

Little Brickhill Snippets

February 2024



A coroner is calling for clearer signs at a road junction where two women died in November.

Sean Cummings, assistant coroner for Milton Keynes, has taken the unusual step of issuing a Prevention of Future Deaths report before a full inquest has been held into the tragedy.

He has done so after receiving reports of several other near misses at the same spot on the “off” slip road from the A5 at Little Brickhill in north Buckinghamshire.

On November 20, 38-year-old Amal Mohamed Ahmed was killed when driving her Peugeot 208 and apparently using her satnav to take her to Queensway, Bletchley.

She turned onto the slip road and drove down in the wrong direction, colliding head-on with an oncoming Volkswagen Tiguan.

Ms Ahmed died at the scene and her passenger was critically injured. The driver of the Volkswagen died later in the John Radcliffe Hospital.

In his PFD report to the Chief Executive of Milton Keynes City Council and the Chief Executive of National Highways Dr Cummings said he had been informed that although there were “No Entry” signs they were either badly positioned or did not seem to relate to the slip road.

The area is also unlit.

“After the collision attending police, officers saw three further vehicles perform exactly the same manoeuvre as Ms Ahmed and attempt to travel down the slip road in the wrong direction,” he said.

“Local residents have contacted police and complained that it is a very common occurrence for drivers to mistakenly travel down the slip road in the wrong direction.”

He said the slip road was long, allowing vehicles to build up considerable speed.

Dr Cummings said that although large temporary “No Entry” signs were placed at the top of the slip road after the tragedy they were soon removed because the original signs were said to comply with the necessary regulations.

“That seems wholly irrelevant to me because drivers are clearly not seeing the signs because of the large numbers who mistakenly drive the wrong way onto the slip road,” he said.

“In my opinion, consideration should be given to alternative arrangements to prevent vehicles entering and travelling along the slip road in the wrong direction.”

The authorities have until February 14 to respond to the coroner’s concerns, either explaining what action will be taken or outlining why it is felt that nothing need be done.



Good contact points in Highways at MKCC

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Good contact Points in Waste and landscape Management

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Thames Valley Police

Colleagues

In relation to the recent fatal accident.

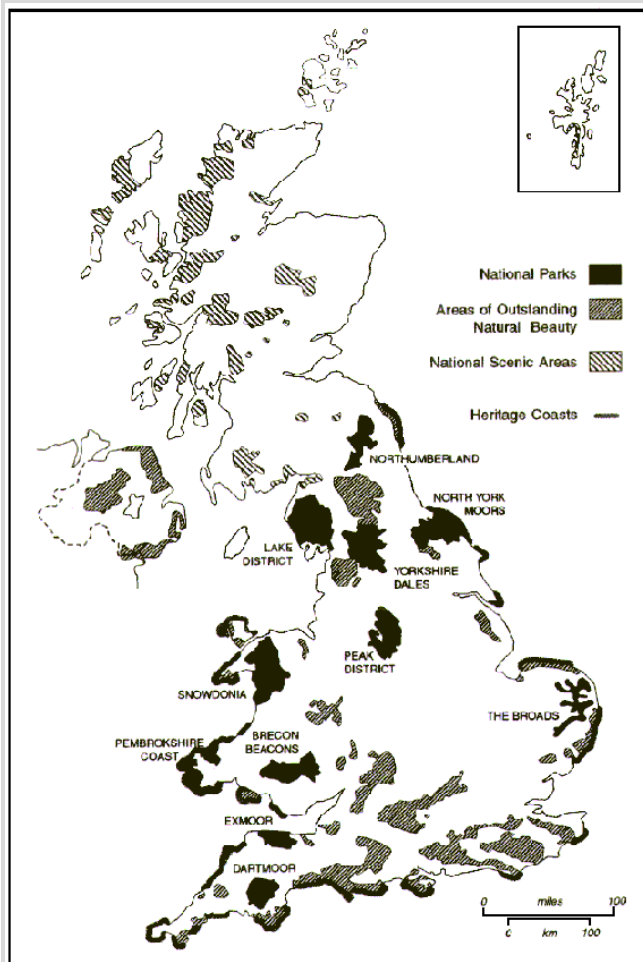
I am a member of the Overview and Scrutiny management Committee at MKCC.

The Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner will be attending the next meeting of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee on 13 February 2024 to present their annual update to the Council on Policing in Milton Keynes.

In order for the Chief Constable to prepare the right information, if you have any particular concerns or issues, you would like him to address specifically in his presentation, can you please let either Roz or me know by noon on 5 February at the latest, so that we can pass them on in good time.

If you have any questions or issues, you would like me to raise relating to Little Brickhill please let me know and I will submit them. The session is designed to allow members to hear what he and the Police and Crime Commissioner have to say and to ask them questions.

Save the date: Landscape Designations Consultation



Milton Keynes City Council is reviewing its historical Areas of Attractive Landscape. These were a local landscape designation removed from the Local Plan in 2011.

The MKCC consultants LUC are looking at the evidence to reinstate local landscape designations within Milton Keynes. MKCC is seeking your valuable local knowledge and feedback on the evidence base and proposed new local landscape designations.

This event on Thursday 29 February at 18.30 will launch the consultation for the new local landscape designations and provide background information on the project and its current progress.

More details to follow.

Call for more protection for stunning woodland walking route in Milton Keynes



It should be designated an official 'Area of Attractive Landscape' (AAL)

The city's Conservative leader is calling for the reinstatement of Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL) status for a stunning woodland walk.

Greensand Ridge runs through Bow Brickhill, Little Brickhill and Woburn Sands and is a popular route for walkers.

Cllr David Hopkins has called for the Leader of Milton Keynes City Council to reinstate the protective status for the Ridge areas and its surrounds.

He hopes that this status, or an even stronger set of powers, can be included as part of the current review of the New City Local Plan, which will dictate planning in Milton Keynes until 2050.

Historically, Milton Keynes enjoyed the relative protection for the environment provided by two Areas of Attractive Landscape – one for the Brickhill's and one for the Ouse Valley. But the last AAL designation for both areas appeared in the 2005 Local Plan, which expired in 2015.

The current Local Plan, Plan:MK 2050, has no designated AAL's as the council had moved into a criteria-based approach for landscape protection by then.

Within the 2005 Local Plan, the AAL area covered the countryside south of Station Road Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands Road, plus areas within the Ouse Valley. Settlements such as Bow Brickhill village and Woburn Sands were not at that time include in the protected area.

Cllr Hopkins is now lobbying to see a return to, and an extension of, the 2005 policy to protect the integrity and visual importance of the ridge together with land that immediately surrounds it.

He is seeking to strengthen such a designation under a review and renewal of what is known as Policy S11 by returning to and extending the scope of the protection via changes to the new Plan for MK.

He notes that MKCC has quietly commissioned a study which is currently being carried out for the New City Plan consultants. This study is considering refreshing landscape designations in the new

plan and will report back on the opportunities to consider designating new or refined AALs, having first considered the Landscape Character Types identified in the MKCC commissioned Landscape Character Study of 2022.

Cllr Hopkins is calling for a planned series of workshops to involve the local community in this debate.

Cllr David Hopkins

2 February 2024