

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

Special bulletin



In this Issue

Council Tax in Dansborough & Walton ward parishes - 2022/23 - Includes Police, Fire Authority & Parish Precepts

Area	Band A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Wav	£1255.99	1465.32	1674.65	1883.99	2302.66	2721.32	3139.98	3767.98
W.Sands	£1288.43	1503.16	1717.90	1932.64	2362.12	2791.59	3221.07	3865.28
Walton	£1286.75	1500.03	1714.33	1928.62	2357.21	2785.79	3214.37	3857.24
Bow B	£1296.94	1513.09	1729.25	1945.41	2377.73	2810.04	3242.35	3890.82
Little B	£1271.30	1483.18	1695.06	1906.95	2330.72	2754.49	3178.25	3813.90



in the FT 26th February 2022. Snippets....

"ambitious Oxford-Cambridge arc project falls victim to Johnson's levelling up agenda"
 "although a new railway line between Oxford and Cambridge is still going ahead, a new east-west 'expressway', or trunk road, has been dropped and the target for 1million new homes shelved"
 "Gove has taken a strategic decision to deprioritise the plan and leave it in the hands of fragmented local councils instead"
 "The 40-person Whitehall unit [responsible] for delivering the Arc was disbanded September last year"
 "The overarching planning framework for the Arc remains unpublished, with local authorities informed that central government no longer wished to drive the project forward"
 "Steven Broadbent, chair of the East West Main Line partnership, warned in October that the Treasury's spending review had failed to resolve critical questions about its future. Funding was still needed for the line eastward to Cambridge while there remained 'uncertainty' over the delivery of the Aylesbury-Milton Keynes link, he added"
 "The failure to deliver the arc project in a holistic manner has left investors, industry, local government and local MPs deeply divided."

Well, it's fair to say the Gov/Gove will not be delivering an Arc strategy, the 1 million homes requirement appears to have been shelved and no monies have been pencilled in for the EWR Marston Vale stretch; surely, we can now assume that the original project is well and truly dead. However, I cannot but help think that MKC has already delivered enough homes to satisfy any necessary expansion to 2040, so where is the growth justification for MKSE. One for us all to take with Iain Stewart MP and MKC administration and planners.

A group of 17 major regional companies wrote to the Chancellor this month warning him that the "current passive approach" to the Arc was deterring inward investment to the UK. They were sent packing. Anyone prepared to bet that the EWR Marston Vale upgrade will get approved by the Chancellor?

Cllr David Hopkins - met on Thursday 17 February with agents promoting the land in the southern part of SEMK.

**Present at the meeting was Neil Sainsbury (Head of Placemaking at MK Council) plus
Tim Brown – Associate Engineer
Jack Boyce – Lexington
Chris Ball – Planning Director Fox Land and Property
Richard Edward L&Q - Planning Director**

They had met on the previous evening with senior GP's and The Practise Manager at Asplands Surgery (Woburn Sands) who (according to those present at this meeting) were left reassured and content regarding the future siting, provision and management of any future health facilities within SEMK. I think it is probably worth checking that with the Asplands Surgery! The proposals were very much in line with the SPD. There were two variations, one regarding the proposed siting of the combined school (due to open in 2028) and the additional piece of land in Bow Brickhill (on the south side of Station Road close to the junction with Brickhill Street which did not form part of the SEMK SPD red line area). They asserted this was necessary to assure the safe highways developments that are required.

However, there are two glaring issues which make any early planning applications unacceptable.

Firstly, the large blank area(s) not under their control that more than pepper pot the SEMK South side area. These are mainly controlled by Smith Jenkins (<https://www.smithjenkins.co.uk/>) - most of the non-defined land - and O&H Properties (the land adjacent to Woburn Sands) and it seems the three organisations do not appear to be talking! Neil Sainsbury supported fully my assertion that only a complete scheme for the area would be acceptable, that that completed scheme come before the Stakeholder Group and only then be considered ready to go the Planning (formally DC Committee).

The scheme at MK East (land close to Newport Pagnell/ Moulsoe etc) was a complete stage one scheme for all the land involving several landowners and agents and only when such a scheme was submitted to that local stakeholder group was it debated, amended and then finally submitted to Development Control.

Secondly the fact that there has been no consultation with East West Rail. They maintain that they have tried to engage with EWR but EWR refuse stating they cannot be constrained in their legal consultation processes leading up to the Statutory Consultation later this year or early in 2023. Again I feel this is totally unacceptable and it seems these developers and their agents are attempting to bounce MKC/EWR into a Fait Accompli!

They are aware of the Stakeholder Group being established and they asked to come to the first meeting of the Group as soon as a date is fixed.

Neil Sainsbury offered to act as intermediary with Smith Jenkins in particular to see if an agreed joint scheme could be prepared that was in line with the SPD and fit for purpose and that he would talk with EWR and arrange a meeting for this set of developers and agents.

Levelling Up White Paper

This was issued recently, all 300 pages of it and the link can be found here ;
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-the-united-kingdom>

Levelling Up the United Kingdom - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk).

Also attached below is a briefing note prepared by MKC in respect of the White Paper.

It is interesting to note that the Ox-Cam arc is not referenced and does not look like it is continuing to form a part of the Government's agenda for economic development.

More on pages 24,25 and 26 of this report.

Levelling Up White Paper

Levelling Up

The Levelling Up White Paper provides the first published definition of what Levelling Up is to the government and how it will be measured within the UK. It sets out the Levelling up Missions (appendix 3) by which progress will be defined. The paper is wide ranging in Policy areas, covering everything from Devolution, Growth funds, to transport, housing, health and crime. No new funding announcements were made to support the release of the paper and the policy within it.

Regional working, Devolution and Growth Funds

- Local Enterprise Partnerships will continue in areas that don't have Combined Authorities¹. However, their roles will change. The White Paper confirms the Shared Prosperity Fund, the replacement for all European growth funds, will be paid directly to Local Authorities rather than a competitive process through LEPS (see below). On the skills agenda, the Skills Trailblazer² approach is likely to be the one adopted in the short/medium term. This involved the Chamber of Commerce working closely with MK College to ensure employer needs are at the centre of the skills agenda, rather than skills policy development taking place through the LEP.
- The Devolution agenda is addressed in detail. The approach favours Mayoral Combined Authorities (new and established) and devolution to County Councils. A proposed Devolution Framework, outlining what powers and functions are available for what level of devolution is in Appendix 1. Milton Keynes Council will be unable to pursue a Devo Deal as a single institution as the MK population falls well below the minimum threshold (500k). It is uncertain what appetite partner councils may have for jointly pursuing this agenda.

- Shared Prosperity fund will be paid directly to Local Authorities. The fund's focuses will be; improving communities and place, people and skills, supporting local business. Conditional allocations for each LA will be released, but allocations will be 'skewed to need.'
- The Levelling up Fund will still involve bidding. Details of further rounds will be coming soon.
- Each area will have a 'Levelling up Director' who will act as single point of contact for local decision makers and will provide advice on innovative local policy approaches
- A plan will be published this year on how government intends to move away from pots and bidding competitions for local government to a more streamlined approach. The new approach will involve more robust Monitoring and Evaluation on impact and delivery. There will be engagement with Local Government on this new approach.
- Milton Keynes is classified as in the South East region.

This could cause two issues;

o Funding allocations to the South East are unlikely to be significant. The White Paper talks in several places about leveraging in private sector investment, so we will need to consider if MK has asks in terms of policy flexibilities to achieve greater private investment.

o With the footprint of our regional working. Provided we can prove the Central Area (or South East Midlands) is a functional economic area, this can be partially addressed. The SEMLEP area spans across the South East, East of England and East Midlands.

- Establishment of a Leadership college for government which LA Chief Executives and senior officers will have access to.

Housing, Planning and Transport

- The 80/20 Housing rule (directing 80% of government funding to areas with higher affordability/earnings ratios) is being scrapped. This is likely to benefit areas such as the Midlands and North, and make it more difficult for areas such as MK to access Homes England funding.
- On the Affordable Homes Programme, 75% of funding will be spent outside London.
- Homes England will play a bigger role in leveraging funding. Appendix 2 details the changes to Homes England.
- The Social Housing Regulation Bill will be brought forward to improve "quality and regulation" and provide performance information for tenants to hold landlords to account.

- The Planning system is to be made “simpler and shorter” and communities are to have “more of a say.” It will support improvements to Green Belts and Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be considered in plan making.

- There will be enhanced CPO powers for Town Centre regeneration and ways to incentivise landlords to let empty units on high streets.

- There will be a review of community governance “looking at the role and functions of Parish Councils” and how to make it easier for local groups to come together.

- Any Transport Authority “that wishes to access franchising powers to deliver improvements will be supported”.

- New guidance will be published on Local Transport Plans, and updated Local Transport Plans will be requested by the end of this Parliament

Finance and procurement

- Funding allocations to LAs (e.g. Shared Prosperity fund) will be based on updated population data (to address issues with data lag).

- New powers for Local Authorities to apply the Empty Homes levy after a year rather than two years.

- LGPS Pension fund to be encouraged to increase local investment with an ambition of up to 5% reinvested in projects supporting local areas.

- Intention that Supporting Families grants will in future be linked to deprivation levels.

- Changes to Procurement to better embed ‘Social Value’ and make it easier for small businesses to win contracts.

Skills and Innovation

- BEIS Research and Development funding will be moved away from the South East.

- Reannouncement that College funding and governance is to be ‘overhauled’ in line with employer need.

Others

- There will be a new independent body for England providing data, transparency and robust evidence at a local level. This has a number of aims including providing more information for LAs to make decisions and for the public to hold LAs to account on relative spending by service area. More data will also be made available by ONS at local level.

- A White Paper will be published on Health Disparities.

- Police will get new powers on Noise Complaints (LAs retain statutory responsibility).

Homes England powers

“In England, the UK Government will refocus Homes England so that it uses its extensive statutory powers to partner with local leaders to unlock barriers and drive forward regeneration. Homes England will deliver a practical regeneration offer to places by:

- a. forming partnerships with local leaders and wider government to support places’ levelling up and regeneration ambitions;
- b. using its statutory powers, funding and expertise to support delivery of regeneration schemes, with a focus on unlocking barriers that are preventing the private sector from investing;
- c. working with relevant partners to enable the pooling of funding, including from local sources and from across government, to maximise the impact of specific schemes;
- d. tailoring opportunities to be attractive to institutional investors to crowd-in private sector investment to deliver on long-term change; and
- e. establishing the right delivery vehicle that will give both local leaders and their communities a voice, but also deliver surety of decision making for the long-term, to establish credibility and confidence in plans.”

Levelling up tables at the end of this report

East West Rail – Local Stakeholder Group

First Meeting held on 15 February

- Attended by 5 EWR officials including Jeremy (chair)
- Attendance from parishes patchy and tended to be from those that are directly affected by EWR proposals. In all 6 parishes/wards were represented including David H and myself.
- Some attendees did not participate but most did in the end.
- Those that did participate freely were variable in their support - from Bletchley Ward Cllr and the Clerk to W Bletchley Council who were in the main supportive, partly because Bletchley has benefitted hugely monetarily from EWR, and those who were more reserved in their judgements (eg David and myself)
- Quarterly dates agreed with information/updates to be given beforehand: 10th May; 9th August; 11th October; 7 Feb.
- Jeremy was charming (as usual) but defensive on some topics and waffled on others eg that the business case for the EWR will 'evolve over time'!!!!
- I asked for future talks to look in detail at level crossings and 'bridges' (as did others).
- They have not done a definitive study of traffic assessment (one of the waffle moments!)

Broadband Update

MKC is expecting an update from BDUK on the outcome of the “Project Gigabit” Open Market Review (OMR) in early March. BDUK has commissioned this OMR as the first stage in their upcoming Project Gigabit procurement. Its purpose is to identify areas that commercial suppliers are intending to deploy fibre to over the next three years.

As expected, BDUK requires all the information the OMR contains regarding any commercial fibre rollout plans in MK to be treated by the council as “commercial in confidence”. Martyn Smith of MK Council will be happy to advise in the broadest terms about the future plans for our Borough but will not be able to share specifics.

He realises this will not help to satisfy areas that have expressed their concerns about the current fibre coverage available but as you will see from the email below I am bound by the terms of the Non-Disclosure Agreement we have been obliged to sign with BDUK.



Ward Councillor David Hopkins has allocated £500 towards a Defibrillator to be installed at Bow Brickhill Railway Station and is hoping for match funding from a well known local company.



DELEGATED DECISIONS: 2022 – Decisions coming up ...

Subject of Decision	Decision Detail		Attendees
Publication of Updated Local Development Scheme 2022	To consider approving the publication of an updated Local Development Scheme which takes into account the evidence base, and timescales, required to prepare a Local Plan to 2050	Councillor Marland (Leader of the Council) Officer Report and Annex None Paul Thomas Director - Planning and Placemaking	

		Andrew Turner Planning Policy Manager Tel: 01908 254892
Young People's Supported Accommodation	To consider commissioning supported accommodation for young people.	Councillor Z Nolan (Cabinet member for Children and Families) Mick Hancock Group Head of Commissioning Peter Wong Commissioner Tel: 01908 253218
Community Infrastructure Fund 2022/23	To consider approving the allocation of Council funding for projects under the Community Infrastructure Fund for 2022/23.	Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm) Stuart Proffitt Director - Environment and Property Rachel Munday Highways Communication Manager Tel: 01908 252506

DELEGATED DECISIONS 22 March 2022

Subject of Decision		Sponsoring Officer and Report Author	
Energy Rebate Discretionary Fund	To consider providing rebates of up to £150 for households impacted by rising energy costs but who are not eligible for the Council Tax rebate scheme	Steve Richardson Director - Finance and Resources Robin Bates Head of Revenue and Benefits Tel: 07909 585293	Councillor Middleton (Cabinet member for Resources)
Community Infrastructure Fund 2022/23	To consider approving the allocation of Council funding for projects under the Community Infrastructure Fund for 2022/23.	Stuart Proffitt Director - Environment and Property Rachel Munday Highways Communication Manager Tel: 01908 252506	Councillor Townsend (Cabinet member for Public Realm)
School Term Dates 2023/2024 for Community and Voluntary	To consider the school term dates 2023/2024 for all Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools following consultation.	Simon Sims Head of Delivery, Setting and School Sufficiency and Access	Councillor Z Nolan (Cabinet member for

Controlled School in Milton Keynes	Proposed Term Dates 2023/24	Yewande Shotade Strategic Lead - Education, Sufficiency and Access Tel: 01908 253451	Children and Families)
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For latest details about MK Gallery visit their website: <https://www.mkgallery.org> Or phone 01908 676900

MK University March

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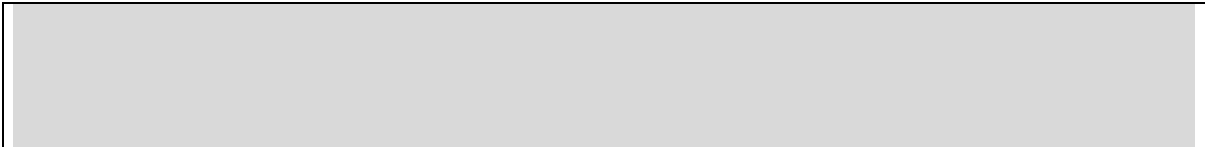


presents the 66th concert in the Drakeloe Series
The Stables Theatre
Wavendon, Milton Keynes on Saturday 5th March from 7.30 pm
£12.00
The Concert Secretary on 07790 454149
(No booking fee, free postage)
or The Stables Box Office 01908 280800



The customer services phone number is 08081 641242.

See Starship Local Gov Pack attached



**Milton Keynes Land Availability Assessment
Draft Methodology Consultation and 'Call for Sites'
2022**

MK Council is at the early stages of reviewing Plan:MK and preparing a new local development plan for Milton Keynes running up to 2050.

MKC is producing an updated evidence base to inform the new plan. A key part of this evidence is a Land Availability Assessment (LAA).

The Council is consulting on a draft LAA methodology and providing an opportunity, via a 'Call for Sites', for sites to be submitted for consideration.

Need further assistance? Contact us at: Development.Plans@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk

James Williamson - Development Plans Team

Email: Development.Plans@Milton-Keynes.gov.uk

Web: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/

Milton Keynes Council | Civic | 1 Saxon Gate East | Milton Keynes | MK9 3EJ

Planning applications	Weekly list 24 September
Planning buddy! Rachel Larner Planning Officer rachel.larner@milton-keynes.gov.uk 07554 338790	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bow Brickhill Parish Council • Little Brickhill Parish Council
Planning Buddy! Sonia James Planning Officer sonia.james@milton-keynes.gov.uk 07775 111178	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walton Community Council
Planning Buddy! Senior Planning Officer charlotte.ashby@milton-keynes.gov.uk 07795 475595	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wavendon Parish Council
Planning Buddy Katy Lycett Principal Planning Officer katy.lycett@milton-keynes.gov.uk 07795 475584	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Woburn Sands Town Council
Planning Applications	
Application no: 22/00471/TPO	Proposal: T1 & T2 (Pines) - Prune to reduce lateral spread extending towards property by 2m, reduce spread over bungalow. Trees protected by Milton Keynes Tree Preservation Order PS/540/15/7 At: Park Farm Bungalow Cranfield Road Wavendon Milton Keynes MK17 8AS
Application no: 22/00451/DISCON	Proposal: Approval of details required by conditions 6 (surface water drainage scheme), 7 (boundary treatments) & 15 (finished floor/ground levels) of permission ref. 21/02723/FUL At: Land North And East of Blind Pond Lane Bow Brickhill Milton Keynes MK17 9JY
Application no: 22/00377/FUL	Proposal: Alteration to existing garage conversion to create new front entrance, and firstfloor extension above existing garage. New windows throughout the dwelling.

	At: 45 Station Road Bow Brickhill Milton Keynes MK17 9JU
Application no: 22/00382/FUL	Proposal: Single storey side/rear extension with relocated entrance and window to side elevation At: 51 Wood Street Woburn Sands Milton Keynes MK17 8PH
Application no: 22/00430/DISCON	Proposal: Approval of details required by conditions 7 [Surface Water Drainage Scheme] of permission ref. 17/03205/OUT At: 1 Elmswell Road Glebe Farm Milton Keynes MK17 8GZ
Application no: 22/00394/FUL	Proposal: Erection of a first floor rear extension and new door and windows to ground floor. At: 37 Wood Street Woburn Sands Milton Keynes MK17 8PH
Application no: 22/00176/FUL	Proposal: The demolition of existing single-storey rear extension and erection of part two storey, part single-storey rear extension (Resubmission of 21/01152/FUL) At: Warren Farm Cottages 1 Watling Street Little Brickhill Milton Keynes MK17 9LR
Application no: 22/00374/FUL	Proposal: External works including installation of doors and windows; creation of access ramp and steps; and featheredge boarding to elevations. At: Unit 2, Eagle Farm Cranfield Road Wavendon Milton Keynes MK17 8AU
Application no: 22/00373/FUL	Proposal: External works including relocation of door (x1); installation of additional door (x1) and windows (x5); installation of conservation rooflights (x4); featheredge boarding to elevations; installation of black rainwater goods; and pantile roofing. At: Unit 9 Eagle Farm Cranfield Road Wavendon Milton Keynes
Application no: 22/00337/DISCON	Proposal: Approval of details required by conditions 3 (estate roads and footways), 4 (cycle link), 5 (bicycle parking), 7 (EV charging points), 9 (remedial works), 10 (boundary treatments), 11 (hard and soft landscape works), 12 (finished floor and ground levels), 13 (site layout in relation to trees), 14 (tree survey and protection plan and arboricultural method statement), 17 (energy and climate statement), 18 (surface water drainage scheme) & 19 (surface water drainage system including SuDS) of permission ref. 20/02682/FUL At: Frosts Landscape

	Construction Newport Road Wavendon Milton Keynes MK17 8UZ
Application no: 22/00335/FUL	Proposal: The erection of a two-storey rear extension & a single storey side extension At: 9 Manor View Cross End Wavendon Milton Keynes MK17 8XR
Application no: 22/00252/FUL	Proposal: The erection of a single storey rear extension with flue involving demolition of existing conservatory and single storey rear extension and new roof on existing single storey rear extension. At: 29 Walton Road Wavendon Milton Keynes MK17 8LH



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>



Free health and wellbeing service offer for workplaces

The greatest asset any organisation has is its employees and looking after their health and wellbeing has never been more important. A healthy happy workforce improves productivity and

retention and reduces sickness rates and recruitment costs. In short, investing in employee health and wellbeing makes good business sense.

The Public Health Workplace Health team are pleased to announce the launch of a free health and wellbeing service offer for workplaces across Milton Keynes, Bedford and Central Bedfordshire!

You are invited to a launch event at the Magna Park Marketing suite on 10th May 2022.

In order to manage the event safely, we have allocated time slots and have limited attendees to 15 people per business. Please register your interest by 29th April 2022.

For more information and learn how to get involved, please contact sarah.james@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Funding for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee

MK Council has allocated £20,00 to support grants for local Platinum Jubilee events. Max grant available £500.

Contact peter.brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk



BIG Little GIVE 2022: Our New Food Campaign Coming Soon

Foodbank has launched a new food collection campaign BIG Little GIVE 2022. Right now, we are in the middle of the busiest winter the Food Bank has ever seen. Food prices and home energy costs are absolutely soaring and every single day we hear from dozens of people who can't keep their houses warm or who are struggling to feed themselves and their children.

In the 6 weeks of 2022 so far, we have given out more than 2,500 food parcels. This is around 10% up on last year – and rising. It also means that we are running dangerously low on our core food items. To address this, next week we are launching our BIG Little GIVE 2022 campaign.

Our ask? That as many people as possible GIVE a Little, to make a BIG difference
Our goal? To collect 33,333 of our desperately needed items throughout the month of March. It's as easy as 1,2,3! Donate just 1, 2 or 3 items and encourage everyone you know to do the same!

How? Check our shopping list Why not take a photo so it's handy at all times?

- Make a collection point in your office, classroom, church, gym or social group and ask everyone to bring donations. We'll have stickers we can send you – let me know if you want to reserve some
- Bring your donations to our warehouse or drop in supermarket collection points
- Let us know if you expect to have a lot and would like us to collect.

Please share as widely as you can with all your contacts, colleagues, friends and neighbours.



Locally - PC Rob Childs – 07974 970568 or robin.childs@thamesvalley.pnn.polic.uk -----

Governance arrangements in Wavendon

Agreed by MK Council on 16 February. The reorganisation order makes provision for the special election in Wavendon in May to the two seats. It will be run like a normal election: Notice of Election, Nomination forms and a Poll if there are more than two valid nominations. If there are only two valid nomination's then it is an uncontested election!

Peter Taylor (MK Committee Section) will write to the WPC clerk this week to confirm the arrangements.



The pre-election period runs from 28 March until after polls close on 5 May. Council staff have been advised of this period of 'heightened sensitivity' ahead of elections where we avoid proactive public engagement on politically sensitive topics (including sensitive and non-statutory consultations).

More information is available in the short briefing document attached. Please speak to Sharon Bridglalsingh, Director of Law and Governance or Peter Brown, Head of Democratic Services if you have any questions.



Record number of residents supported by council's care and response team

Milton Keynes Council's Care and Response team, who provide essential help to vulnerable people living independently, have recorded their busiest ever year.

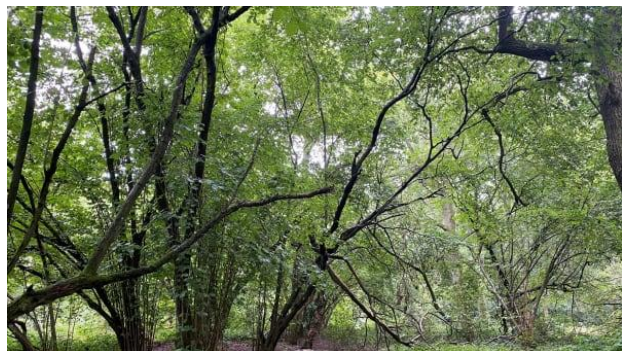
In 2021, the team received more than 28,000 phone calls and 183,000 alarm calls from local people in need of help – up by almost a fifth on pre-pandemic levels.

The 20 strong Care and Response team help thousands of local people stay independent in their own homes. The team are trained as control room operators and mobile wardens. As well as giving advice and reassurance over the phone, they're often called on to alert emergency services, contact a family member, or visit a caller at home if they've had a fall or other difficulties. Last year, responders went out almost 9,000 times and assisted 1,842 people who had fallen over. The team also made more than 54,000 phone calls which includes welfare checks on residents.

The Care and Response service also supplies equipment including alarm units, personal pendants, fall sensors, medication reminders, and bogus caller buttons.

Local resident, 102-year-old Mrs H said: "I am very happy with the service, thank you for coming to see me. I always know you are there should I need you - I just press my button and someone comes."

Local people can find out more about the services on offer by calling 01908 222616 or emailing careandresponse@milton-keynes.gov.uk.



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



Big Doorstep Give

Do you have a few hours spare over the weekend of 25th – 27th March?

Do you have a car? Are you fit and healthy and able to carry out some heavy lifting?

Could you help the Food Bank collect food in your area?

I hope you have heard of our BIG Little GIVE campaign and our aim to collect 33,333 desperately-needed food items in March.

To end the campaign with a bang, we are looking for volunteers across Milton Keynes and surrounding areas to help collect donations of food from doorsteps.

This will involve:

- Signing up to be one of our representatives in your estate, village or town
- Committing to a two - three hour window for collections over the weekend of Friday 25th – Sunday 27th March
- Helping us promote the collection and encouraging participation by sharing on your local Facebook groups, church newsletters, Whatsapp groups or any other way you can think of!
- Driving from door to door to pick up pre-arranged collections and post 'thank yous' through the door
- Delivering the food to our warehouse in Kiln Farm.

If you are interested, in the first instance please email me back with your contact details, the estate, town or village you could cover and your availability that weekend. We will then send you a form to fill in to register as a volunteer.

The East West Railway Company (EWR Co)

First meeting of local consultation group took place on 15 February 2022

If you have any questions about the Group or the meeting, please email us at 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.figc-fis.eu/>

Specialist Provision for Children and Young People with Education, Health and Care Plans

An 8 week informal consultation has begun, running from the 11 February to 8 April 2022. The consultation is seeking views on five options for developing further specialist provision places for Children and Young People with Education, Health and Care Plans.

The proposals are:

- The Development of a new primary and a new secondary Complex Needs Schools with a specialism in ASC
- The Development of additional SEMH places at existing SEMH schools
- The Development of a High Complex Needs Provision
- The Review and Development of Communication and Interaction Resources Provision
- The Development of additional options for post 16 / 18 provision

The Council has a legal duty to ensure there are sufficient places for all children and young people, including those with Education, Health and Care Plan's (EHC) plans and these proposals are to ensure sufficiency of specialist places for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans.

This consultation seeks views from those directly involved as to whether they are in agreement with the proposal. Please read the linked documents on the web page and use the online form to respond.

Please see link to consultation on our website here: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/681>.



Further details on the charging points can be found at www.connectedkerb.com/milton-keynes

The work is part of Milton Keynes Council's climate change commitment, to encourage a transition to greener transport and improve local air quality.

No change to existing parking restrictions are planned for the moment but MKC will monitor the availability of spaces as the project develops and respond to further local growth in electric vehicles and increases in demand.

Helping long term unemployed into work

Did you know that we help 14 long-term unemployed local people into work every month? We've cut the average time people are searching for a job from six months to just a couple of weeks.

Colleagues from the MKC neighbourhood employment team help residents enrol in training and education, plus give practical job-seeking advice with one-to-one sessions and access to a computer. MKC also give specialist support to people struggling with mental health and have a service for over 50s. The council has recently funded a new project through our Economic Recovery Plan so young people can train for free to get an essential qualification to begin a career in construction. If you'd like to get in touch with the team, please email nep@milton-keynes.gov.uk.



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

Safer MK
Community Safety Partnership

MK
milton keynes council

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_1U9BNglURjMyUIdeU0INNIRESedPMEhZT0VYVVAwUC4u



Have your say on the way social rented housing is allocated in Milton Keynes. We’re consulting on our Draft Housing Allocation Scheme. Have your say before 10 April.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=APcl1dKKd0aPljbhwL6dg_TiyHrawRGofAPAF-IEKBUNepaSVA4RE5EVDFSMEIYOVkyRIY1RVY1OS4u

Large Scale Improvement Programme for MK’s Grid Roads

A huge makeover of the city’s grid roads continues from this week as part of a long-term programme called ‘Golden Grids’ to improve the look and feel of the network.

Starting with the two main grid roads through the city, sections of both the H5 Portway and H8 Standing Way will receive intensive repairs and maintenance over the next few weeks.

The preliminary site checks were completed last month with vegetation clearance starting on 14 February. The extensive works are being coordinated between the Council’s Highways and Environment teams and will include:

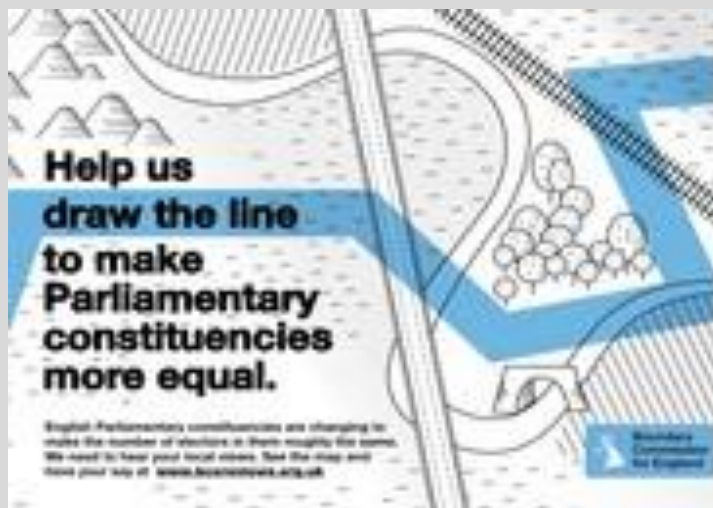
- Removing weeds, cutting back overhanging vegetation
- Repairing, cleaning, and replacing damaged signs
- Removing clutter and litter picking
- Refreshing road markings
- Filling potholes and patching road defects

- Cleaning road gullies
- Tidying up the roundabouts including painting the brick edges
- Fixing streetlights
- Removing graffiti
- Repairing damaged grass verges and reseeding where necessary
- Coppicing or removing trees to keep them healthy
- Replacing missing or damaged bollards
- Sweeping the roads

The 'Golden Grid' works will start on the eastern side of the H5 and H8 throughout February and March and will complete in April on the western side.

These works are in addition to other improvements that began earlier in the year, repairing signs and removing overgrown vegetation on roundabouts across the grid road network. Any road closures or diversions associated with these works are listed on one.network

Parliamentary Boundary Review



The second stage consultation on revised boundary proposals opens on 22 February and will run until 4 April. Proposed new constituencies can be viewed at www.bcereviews.org.uk. You can also speak at a public hearing in your region - find your nearest hearing and book your attendance at bit.ly/bcepublichearings.

The 2023 Boundary Review will rebalance the number of electors in each constituency, and the number of constituencies in England will increase to 543. Follow [@BCEReviews](https://twitter.com/BCEReviews) on twitter to keep updated.

Table 2.3 Devolution Framework

Level 3 – A single institution or County Council with a directly elected mayor (DEM), across a FEA or whole county area

Level 2 – A single institution or County Council without a DEM, across a FEA or whole county area

Level 1 – Local authorities working together across a FEA or whole county area e.g. through a joint committee

Function	Detail	L1	L2
Strategic role in delivering services	Host for Government functions best delivered at a strategic level involving more than one local authority e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategies	✓	✓
	Opportunity to pool services at a strategic level	✓	✓
	Opportunity to adopt innovative local proposals to deliver action on climate change and the UK's Net Zero targets	✓	✓
Supporting local businesses	LEP functions including hosting strategic business voice		✓
Local control of sustainable transport	Control of appropriate local transport functions e.g. local transport plans*		✓
	Defined key route network*		
	Priority for new rail partnerships with Great British Railways – influencing local rail offer, e.g. services and stations		
	Ability to introduce bus franchising		✓
	Consolidation of existing core local transport funding for local road maintenance and smaller upgrades into a multi-year integrated settlement		
Investment spending	UKSPF planning and delivery at a strategic level		✓
	Long-term investment fund, with an agreed annual allocation		
Giving adults the skills for the labour market	Devolution of Adult Education functions and the core Adult Education Budget		✓
	Providing input into Local Skills Improvement Plans		✓
	Role in designing and delivering future contracted employment programmes		
Local control of infrastructure decisions	Ability to establish Mayoral Development Corporations (with consent of host local planning authority)		
	Devolution of locally-led brownfield funding		
	Strategic partnerships with Homes England across the Affordable Housing Programme and brownfield funding		
	Homes England compulsory purchase powers (held concurrently)		✓
Keeping the public safe and healthy	Mayoral control of Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) functions where boundaries align^		
	Clear defined role in local resilience*		✓
	Where desired offer MCAs a duty for improving the public's health (concurrently with local authorities)		
Financing local initiatives for residents and business	Ability to introduce mayoral precepting on council tax*		
	Ability to introduce supplement on business rates (increases subject to ballot)		

* refers to functions which are only applicable to combined authorities

^ refers to functions which are currently only applicable to mayoral combined authorities

Table 2.1 Levelling Up Missions

Focus Area	Mission
<i>Boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector, especially in those places where they are lagging</i>	
Living Standards	By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each area containing a globally competitive city, and the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.
Research & Development (R&D)	By 2030, domestic public investment in R&D outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40%, and over the Spending Review period by at least one third. This additional government funding will seek to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.
Transport Infrastructure	By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.
Digital Connectivity	By 2030, the UK will have nationwide gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for the majority of the population.
<i>Spread opportunities and improve public services, especially in those places where they are weakest</i>	
Education	By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.
Skills	By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high quality-skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.
Health	By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy (HLE) between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 HLE will rise by five years.
Well-being	By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.

Focus Area	Mission
<i>Restore a sense of community, local pride and belonging, especially in those places where they have been lost</i>	
Pride in Place	By 2030, pride in place, such as people's satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.
Housing	By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas. ³⁰⁵
Crime	By 2030, homicide, serious violence and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst affected areas.
<i>Empower local leaders and communities, especially in those places lacking local agency</i>	
Local Leadership	By 2030, every part of England that wants one will have a devolution deal with powers at or approaching the highest level of devolution and a simplified, long-term funding settlement.



Walton High Careers Fair

Walton High, one of our local secondary schools, is planning a Careers Fair for Friday 1st April, 8am-1pm.

They are seeking local employers to inspire, raise aspirations, help develop the talent pipeline or are recruiting.

For more information and/or to express an interest in attending or supporting the event, please contact careers@mket.org.uk