



Little Brickhill Parish Council

Update from your Unitary Councillor – September 2025



Welcome back after the summer break.

It's time to contemplate what we can expect over the coming few months in terms of government announcements and how they will impact our local community. I was reading a piece in a national newspaper over the summer setting just how the development of Universal Studios near Kempston Hardwick will fundamentally alter our local economy here in MK transforming it into very much of a Leisure based economy offering both opportunities and challenges for us all in the coming decade.

The 2050 Local Plan (MK2050)

MK City Council comments that in the light of the many responses to the Regulation 18 plan and ongoing evidence base work, they have moved the consultation back to November - December 2025. A delegated decision to consider approving the final draft (Regulation 19) consultation and the subsequent submission of the MKCP is planned for 28 October 2025. The city council still intend to submit the plan in March 2026.

We can expect an announcement from MK City Council in late September / early October and of particular interest to Little Brickhill will be ...

1. Has the council retained Levant Gate as an expansion site and if so for how many houses and other 'infrastructure'.
2. Will that include a primary school and if so, how might that impact the long established relationship with High Ash.

3. What designation might the city council place on the Greensand Ridge to protect its integrity and amenity value.
4. Will the expansion areas include the expansion site south and west of Bow Brickhill be included and for how many more houses.

East West Rail

The government has announced that it will be making an announcement (via the East West Rail company) in November regarding much more detail relating to the project and the associated infrastructure.

It maintains that it is aware of the concerns of local people regarding the future of local stations, the position of local stations, possible closures of level crossings and the development of bridges etc. However, being aware and listening to local people may be two different things as the terms of the Infrastructure and Planning Bill make their way towards becoming legislation ...

The Infrastructure and Planning Bill

The government maintains that the purpose of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (PIB) is to speed up and streamline the delivery of new homes and critical infrastructure projects across England and Wales by reforming the planning system. Key aims include accelerating housing approvals, minimizing delays for infrastructure, enhancing planning transparency, creating a nature restoration levy, and strengthening the powers of development corporations. The bill also seeks to address issues like water and nutrient neutrality, which have stalled development in certain areas.

In effect, the Planning and Infrastructure Bill will significantly reduce opportunities for public consultation on major infrastructure projects by removing the statutory pre-application consultation requirements for Development Consent Orders (DCOs), which include projects like roads, railways, and windfarms. This change aims to streamline the planning process, speed up delivery, and reduce opportunities for legal challenges, though it has raised concerns about reduced environmental protections and democratic accountability.

What this means in real terms is fewer opportunities to comment on planning issues, especially strategic planning issues such as East West Rail and the Local Plan.



A5 Planned Safety Improvements

We have heard from Adrian Clothier Engineering Team Manager. He reports that National Highways have now provided a final layout of the intended works at the southbound off-slip, as per the attached drawings Below and attached to this report)

The planned start of works will be 29th September and will take approximately 4 weeks to complete. Any questions regarding the delivery of the works, including traffic management and closures, please contact @Mohammed Rahman.

Adrian comments that if you would like any further information, please do not hesitate to contact him at Adrian Clothier Adrian.Clothier@nationalhighways.co.uk .

Adrian Clothier Engineering Team Manager - Road Safety
Planning & Development
National Highways | OpsEast | Woodlands | Manton Lane | Bedford | MK41 7LW



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Delays

The National Infrastructure and Services Transformation Authority has issued their annual report for 2024/25 having reviewed progress on Government projects.

The DfT spent £175.3m on East West Rail against a budget of £90.2m - a 94.3% overspend. EWR was assessed as amber with significant issues to be resolved and slower progress than anticipated and uncertainties about deliverability and funding from the Treasury. The next stages from Bletchley to Cambridge are costed at £3.97b with completion in 2030 although a Development Consent Order needs to be obtained.

The current scheme from Bicester to Milton Keynes spent £125m against a budget of £118m. There are concerns over the delays to the start of services. This was due to the delay in awarding the contract to run the services to Chiltern Railways and for agreement with the trade unions on the operation of the service which has delayed driver training. It is hoped services can still start in 2025.

(Summarised in New Civil Engineer magazine 20/8/25)



**Hidden Toil Behind Shiny Fronts:
experiences of living in a new housing area with little income
OU Research Report published in July 2025**

In a bid to resolve the UK's housing crisis, the government is planning to build 1.5 million homes by 2029 and establish up to 12 New Towns before the next election. The OU sponsored research in Milton Keynes, one of the fastest growing cities and one that is often hailed as one of the most successful New Towns, reveals that new housing areas offer a two-tiered experience with low-income residents often drawing the short straw. The research draws on experiences of residents in Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm South, amongst others.

To avoid the city bursting at its seams and new housing areas trapping low-income residents in a life of precarity rather than move them out of it, the report calls on national government and local authorities to work with developers and other stakeholders to:

- Prioritise the establishment of vital services, including schools, health facilities and shops, to serve new and existing residents within reasonable distance;
- Ensure that public transport links are established as soon as new housing areas are being developed to offer affordable and viable ways of travelling around the city;
- Construct community buildings with ample capacity to meet communities' needs, and ensure temporary facilities are provided until permanent facilities are available;
- Invest in community development to build an inclusive and thriving community;
- Hold housing associations to account for lack of responsiveness or inadequate response to faults or complaints;

- Meaningfully enable the participation of voluntary, community organisations and resident groups before and throughout the development of new housing areas to understand the needs of all residents, and especially those on lower incomes.

A copy of the full report is attached.



MK City Council Local Transport Plan

Officers have been preparing the new Local Transport Plan 5 document for the last 18 months, in response to a Department for Transport (DfT) call for all local authorities to update their transport plans in the light of new national focus on public transport, active travel and the decarbonisation of transport.

The draft document has been developed in the context of the Council's own plans and policies, including MK:2050 Strategy, the Sustainability Strategy and the Local Plan and in the context of wider national guidance on transport policy, such as Decarbonising Transport, and the emerging Integrated Transport Strategy.

The LTP has an extensive evidence base, which sets out our current baseline in terms of modal share and use of the transport system in MK and has also been informed by an extensive public consultation exercise which commenced in Summer 2024 which received over 5,000 responses covering all aspects of our transport system. This information, along with the councils own MK strategies and national policy guidance have been used to inform the suggested policies in the LTP5 document.

The consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks and will start in the first week of September.

Details attached.



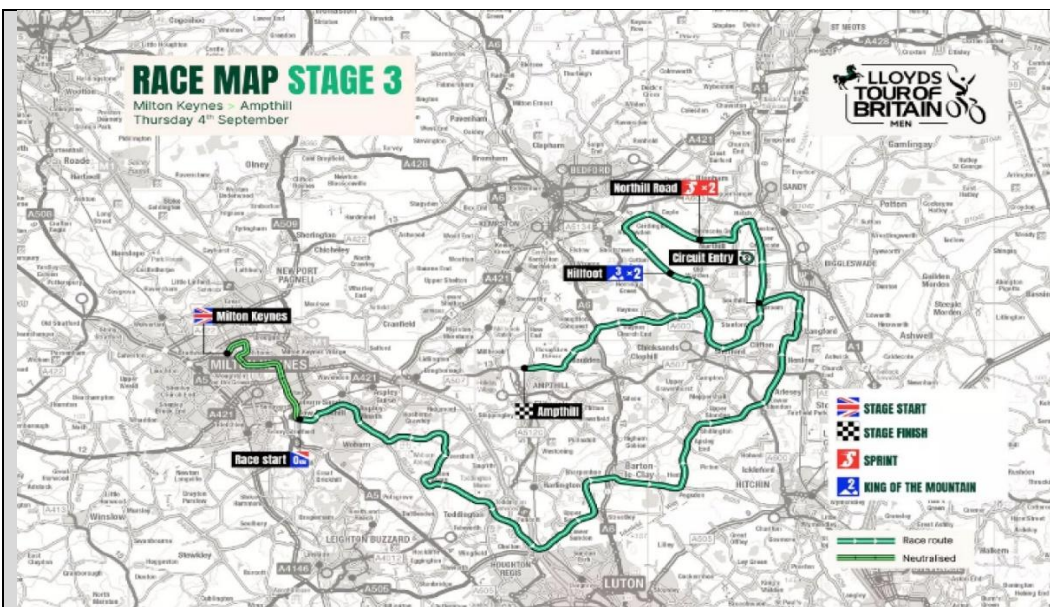
We are testing
Emergency Alerts
on mobile phones
across the UK on Sunday
7 September at 3pm.

Find out more at
[gov.uk/alerts](https://www.gov.uk/alerts)



On Sunday 7 September at around 3pm, anyone with a mobile phone in the UK will be sent a test emergency alert by Government. Beyond the tests, the alert system will sound when there's a risk to life, such as extreme weather. It will be a loud, siren-like warning on your mobile with details of the risk and instructions on what to do. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-emergency-alert-test-to-be-held-on-7th-september>

It is possible to opt out of the alerts. It's not generally recommended but might be useful for some people, e.g. those living with an abusive partner who keep a secret secondary mobile – there's details on how to do so here. <https://www.gov.uk/alerts/opting-out>



Britain Cycle Race

The Lloyds Tour of Britain is the largest free-to-attend sporting spectacle in the UK. Thursday 4 September will see stage three of Britain's biggest professional cycle race starting in Milton Keynes; a 122.8-kilometre (76.4-mile) leg from Milton Keynes to Ampthill, that will take in Woburn, Toddington, Barton-le-Clay, and Shefford, and include a spectator friendly double-loop around Northill and Old Warden.

Stage three will get underway from Milton Keynes' Midsummer Boulevard at 11:30, where special activities will be happening for spectators, crossing Campbell Park before heading south on grid roads, leaving the H7 Chaffron Way for a long stretch on the V10 Brickhill Street, passing the Open University headquarters and the Oracle Red Bull Racing Formula One technology campus before racing to Woburn Sands and on into Central Bedfordshire. The stage finishes in Ampthill town centre at around 14:40.

In celebration of the Tour, local cycling firm Madison is offering two adult and two child Ridgeback bikes worth over £1,700.

To enter, you'll need to share your favourite photo of cycling in MK here:
www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk/cycling-photography-competition/.



Heritage Open Days Milton Keynes

Free Events 12 - 21 September 2025

A reminder that 2025 is the 19th year that the Milton Keynes area has celebrated Heritage Open Days. In 2006 there were 15 events held across MK – this year we have 250 events to showcase our distinctive and world class heritage, arts and culture. The national theme this year is Architecture, and this icon highlights the 109 events.

From the 12th to the 21st of September there are TEN DAYS of unmissable events taking place, including many activities for children and families. There are opportunities to come along to exhibitions, workshops, walks and tours, open days, craft events and performances. Suitable for all ages. And all events will be FREE.

For further details visit: Events Archives - Living Archive

<https://www.livingarchive.org.uk/events/category/events>

Cllr David Hopkins - Representing Little Brickhill at MK City Council (September 2025)