

**Danesborough Snippets for February 2022 – Cllr David Hopkins /  
Cllr Victoria Hopkins / Cllr Alice Jenkins**

## Special bulletin



### In this Issue



### ROAD CLOSURES



- From MK Council Officer Gareth Hughes - As you will be aware we have been in ongoing discussions with Anglian Water regarding their proposed scheme on Cranfield Road and Newport Road. I can now say that despite our continued meetings with them, we have not been satisfied that they are ready to undertake their works on Cranfield Road. We have therefore decided to revoke any permissions they have until such a time as Network Rail have given AW full approval for the crossing of the railway. The closure of Cranfield Road which was proposed to start on 14th February has therefore been postponed until further notice. This will also mean that we will have to delay the delivery of the new footway on Cranfield Road, which we were initially intending to install as a continuation of the road closure in February. We will keep you updated with future discussions on both of these schemes. Therefore a meeting at present is no longer necessary.

I do hope this will help but residents and businesses minds at rest for the time being.

Contact: Gareth Hughes (Streetworks Team Leader) T: 01908 254292 M: 07586 543565  
Milton Keynes Council | Environmental & Property | Highways | Synergy Park | Chesney Wold |  
Bleak Hall | Milton Keynes | MK6 1LY [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk)

- A new scheduled bus service is due to start in March serving Wavendon and Woburn Sands. The operator is Britannia Bus Ltd and they can be contacted at [passenger.services@britanniabus.co.uk](mailto:passenger.services@britanniabus.co.uk) and they are hoping to hear from as many people as possible to gauge the level of support locally

**SEMK Next Stage (South of rail line)** – from Consultants for developer(s) - *On behalf of my client, I'm writing to you about our emerging outline planning application for the first major phase of SEMK.*

*My clients are Fox Land and Property and L&Q Estates. We have been awaiting the adoption of the SPD to allow us to move forward with our planning application. My clients own/control much of the land south of the railway line. Our proposals for the site are seeking to align with the now adopted SEMK SPD and will include:*

- *Provision of around 1700 new homes, enhancing the area's community;*
- *Development infrastructure, including upgrading and extending the walking and cycling network;*
- *Associated green public open spaces and playing fields;*
- *One of the new local centres/community hubs and the delivery of a new primary and secondary school site;*

### **Engaging with the community**

We will be launching a public consultation on Monday, 31st January 2022 by distributing an information leaflet (attached) to 4,700 local addresses in the area. Interested residents will be signposted to our dedicated project website here <https://my.engaged.space/semk/meet> where they can find out more about the scheme and provide their feedback. If they have questions for the project team, they can also book a virtual one to one drop-in session here.

<https://my.engaged.space/semk/#home>

There is also a dedicated freephone number (details on leaflet) for those that may not be able to access the internet to request a call back or a paper information pack.

### **Invitation to briefing**

We understand a new stakeholder group will soon be set up to engage with local stakeholders about the wider South East Milton Keynes development.

In the meantime, should you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact my colleague at [jack.boyce@lexcomm.co.uk](mailto:jack.boyce@lexcomm.co.uk) or 07969 399 458.

Jessica Fearon - Consultant

[www.lexcomm.co.uk](http://www.lexcomm.co.uk)

- Delegated decision taken – process towards design of extension of H10 (25 January)
- Delegated Decision due – Transfer of Play Area at Hinhead Knoll (8 February).
- Following representations from Cllr David Hopkins and BBPC, a Local Stakeholder Group be established which include representatives of four local Parishes (WSTC, WCC, WPC & BBPC), to allow local people to continue to be engaged and informed in the progression of detailed proposals for SEMK and the wider area.
- Planning Applications – list of major applications in the area (from 10 January 2022)
- EWR – next steps in the formation of a local consultation group
- Plan:MK 2 – MKC continues its series of background meetings in March moving towards a plan being published in \*late 2025 (\* estimate provided by Strategic Planner – Andrew Turner)
- Street Lighting has been installed on Walton Road, Wavendon close to the junction with Newport Road ... but issues remain
- Local SEMK consultation group with WPC, BBPC, WSTC and WCC formed following decisions after satisfactory call in (11 & 25 January 2022)
- Drain clearance –Newport Road (Wavendon) has now been cleared by developers of Hayfield Developments
- Platinum Jubilee information as local initiatives emerge
- Free Lateral Flow Tests at MK Library
- Cllr David Hopkins continues campaign for a fibre network in Wavendon to a company called “Fibre First” who are looking for suitable investment opportunities in and around MK and will advise if they get back to me – Martyn Smith at MK Council
- Martyn continues – ‘I’m still awaiting the outcome of the open market review process for BDUK’s project gigabit. That was due before Christmas but has now been delayed until March. Once I have that information I will discuss any future commercial plans for Wavendon with you’

- Caldecotte Parking – Officers (Graham Cox) confirm that subject to weather, the roadmarkings and verge repairs were scheduled for last week, then once the bus shelter arrives the civils works to the shelter stand and footpath will take place (likely in the next 4 weeks).
- Revisit calls for Silent Track to be installed on EWR - <https://britishsteel.co.uk/media/40437/silenttrack-brochure.pdf> · PDF file  
SilentTrack by British Steel is the innovative and environmentally friendly solution to railway noise Growing public concern about noise nuisance, particularly in urban areas, is resulting in the introduction of noise-related legislation
- Did you know, the Bedford River Festival 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> July – is the second largest (attended) festival in the UK second only to the Notting Hill Festival? Let's hope some trains will be running by them to take people to and from the event over the two days?
- Capital Programme under Environmental, Protective & Cultural Services for 2022/23 - £120,000 for 'Woburn Sands Recreation Ground'.



#### DELEGATED DECISIONS: 25 JANUARY 2022 – Decision

Subject of Decision	Decision Detail	Attendees
<b>Extending the H10 Grid Road Councillor Marland(Leader of the Council)</b>	That the importance of grid roads in the growth of new areas in Milton Keynes, be reaffirmed by the executive.  <b>Note £800K Tariff Monies included in the MKC 2022/23 budget for this project.</b>	<b>Report and representations from Councillor D Hopkins and two members of the public</b>
	That technical design options for the extension of the H10 (Bletcham Way) Grid Road from its current extent at the junction of Gregories Drive and Britten Grove, that are consistent with the recently adopted Development Framework for SEMK and the Council's Highway Design Guide, be commissioned by the Head of Highways	
	That necessary funding be allocated from the MK Tariff for the above work.	
	That officers be authorised to engage with interested parties to secure the necessary land corridor and financing required to deliver the proposed extension of the H10	
	That officers be authorised to engage with all relevant stakeholders to examine options for further connectivity from the SEMK development to the wider highway network	
	<b>That a Local Stakeholder Group be established which include representatives of local Parishes, to allow local people to continue to be engaged and informed in the progression of detailed proposals for SEMK and the wider area.</b>	

	That the Council use best endeavours to link the development of SEMK with the provision of the extension.	
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#### Delegated Decision 25 January

Response to Great British Railways Whole Industry Strategic	Plan Call for Evidence	Evidence and Representations
That the Council's submission to the Great British Railways Whole Industry Strategic Plan Call for Evidence, attached as an Annex, be approved.	Taken by Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council)	Report and representations from Councillor D Hopkins and two members of the public

#### DELEGATED DECISIONS: 8 FEBRUARY 2022

It is proposed that the freehold ownership of the play area at Hindhead Knoll in Walnut Tree, transfers to Walton Community Council (WCC) under the Council's Asset and Service Devolution Approach as adopted via a Delegated Decision on 30 July 2019. It is intended that this transfer will allow WCC to further provide improved leisure and community activities for the people of Walnut Tree and the wider Milton Keynes into the future helping to secure improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of the area.

Subject of Decision			Sponsoring Officer and Report Author	
Devolution of Assets To consider the <b>transfer of the play area at Hindhead Knoll, Walnut Tree, to Walton Community Council</b>	Delegated Decision Councillor Carr (Cabinet member for Tackling Inequalities and Child Poverty)	(Devolution of Assets and Services - an Approach)	Neil Hanley Community Solutions Programme Manager Tel: 01908 253632 and Sarah Gonsalves Director - Customer and Community Services	Officer Report Delegated Decision

#### MK University 1 March 5.30 pm

<b>MK:U Update</b>	<b>To consider the progress to date with the MK:U project and reaffirm the Council's commitment to the project</b>	<b>Officer Report and Annex Paul Thomas Director - Planning and Placemaking Fiona Robinson MK Futures 2050</b>	<b>Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) and / or Councillor R Bradburn (Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for</b>
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	<b>NEW Delegated Decision</b>	<b>Programme Manager Tel: 01908 252318</b>	<b>Economy, Recovery and Renewal)</b>
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## South East Milton Keynes

### SEMK Plan - Call-in and Mediation (11 January 2022)

<https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6951/Committee/1407/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

The original decision of 30 November was subsequently called-in by two parties (Councillors David and Victoria Hopkins, and Bow Brickhill Parish Council), but further to informal mediation, the outcomes of which are set out at Annex D, both parties withdrew their call-in.

There were a variety of mediation outcomes, including that the decision to adopt the SPD be retaken by the Leader of the Council on 11 January 2022. A further key outcome was that an additional paragraph be inserted into the SPD making it clear that any change of location shown for Woburn Sands Railway Station is indicative only and that it in no way provides the EWR Company with the opportunity to maintain that this is the Council's final position and should not therefore be open to further debate in the upcoming EWR Statutory Consultation.

## PLANNING



### Making Improvements to MKC Planning Services

A Planning Improvement Board (PIB), chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive, was formed in 2020. It oversees improvements to the Planning Service, particularly operational processes within the Development Management (DM) function. Risks and issues within these processes were highlighted by the 1 Yeomans Drive (1YD) planning application. An Interim Improvement Plan (IIP) was developed in 2020 following a review of the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) DM Challenge Toolkit, completed by the Service the previous year. The PIB meets every 6 weeks to review performance, receive progress reports and deal with escalations arising from the IIP. It is proposed the IIP now evolves into a final version of the Improvement Plan. This is so it can reflect the independent investigation into 1YD and any recommendations from the Local Government Association (LGA) Peer Review being undertaken in late February/ early March 2022, as per Council Plan Commitment 18

Cabinet 1 February 2022

See full report at <https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=I3r6787TrARS5Yq0ZpjeYYD0nm>

[DGHE%2fSFshNFXzrZnNrThoZc5H%2fWw%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNih225F5QMaQWctPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSFfXsDGW9IXnlg%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAjvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NhdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCpMRKZMwaG1PaO=c](https://www.centreforcities.org/)  
[tNJff55vVA%3d](https://www.centreforcities.org/)



Milton Keynes ranks among the strongest and most resilient local economies in the country, finds a report published today.

<https://www.centreforcities.org/>

The Cities Outlook 2022, suggests that MK is well placed to make a strong initial recovery from the pandemic, with the potential to become one of the UK's leading economies if future levelling up policies from central government are implemented.

The latest data shows that MK sits among the top ten cities when it comes to new business start-ups, productivity and housebuilding rates.

Cities Outlook 2022 analyses the short-term impact of the pandemic on Britain's town and city centres and the long-term consequences and implications this has for the Government's levelling up agenda.

Since the pandemic began, MK Council has distributed vital financial support through almost 20 different grant schemes for local firms, giving out over 11,500 grants to businesses totalling £64.7m. The Council also has a £3.1m economic recovery package to support businesses and provide training to help local people back into work.

Leader of MK Council, Cllr Pete Marland said: "MK is the place for good, well-paid and secure jobs. While the initial signs of economic recovery are encouraging, we cannot be complacent. The

report is clear that there is a real danger of levelling-down if policies are not put in place to support businesses in places like here.

“We have a good track-record in MK of dusting ourselves off and coming back stronger in times of economic uncertainty. It’s thanks to our citizens and business community that are helping us to deliver a prosperous, green and fair recovery from the pandemic.”



### Bus Services

On April 1 2021, MK Connect was launched Borough wide in Milton Keynes to provide a public transport service to residents and visitors that were not on commercial bus routes. MK Connect is the first DRT scheme of its size in the UK and the first in the UK to integrate with the commercial bus, directing users on bus routes, to the bus route.

The previous subsidised fixed bus routes were withdrawn as they were not financially sustainable long term. COVID 19 added a greater time pressure to finding an alternative solution, but the issue was long standing as costs continued to increase, patronage to fall and developer funds continue to run out increasing the subsidy direct from the Council

<https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Document.ashx?czJKcaeAi5tUFL1DTL2UE4zNRBcoShgo=ulcM%2fL%2bTHyOE3i7KvieaNP6nUdfT4TdvN%2b987gc9veITBOFzY0efg%3d%3d&rUzwRPf%2bZ3zd4E7lkn8Lyw%3d%3d=pwRE6AGJFLDNIh225F5QMaQWCtPHwdhUfCZ%2fLUQzgA2uL5jNRG4jdQ%3d%3d&mCTIbCubSffXsDGW9IXnlG%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&kCx1AnS9%2fpWZQ40DXFvdEw%3d%3d=hFflUdN3100%3d&uJovDxwdjMPoYv%2bAJvYtyA%3d%3d=ctNJff55vVA%3d&FgPIIEJYlotS%2bYGoBi5oIA%3d%3d=NHdURQburHA%3d&d9Qjj0ag1Pd993jsyOJqFvmyB7X0CSQK=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNR9xqBux0r1Q8Za60lavYmz=ctNJff55vVA%3d&WGewmoAfeNQ16B2MHuCPMRKZMwaG1PaO=ctNJff55vVA%3d>

Planning applications	Weekly list 24 September
<b>Planning buddy!</b> Rachel Larner Planning Officer <a href="mailto:rachel.larner@milton-keynes.gov.uk">rachel.larner@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> 07554 338790	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bow Brickhill Parish Council</li> <li>• Little Brickhill Parish Council</li> </ul>
<b>Planning Buddy!</b> Sonia James Planning Officer <a href="mailto:sonia.james@milton-keynes.gov.uk">sonia.james@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> 07775 111178	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walton Community Council</li> </ul>

<p><b>Planning Buddy!</b>  <b>Senior Planning Officer</b>  <a href="mailto:charlotte.ashby@milton-keynes.gov.uk">charlotte.ashby@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a>  <b>07795 475595</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Wavendon Parish Council</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Planning Buddy</b>  <b>Katy Lycett</b>  <b>Principal Planning Officer</b>  <a href="mailto:katy.lycett@milton-keynes.gov.uk">katy.lycett@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a>  <b>07795 475584</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Woburn Sands Town Council</b></li> </ul>
<b>Planning Applications</b>	
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)  Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015  Application no: 22/00125/FUL  Proposal: The erection of a single storey side/rear extension</p>	<p>At: 16 Ireland Close Browns Wood Milton Keynes MK7 8EQ</p>
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)  Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015  Application no: 21/02483/FUL  Proposal: The erection of a single storey rear and side extension with roof lantern</p>	<p>At: 10 Campion Close Eagle Farm South Milton Keynes MK17 7BW</p>
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)  Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015  Application no: 22/00123/FUL  Proposal: The erection of a single storey rear extension</p>	<p>At: 6 Sturdy Lane Woburn Sands Milton Keynes MK17 8GD</p>
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)  Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015  Application no: 22/00052/FUL  Proposal: Proposed single storey rear extension, part garage conversion and internal alterations.</p>	<p>At: 10A Cross End Wavendon Milton Keynes MK17 8AQ</p>
<p>Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended)  Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015  Application no: 22/00028/FULMMA  Proposal: Variation of condition 1 (Approved Plans) of permission ref. 20/00193/FUL seeking an additional parking space, move of external steps and retaining wall, and the insertion of a window into the lower ground floor study,</p>	<p>At: Land North of The Clock House Watling Street Little Brickhill Milton Keynes MK17 9NR</p>



relating to the demolition of existing garages and erection of one dwelling.	
Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (As Amended) Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Order 2015 Application no: 22/00065/FUL Proposal: Retention of the two storey side At: 3 Verdi Close Old Farm Park Milton Keynes MK7 8PD extension. Loft conversion with rear dormer and roof lights to front roof slope. Single storey rear extension with bi-fold doors and roof lights (Retrospective)	



#### Where and when to put your bins out

- Place waste and recycling on the boundary of your property closest to where the collection vehicle passes by 7am on your collection day. Don't put out your recycling earlier than 5pm the day before your collection day.
- Don't pile up your bags with the neighbours in your street.
- Tie up all rubbish and recycling bags.
- Rinse out any food and drink containers before you put them into the clear sacks.
- Breakdown cardboard and place it inside the clear recycling sack. If it is too big please take to your local Household Waste Recycling Centre.
- Don't put loose items, e.g. large cardboard boxes out with your recycling; it won't be collected.
- If your recycling bags, box or wheeled bin contain the wrong items it may not be collected or emptied.

If you think your rubbish has been missed by Serco please use the councils missed bin reporting form. <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/report-or-request-it/report-a-missed-collection>

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling>



## Funding for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

As we encourage Parish, Town and Community Councils to celebrate the Jubilee and get involved with the Mayor's Jubilee themed display contest, we wanted to let you know that funding is now available from the Government to help communities celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

New programmes and activity from The National Lottery Community Fund, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Arts Council England, Sport England and the BFI, made possible by over £22million of National Lottery funding, will support communities to develop activities that bring people together to celebrate Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. Read more here

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2021-11-17/over-22million-the-queens-platinum-jubilee>



## Council Budget 2022/23

Since 2010 Milton Keynes Council has had to make over £170m in savings and cuts while dealing with an increase in demand for important services such as adult social care. The Revenue Support Grant received from Government has been reduced by 90% in that time.

Our overall financial position continues to be very difficult and we must identify £5m of savings to balance the draft budget. Despite this, we are not proposing any major changes to services.

Budget 2022 proposes:

- A below inflation 3.75% increase in Council Tax (1.99% Council Tax and 1.76% adult social care precept).
- The use of £3m of reserves to cover one-off reductions in income due to Covid-19 and spending pressures.
- Efficiency and productivity savings of £2m.

In addition, it proposed continued investment in support for vulnerable young people and families; extra support for emergency accommodation for homeless families and rough-sleepers; and additional funding for specialist autism and mental health services.

It also includes extra funding to retain weekly general waste collections, boost recycling and roll out wheelie bins across the city in 2023; increased funding to reduce fly-tipping and litter and to tackle rodent issues; money to improve landscaping and the appearance of grid roads; and investment in more gully, drain and flood prevention works to mitigate the impact of climate change.

You can read the full draft budget proposals here.

<https://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/6949/Committee/1407/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>



One in three people with COVID-19 do not have symptoms so it's important to test yourself regularly regardless of how you feel. Rapid testing detects cases quickly and could stop you passing the virus to others.

You can collect your lateral flow tests from Central MK Library (MK9 3HL).

It's contact free and there's no need to book or register.

<https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

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Starting this month, more than 80 street name plates across MK's residential streets and grid road network will be repaired or replaced as part of a large maintenance programme. A further 36 plates where the street name is no longer visible will be fitted with a new printed wrap. The full list is available to view at: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/roads-redways-and-footways/road-signs>

Street name plates are essential to help provide location information for emergency services, taxis, delivery companies and local residents.

The list of street name plates has been compiled based on priority so that any signs that are completely missing will be done first.

The Council's highways service provider, Ringway now produces the printed name plate wraps in house. This means that replacing faded signs can happen more quickly and the cost savings can be used to include more street name plates in the repair programme.

The street name plate repair programme will be carried out in four batches with the first starting in January.

Any damaged or faded street name plates can be reported to the Council through the website using the Report It section, [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk) or by calling 01908 252353.



**THAMES VALLEY  
POLICE**  
[www.thamesvalley.police.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.police.uk)  
non-emergency contact  
**0845 8 505 505**

Locally - PC Rob Childs – 07974 970568 or [robin.childs@thamesvalley.pnn.polic.uk](mailto:robin.childs@thamesvalley.pnn.polic.uk) -----



### **Milton Keynes SEND Information Festival 2022**

Milton Keynes' annual event for children and families with special educational needs and disabilities is going virtual for 2022.

The MK SEND Information Festival, hosted in partnership between the SENDIAS Service and PACA MK (Parent Carer Forum), is held annually and is typically attended by more than 500 people. This year's event is taking place online and via video across two days, starting on Friday 4 February until Saturday 5 February.

The two-day Festival which was originally planned around online workshops on Day 1 and in-person activities taking place on Day 2 (at The Ridgeway Centre) will now switch to being fully online on both days. This was necessary due to the ongoing uncertainty of COVID-19. The dates however have not changed and the event will still go ahead online on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 February 2022.

The MK SEND Information Festival will be opened by the Mayor of MK Cllr Mohammed Khan on Friday 4 February at 9:30am (broadcast on YouTube). Keynote speaker Jason Todd from the Art of Brilliance will deliver the interactive session on Saturday 5 February at 10am via Zoom (booking required).

A full list of workshops can be found here: [www.mkseinfoday.co.uk](http://www.mkseinfoday.co.uk) . All guests must pre-register to take part in activities here: [https://mk\\_send\\_info\\_day\\_2022.eventbrite.co.uk](https://mk_send_info_day_2022.eventbrite.co.uk) . The online booking system will close on Tuesday 1 February 2022 at 9am. Places are limited so don't delay.

If you'd like to know more, please contact MK SENDIAS Service on 01908 254518 and [mksendias@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:mksendias@milton-keynes.gov.uk) or PACA MK on 07852 526057 and [pacamk@gmail.com](mailto:pacamk@gmail.com).

- Highlights of our 2020 event which was attended by more than 500 parents and young people: <https://youtu.be/23DqgNGthwc>.
- Opening ceremony of our 2021 virtual event <https://youtu.be/39xSEQdSdrQ>.



Latest Information at ..... <https://www.greensandcountry.com/>

**What's On?**

<https://www.greensandtrust.org/Event/halloween-woollen-woods> Halloween Woollen Woods

<https://www.greensandtrust.org/Event/make-your-own-walking-stick> Make your own Walking Stick

<https://www.greensandtrust.org/Event/woodland-management-workshop> Woodland Management Workshop



**The East West Railway Company (EWR Co)**

**First meeting of local consultation group – 15 February 2022**

The Bletchley / Milton Keynes South Group will hold its first meeting on 15 February 2022 at 7pm virtually via Zoom due to the Covid pandemic recommendations. The meeting will be held in the evening to allow wide participation and will last for no longer than two hours.

In this first meeting, the Group will be introduced, you will be able to meet the EWR Co team, and the Terms of Reference will be discussed, so we can shape them together. We will also provide an update on the project and we will be keen to learn what topics and local areas of interest you would like the Group to cover in the future.

East West Railway Company [localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk)

We expect it to last for two hours.

We will email you further details about the meeting closer to the time, including joining instructions, the agenda, and the proposed Terms of Reference for the Group.

If you have any questions about the Group or the meeting, please email us at [localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk](mailto:localrepresentativesgroups@eastwestrail.co.uk)

We look forward to welcoming you at the first meeting of the Group on 15 February.

The EWR Co Team



Don't forget that schools, clubs, businesses and community groups have another chance to secure tickets for the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 at Stadium MK. An exclusive group ticket booking window is now open until the end of February, so don't miss out.

We're also encouraging all schools to make use of the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 Schools Programme, which includes lots of free downloadable resources tailored to different curriculum subjects.

Access to the Schools Programme is available by clicking here. <https://www.fgc-fis.eu/>



MK's community safety partnership has launched a survey to gather local people's thoughts ahead of the introduction of new government legislation

**Have your say before 7 March**



The community safety partnership for Milton Keynes has launched a public survey to gather local people's thoughts ahead of the introduction of new government legislation. The new national Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill 2021 is set to be introduced by the government and as a result, all local community safety partnerships across the UK have been asked to identify any serious violence that occurs in their area, its causes and a strategy to prevent it.

SaferMK, the community safety partnership for Milton Keynes and made up of representatives from MK Council, Thames Valley Police, Bucks Fire and Rescue, the NHS and local community groups including the MK Dons SET, has produced its Serious Violence Strategy in response to the new government requirement and is asking local people to have their say on it in the online survey. The SaferMK partnership works together to deliver a range of community safety initiatives in Milton Keynes.



Over the last three years and working with its SaferMK partners, MK Council has committed £350,000 to deliver projects aimed at early intervention, which have most recently included a new knife crime prevention learning zone at the Safety Centre Hazard Alley, as well as a youth outreach programme, mentoring scheme, street art parkour workshops, mental health support and speech and language provision.

SaferMK's new Serious Violence Strategy sets out proposals focusing on five main areas including early intervention and prevention, shared information and intelligence, tackling drugs and county lines, engagement and community support, as well as law and enforcement.

Cllr Lauren Townsend, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety at MK Council said: "We've produced our Serious Violence Strategy in response to the new government requirement, and it's been a good opportunity to reflect on the good work we've done to date. We'll continue to work with our local partners to ensure Milton Keynes stays a safe place to live, work and visit. Please have your say in the online survey to help develop the new strategy."

The public survey is available to complete online via the link below until 7 March 2022.

[https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=APcl1dKKd0aPljbhwL6dsbcxSVH8qtJu7\\_1U9BNglURjMyUldEU0INNIRESEdPMehZT0VYVVAwUC4u](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=APcl1dKKd0aPljbhwL6dsbcxSVH8qtJu7_1U9BNglURjMyUldEU0INNIRESEdPMehZT0VYVVAwUC4u)



MK continues to smash housebuilding targets

Council Leader Pete Marland with Jodie (Barratt Homes) and John (Barratt Homes)

Almost 6,000 much-needed new homes have been built in Milton Keynes over the last three years as new figures show the city is beating its housebuilding targets set by central government for the fourth year running.

The latest Housing Delivery Test (HDT) which illustrates the number of homes built in each council area, shows that Milton Keynes is building 128% of the number of homes in its target. Areas that don't meet the national requirements face losing their planning powers to central government. MK Council has been instrumental in the success by adopting a Local Plan that sets out the vision and ground rules for developers and ensuring its development management service is making the housebuilding process smoother.

The results from the HDT show MK delivered 5,850 new homes in the three years from 2018/19 to 2020/21 – 28% above target. Of these 1,204 are affordable.

This puts MK on a level-footing with its neighbours. Milton Keynes Council is preparing to become a full member of the Central Area Growth Board in the Cambridge-MK-Oxford growth corridor, which will allow the council to proactively shape the future growth of MK.

Earlier this week, Council Leader, Pete Marland visited the Fairfields housing site being built by Barratt Homes which will have over 2,000 new homes once fully completed. Barratt is one of the largest housebuilders in the country, having built over 600 homes in MK last year.

The Council has also set out its own ambitious and housebuilding plan, with proposals to deliver 1,200 council homes by 2030 that will be some of Milton Keynes' most accessible, environmentally friendly and heat-efficient properties.

Leader of MK Council, Cllr Pete Marland said: "These numbers are really encouraging and tell a great story for Milton Keynes at a point when many other authorities are lagging behind on their targets. However, we want to see more homes being built that are genuinely affordable to people's income, and we'll keep using our influence to make that happen.

"Meeting our housebuilding numbers from Plan:MK is really important for protecting Milton Keynes from unplanned speculative development that can happen when targets are not met and helps us maintain the unique character of Milton Keynes, as well as helping local hardworking families."

**Walton Community Council  
set to take ownership of  
the open space and play  
area at Hindhead Knoll**

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



**Community to take ownership of local open space and children's play area**

Walton Community Council is set to take ownership of the open space and play area at Hindhead Knoll in Walnut Tree as part of MK Council's proposals to give greater powers to local communities.

The transfer will allow Walton Community Council to provide better leisure and community activities for local people for generations to come. Hindhead Knoll is a much-loved space for residents of Walton and is known for the Community Council's popular annual Summer Fayre, Christmas Celebration and various community engagement events.

The Council hopes that by putting more community facilities in the hands of the people and organisations that use them, it'll encourage greater investment as well as continuous and sustainable use.

MK Council has worked closely with Walton Community Council on this area, which now includes a refurbished play area, uplighters, new safety crossings, picnic tables, noticeboard, raised shrubbery bed, the Little Free Library and an events shelter.

Additional money to enhance the area will also be made available from developer contributions as the site falls near a new development.

Cabinet Member with responsibility for asset transfer, Cllr Jane Carr said: "We're delighted that we're handing over yet another much-loved local facility to Walton Community Council. Working alongside local people, the community council will have power over what goes on at Hindhead Knoll as they are best placed to serve the needs of their community."

"Walton Community Council's Council Manager, Lesley Sung said: "We are delighted to take ownership of the land at Hindhead Knoll. This is an important area for us and is central to our key strategic aim of enhancing our community. This area will enable us to provide facilities and exciting new events for all ages that will bring our community even closer together."

***Cllr David Hopkins – February 2022***