention advice**. Please make sure that your vehicle is secured and all valuables are removed from the vehicle and nothing is left on show. If your vehicle has a keyless entry system then please make sure your vehicle is locked and that the keys are secured safely within your property.

Rob Childs | PC 5167 | Milton Keynes Neighbourhood Policing Team South | Neighbourhood Supervisor | Telephone 101
Address: Thames Valley Police, Middleton NHT Police Office, Middleton Fire Station, Childs Way, Milton Keynes MK10 9AP

**FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCY ENQUIRIES,
PLEASE DIAL 101**

Robin Childs
Robin.Childs@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

Monday 24th May 2021 at 7pm
**Your chance to place questions to your
local Community Police Officers**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96054300196?pwd=K3JGeDZ6VjMrUUZRNUrSZXNvZlJmUT09>

Meeting ID: 960 5430 0196

Passcode: 456275

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. I am PC 5167 Rob Childs Neighbourhood Supervisor for the Danesborough & Walton area. I have taken over from PC Debble who is now enjoying his retirement. I have been a Police Officer for nearly 18 years with the last 10 years spent on Neighbourhood Policing. I supervise the PCSO'S on the area, PCSO 9960 Jonathan Evans, who has recently joined us and PCSO 9911 Naomi Wenn. We are shortly due to be joined by a new recruit to bolster the numbers on the area. Please stop and say hello to them if you see them out and about. They would love to talk (Socially distanced of course)

In the coming months we are looking to restart the **Community Forum process** which was put on hold due to COVID. This is your opportunity as a Community to come together and take responsibility and act to deal with the matters that you, as a group want to deal with. The NHPT will assist in any way we can to achieve these goal. Further information will be released in due to course so please keep an eye out and get involved. Neighbourhood Policing is all about working in partnership with you, the Community.

As I said, **Neighbourhood Policing** is about working with the community. We need your assistance in dealing with the concerns that you have. This means reporting incidents to us. You can use the 101 phone line or alternatively complete an online report which will come to the Neighbourhood Team. You may not think that what your reporting is relevant, but it just may be the piece information we need. So please report it. However, if there is a Crime in Progress,

MK COVID-19 COMMUNITY CHAMPION SCHEME

MK Council is 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.

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



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

Help Is Here To Reduce The Risk Of A Fire Caused By Smoking



Smoking-related fires are the biggest killers in accidental fires in the home, with cigarettes and other smoking products causing a quarter of all accidental fire fatalities in the home.

In England in 2019/20, accidental fires in the home resulting from smokers' materials and cigarette lighters made up 27 per cent of all fatalities in the home (45 out of 167). In addition, a further two per cent (four) were from accidental fires started by cigarette lighters and matches.

If you are a smoker, or know someone who is, you will have heard many reasons why you should consider quitting. **But have you ever considered the fire risk associated with smoking?**

Without a doubt, quitting is the best way to remove the fire risk. There is plenty of help available to you should you want to try to put down your cigarettes and lighters for good. The NHS has many stop-smoking services, which are free, friendly and can massively boost your chances. More information can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/quit-smoking/nhs-stop-smoking-services-help-you-quit/>

For example, the **Stop Smoking Service** at <https://www.thestopsmokingservice.co.uk/> offers free advice and support across Milton Keynes, Central Bedfordshire and Bedford Borough.



THE ASH FROM ONE CIGARETTE

If you are not ready to give up - or while you are giving up - you should bear in mind the fire risk associated with smoking and take note of this advice from Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service to help reduce the chances of your smoking materials leading to a fire.

Community safety manager Joanne Cook said:

"Fires ignited by cigarettes or smoking materials result in more fatalities than any other fire. Despite a fall in the overall number of fires caused by these products, it's still the biggest cause of accidental fires in the home across the country.

"Every smoker should be aware of the risks they take every time they light up, and drop the habit of smoking indoors, especially in bed, or under the influence of alcohol. The risk of falling asleep before you have put it out is just too great.

"Make sure you have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and test them at least monthly. Working smoke alarms can give you the extra time you need to escape if the worst should happen."



- Never smoke in bed. Take care when you're tired – it's very easy to fall asleep while your cigarette is still burning and set furniture alight.
- Never smoke when under the influence of drugs or alcohol. If your lit cigarette starts a fire you could be less able to escape.
- Put it out, right out! Make sure your cigarette is fully extinguished.
- Fit a smoke alarm and test it at least monthly. A working smoke alarm can buy you valuable time to get out, stay out and call 999.
- Never leave lit cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended – they can easily overbalance as they burn down.
- Use a proper, heavy ashtray that can't tip over easily and is made of a material that won't burn.
- Make an attempt to quit using NHS support if you need it. If you do not want to quit, consider vaping.

- Tap ash into a proper ashtray, never a wastebasket. Don't let the ash or cigarette ends build up.
- Don't balance lit cigarettes, cigars or pipes on flammable surfaces. Never leave them unattended.
- Avoid alcohol and drugs when smoking. It's easy to lose concentration and forget you've lit up.
- Never smoke in bed, and take care when you're tired. If you need to lie down, don't light up.
- Use child-resistant lighters or matches, and keep them where children can't see or reach them.
- If you smoke in the garden, use a sand-filled pot as an outdoor ashtray.
- Cigarettes flicked from cars or while walking can start fires which can cause a lot of damage.
- Don't smoke in or near tents. Dispose of cigarettes carefully and thoughtfully when outdoors.



Marston Vale Line Services

At time of writing, Marston Vale Line services are due to resume at peak times on weekdays on Monday 12th April. The timetable has been slightly adjusted to accommodate the needs of Kimberley College, the single largest user of the Line. There will also be a 2-hourly Saturday service.

An all stations and limited stop rail replacement bus service will continue to cover all of the other train services.

The timetable will be posted on our website and social media platforms once confirmed. Alternatively please contact Stephen on the number below and he will send a copy to you.

Please buy tickets for Rail Replacement Bus services from the Ticket Vending Machines at stations (card only), any staffed rail station or online before travel. The Rail Replacement Bus drivers are unable to issue train tickets.

Marston Vale CRP Awarded Reaccreditation by the Department for Transport

Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP) was re-accredited by the Department for Transport (DfT) on 15th February following a review meeting in November. MVCRP was one of the first of the growing number of Community Rail Partnerships across the country to be awarded Accreditation status in February 2020.

'Accreditation is formal recognition by the DfT that a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) operates to a high standard and that its objectives and activities are supported by Government.

Accreditation should provide assurance to others, including potential funders and partners, that the CRP operates to high standards of governance and financial propriety; adopts a collaborative approach; is worthy of trust by others; and is a suitable entity for receiving public funds. Further Government considers it a good representative of the local community' (DfT 2021).

Accreditation recognises that CRPs are delivering the 4 Pillars of the DfT's Community Rail Development Strategy:

- Providing a voice for the community
- Promoting sustainable, healthy and accessible travel
- Bringing communities together, and supporting diversity & inclusion
- Supporting social and economic development

Reaccreditation is a fitting testament to the commitment & dedication from the MVCRP team of over 70 volunteers (including the Friends of Woburn Sands Station) who do invaluable work in brightening up our stations, overseeing the day-to-day running of Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre, assisting with administration & promoting our lovely Line!



COMING SOON - Free Audio Guide!

Join our radio producer as they take a journey along the Line uncovering some of the stories from its 175-year history, exploring the stations & the surrounding landscape and meeting some of the people who live and work along it. Tune in either during your journey or from home.

We are looking for local people to share their memories as part of the Audio Guide. Interviews will be undertaken remotely by trained volunteers. Some stories may also be used at Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre. **Do you have some memories of the Line?** Please contact Stephen for further information.

The guide will be launched during the Greensand Country Festival in May. The Festival will have a wide range of virtual & physical events (subject to national restrictions) including four 'Walk the Vale' walks led by the Bedford to Bletchley Rail Users' Association. Please visit <https://www.greensandcountry.com> or call 01234 743666.

Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre

The Heritage Centre Tea Room is due to re-open on 12th April for outside dining. The patio area is being extended and picnic tables are being installed in readiness. Opening hours are expected to be Wednesday to Sunday 10:00 – 4:00. **Booking recommended** - please call 01525 287120.

East West Rail

The East West Railway Company are due to launch a period of non-statutory consultation on the future operation of the Line in March, expected to run for 10 – 12 weeks. See <https://eastwestrail.co.uk> or call 0330 1340067 for details. **Please do take the opportunity to make your views known!**

Marston Vale Line 175th Anniversary

The Line celebrates its 175th anniversary on **17th November 2021**. A working group is being formed to plan the celebrations. Early ideas include:

- A train naming at Bletchley or Ridgmont,
- Banners at principal stations designed by local schoolchildren
- A Music Train
- A commemorative booklet distributed to passengers travelling on 17th November.

It is intended to have anniversary events over the summer and into 2022 too!

For further information on any aspect of Marston Vale CRP or the Marston Vale Line please contact Stephen Sleight, MVCRP Officer, on 01234 832645, e-mail stephens@bedsrrc.org.uk.

Visit our new website - www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk

Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/marstonvalecrp

Follow us on Twitter! [@marstonvalecrp](https://twitter.com/marstonvalecrp)

Launching 1 April

Fast, easy, affordable journeys across Milton Keynes

A new and accessible service

“Most reliable service, polite drivers and affordable”

Download the MK Connect app to get started

How to get in touch:
support-mkn@ridewithvia.com
01908 252526

FAQs

Where can I ride?

The entirety of Milton Keynes is now at your doorstep — you can book a ride anywhere in the city, as long as it falls within the Milton Keynes borough. However, if your journey can be fully taken on an existing bus route, you will be directed to the nearest bus.

How long does it take to get a ride?

Most passengers wait between 10 to 30 minutes, although during busy times, wait times may be longer. The wait may be up to 60 minutes in rural areas.

How far do I have to walk to meet the vehicle?

Our smart technology will select a safe location - a 'virtual bus stop' - a short walk from the pickup address you provided (usually 150-250 metres away). You'll receive the pickup location once your booking is confirmed.

How many people will I share a ride with?

The number of passengers you will share a ride with varies depending on who's headed in the same direction at the same time. Our vehicles can carry up to seven passengers.

Can I bring my friends and family with me?

Yes, you can add additional passengers when booking through the app or by telling us when you call. Note: if additional passengers are eligible for a concession with a bus pass, they need to make a separate booking. Children can travel on board, but must be at least 14 years old to create an account and book for themselves. Younger passengers must be booked and accompanied by an adult.

Can I bring bags with me in the vehicle?

Your vehicle will be a shared space, and as such we will ask everyone to limit any personal items to a reasonably sized bag(s), like a shopping bag.

Does the app support low vision or blind riders?

The app makes use of all iOS and Android accessibility features. Can I bring a wheelchair on board?

Yes. When booking through the app please tap the Wheelchair toggle in the Profile section to indicate that you require a wheelchair, or let us know on the phone.

Do I need to wear a face mask?

Yes, all passengers and drivers are required to wear a mask or face covering subject to Government COVID-19 regulations. You should not use the service if you have any COVID-19 symptoms or if you've been in close contact with someone who has the virus.

Zone

MK Connect covers the entire borough. There is no fixed route and you can travel anywhere within Milton Keynes.



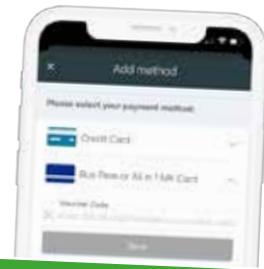
Popular destinations:

- 1 High St. Citray
- 2 Newport Pagant Town Centre
- 3 Wolverton Train Station
- 4 City Centre Shopping Area
- 5 MK Central Train Station
- 6 MK College
- 7 MK University Hospital
- 8 The Open University
- 9 Wilton Sports Town Station
- 10 Bore Blackhill Train Station
- 11 Ferry Street Train Station
- 12 Bletchley Train Station

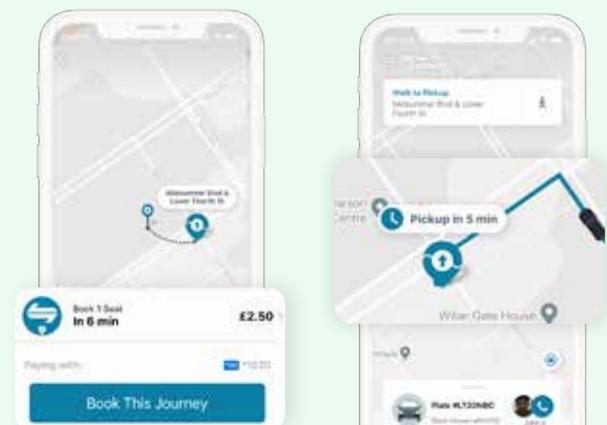
Fares

You can pay with a credit/debit card or an MK Move smart card. Rides cost £3.50 during peak hours (7am-9am, 4.30pm-6.30pm) and £2.50 at all other times.

Older Persons, Disabled Persons, and All in 1 MK cards are accepted - just enter your bus pass number in the payment method section of the app or tell us if you're booking by phone.



MK Connect works like a minibus that meets you wherever you are, allowing you to travel whenever you'd like.



How do I book a ride?

1. The fastest, easiest way to book a ride is by using our mobile app.
2. Download the app and then create an account.
3. Add your concessionary bus pass as a payment method if you have one. Otherwise, add your credit/debit card.
4. Enter your pickup and dropoff addresses and we'll provide you with a few trip options. Select the one that works best for you.

As it's a shared service, we aim to pick up riders in a spot that creates the fewest detours. This will likely be a safe location a short walk away (250 meters on average) — check the app to find the exact spot.

No mobile phone? No problem. You can book online at mknconnect.app.ridewithvia.com or over the phone by calling 01908 252526.

ridewithvia.com/mk-connect