



Unitary Councillors Report to Little Brickhill – November 2024

Update from your Unitary Councillor – Cllr David Hopkins

Woburn Road - Fly Tipping

Following concerns raised by and requests from residents I raised the following issues relating to the cul de sac Woburn Road. The issues relate to antisocial behaviour and repeated fly tipping incidents.

1. Can CCTV signs be erected to give the impression that cameras are in place monitoring the area most used for dumping?
2. Even better, can real (or even dummy) CCTV cameras be installed?
3. Could MKC (Highways Division) consider installing a raised barrier at the point beyond the access to the final property on the road with keys for emergency and utility services?
4. Residents also report that people use the site for other activities including allegedly smoking drugs, and that information has been forwarded to our local TVP team to investigate

The Head of Environmental Crime and the Assistant Director - Environment, Waste and Commissioning have responded that they would undertake a full review and get back to me as soon as that was completed.

Pete Roberts – MKCC Manager Environmental Crime reports *We have looked at this before and have established that there is no lamp column anywhere along this remote lane, this prevents us from using our normal CCTV cameras.*

We have always said that we would not put signs up stating that there is CCTV or using dummy cameras as there was a successful case in a London Borough years ago when a victim successfully sued the local authority for damages after thinking that the assault on her was being captured on CCTV and it was a dummy.

We will discuss with our contractor at looking at a battery-operated covert camera and the possibilities of this being installed. As this is a covert tactic, we will not inform anyone when it goes in.

I have looked on google earth and can see an unused pole just before the end of the lane that we will place a no-fly tipping sign on. Hopefully we will get this installed this week.

Pete Roberts - Environmental Crime Manager (Environmental Crime Unit)

I will keep the village updated.

Watling Street overhanging trees causing concern on land owned by Woburn Estates

I recently attempted to contact Matthew Neilson at Woburn Estates who in the past has dealt with these issues quickly and effectively only to discover that he has now left the business. Matthew's replacement is Dominic Smith, who started with the Estate on 11th November. However, in the meantime, Karen Rance (the estates administration manager) has arranged for her forestry manager to inspect and take any appropriate action.

Email: Karen.Rance@bedfordestates.com



Local Plan – MK2050

Thank you to the many who copied me in on their responses to MK City Council and its future plans for further expansion as set out in its Plan MK2050. These include plans for 1500 homes in South Bow Brickhill and 1250 in Levant Gate, in Little Brickhill parish. I particular thank you to the resident who led the formal response from the village and the other (expert planning) resident who penned the detailed response that followed.

The overall tone of your responses in relation to the proposed expansion site at Levante Gate was that the site is illogical and inappropriate for development. It performs poorly against the Council's own sustainability appraisal, does not meet its own planning objectives, and is contrary to national planning guidance, not least because the proposed development cannot conceivably contribute to or enhance the natural local environment or protect and enhance valued landscapes (in fact, it would positively detract from them). The negative impact on the Greensand Ridge was also highlighted.

Let's hope MK City Council is listening.

The A5 slip road

National Highways has prepared a detailed scheme with drawings which at present they have asked not to be shared widely. As soon as I have the ok, I will ensure you all get to see the detail of what is being proposed.

National Highways met with Stuart Proffitt (MKCC Director of Environment) in October to discuss the proposals about other related speed management and safety matters. In the meantime, I have asked

MKCC for some feedback on the likelihood of the council carrying out resurfacing ahead of road marking improvements.

Once all the interested parties have an agreed layout between National Highways, Thames Valley Police and MK City Council they will need to confirm availability of funding to deliver the scheme, along with timescales. There will at that stage be a stakeholder engagement exercise involving the Parish Council and local members and any revisions that may result from the feedback from all stakeholders.

Personally, I have to say that I am rather underwhelmed by their proposals thus far, and I am not entirely convinced that this will solve the observed problems that we are all too aware of. Although residents will of course make up their own minds about that when the drawings are made public.

Therefore, I am lobbying for a 'stronger' solution here as best can be achieved – although at the end of the day MK City Council and we as parish and city councillors are only consultees and National Highways are not obliged to take our comments on board.



I will keep the village informed.

Street Lighting Repairs

Whilst I am always happy to report a faulty or broken streetlight the quickest way to report the fault is to use the Report It option on the MK Council website homepage <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/faulty-or-damaged-street-lights> to report any issue to us. You can also call 01908 252353.

Remember to include the reference number from the lamppost so we can find it easily to inspect it.

Also include a description of the fault such as light flickering, light on during the day, damaged street light column, wires exposed, column door missing or damaged. It helps the MK City Council inspectors to find and log the repairs.



HOUSEHOLD SUPPORT FUND

As you know the Government have announced the extension of the Household Support Fund. The additional funds over winter will help with continued support for food and fuel, whilst the team also continue to work on proactive benefit take up, including pension credit. There is not a specific funding route for pensioners facing hardship, they can use the 'Local Welfare application form' that can be found here: Household support fund | Milton Keynes City Council

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/benefits/household-support-fund>

Proactive benefit take-up campaigns continue. Working with Policy in Practice, the MKCC team are working on a database script that will help us to identify those that missed out on the Winter Fuel Allowance due to earning 1p to £1,000 over the threshold to qualify. This report will assist the council to contact customers to support them with energy vouchers that can be paid direct to their supplier.



Could you, or someone you know, be missing out on

Pension Credit?

Pension Credit tops up pension income and can help with day-to-day living costs. If you are over State Pension age, you may be eligible to claim Pension Credit, even if you own your home or have savings.

You can claim as soon as you reach the qualifying age, which is now State Pension age.

Pension Credit is worth, on average, £3,900 per year and unlocks additional support including help with Council tax, NHS dental care and for those over 75, a free TV licence.

Around a third of those eligible for Pension Credit are not claiming it and could be missing out on extra money each week. Make sure you're not missing out!

Need help claiming Pension Credit? - Citizens Advice and Age UK can support you

Citizens Advice provide free, impartial advice on eligibility, assist with completing application forms, and ensure you have all the necessary documents. Staff can guide you through the entire process, helping you secure the financial support you deserve.

<https://www.miltonkeynescab.org.uk/get-advice/>

SEMK Planning Application

The agenda for Planning Committee, Thursday 7th November 2024, 7.00 pm have been published.

To see the publicly available information, follow the link: Agenda details on public web site.

<https://milton-keynes.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=7300>

Meeting venue: Council Chamber, Civic, 1 Saxon Gate East, Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ

Please note: If an Agenda has exempt documents, you will only be able to view them on the Intranet or on the ModernGov app if you have exempt papers access enabled.

The following items are included in the agenda:

- | No. | Item |
|-----|----------------------------------|
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 2 | Apologies |
| 3 | Minutes |
| 4 | Disclosures of Interest |
| 5 | Public Participation: Questions: |
| 6 | Planning Applications |

6(a) 22/00524/OUTEIS - Land forming part of the South East Milton Keynes Strategic Urban Extension, South of Milton Keynes, North of Bow Brickhill, North of Bow Brickhill Road and Woburn Sands Road, Milton Keynes

6(b) 22/02528/OUT - Land west of Woburn Sands and South of Wavendon, Newport Road, Wavendon, Milton Keynes

Police & Crime Commissioner (see paper attached)

Voluntary groups connected with MK among charities set to get cash in second round of this year's police Community Fund.

A group that installs trauma kits around Milton Keynes, a local children's charity and two young crime help organisations are among a raft of bodies that have received money in the latest Police & Crime Commissioner awards.

Over £200,000 has been made available to community projects supporting local Thames Valley Police priorities. The Community Fund provides funds to voluntary groups that help to achieve the objectives of the PCC's Police and Criminal Justice Plan. Cash for the scheme comes from the sale of stolen property that cannot be returned to its original owner.

Here's a bright idea...

Leave a light on!

As the nights draw in
is your home secure?

- Close and lock all your doors and windows when going out or to bed
- Keep valuables out of sight
- Don't advertise that you're out invest in a light timer switch
- Register your valuables with www.immobilise.com
- For crime updates sign up to www.thamesvalleyalert.co.uk

 **THAMES VALLEY POLICE**

www.thamesvalley.police.uk

East West Rail

A consultation on the "next stages" of East West Rail will be launched in November, the government has announced.

The government said: “We will deliver East West Rail to drive growth between Oxford, Milton Keynes and Cambridge, with the first services running between Oxford, Bletchley and Milton Keynes next year, and trains between Oxford and Bedford running from 2030.”

The government is therefore committing to the East West Rail project to Cambridge, and has announced funding to upgrade the Marston Vale Line so that services will run between Oxford and Bedford from 2030. Consultation for the next stage of the project will begin during November, having been postponed during the pre-election period.

Further details in the budget document reveal the consultation will be launched next month by the Secretary of State for Transport.

“This scheme will unlock land for housing and laboratories across the region, particularly around Cambridge, supporting the world-leading life sciences sector,” the government says.

The railway, which will connect Oxford to Cambridge via new stations at Cambourne and Tempsford, near St Neots, is intended to form a crucial link to boost the Oxford-Cambridge Regional Link.



Modern Railways (11/24) Reports

Confirms Calvert waste site is due to be rail connected from Claydon Junc by early 2028 with track bed prep underway. 2 tracks to be installed at the site. Space for 2 tracks for EWR is provided and one track will be re-laid to Quainton Rd. It is hoped the 5 further miles to Aylesbury will be re-laid to save costs.

Chiltern Rlys has initial DfT approval to refurb their Mk3 stock but final business case is needed. They would, however, prefer to use the ex TPE Mk5 stock. Decision needed by early 2025.

Two of six Class 195 units have arrived although their contract for EWR is not yet confirmed!

EWR is now due to start in 8/25 with an hourly service going half hourly in 12/25.

21/10/25 test runs seem to have gone well with few delays (or disruption to other trains). Chiltern used units 168323 and 168328. GW ran a class 800 unit. Bletchley to Winslow took 8 mins and a further 11 mins to Bicester Village -try that in a car or bus! MKC to Oxford 48 to 58 mins while target was 44 mins, Most test trips were non-stop and some ran early. 14 services ran inc 4 Bletchley-Bicester, More were due to run on 22/10.

It is unclear if Bicester MoD services ran on 21st, (Mod sites are served as required by GBRF with six paths allocated). Likewise, the stone depot at Oxford Parkway was not served.

See also

<https://eeh-prod-media.s3.amazonaws.com/documents/EEH>

[Main Line Priorities Rail Study.pdf](#)



What is Elasmac – see ...

Elastomac is a rubberized, waterproof liquid used to repair potholes, cracks, gaps, and other surface defects in roads:

Material - Made from recycled materials like road surface shavings and car tires, Elastomac is a sustainable alternative to traditional asphalt repairs.

<https://www.miltonkeynes.co.uk/news/people/milton-keyes-city-council-to-invest-in-new-technology-to-fix-more-potholes-4678419>



Free source of information on starting and running a business, and all aspects of being self-employed, marketing or industry information.

COBRA is a continually expanding business encyclopaedia covering all aspects of setting up, running and growing a business.

Quick and easy access to thousands of factsheets, detailed guides on hundreds of small business trades and professions plus practical 'How To' guides, market summaries and information about trade events, business support and funding.

COBRA is currently offering remote access to library members. Use your library card number to log in where it asks for your ticket number. Membership numbers allocated when you join online will not allow access, but it's easy to transfer your online membership to a library card - ask a member of staff when you next visit one of the libraries.

For more information click here <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries/learn-research/elibrary>



Planning Pathways

https://mycouncil.milton-keynes.gov.uk/service/Planning_Pathways

A reminder that Planning Pathways has now replaced the generic planning enquiries mailbox. This is a positive step, and it will help customers access the information they need quickly and consistently. For example, Planning Pathways can present relevant information to help customers understand whether they need planning permission for an extension.

Many of the enquires we receive are looking for informal planning advice, but as the Local Planning Authority we are not able to do this. The MKCC pre-Application service is available for those applicants who want more formal advice.



Highways Gully Cleaning

Since the start of September, MKCC tankers have been busy cleaning and clearing road drains in many areas to make sure they are working as efficiently as possible. Any fully blocked or slow draining gullies will be logged for further investigation.

Each month MKCC will include the next list of areas that tankers will be visiting in Councillors' News. You can also find out more about road gullies and flooding on the MKCC website.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways/road-gullies-and-flooding/gullies-and-flooding-highway>



Mayor's Christmas Card Competition 2024

Another reminder that the mayor, Councillor Marie Bradburn, will be running a Christmas Card design competition to find the perfect design to send to colleagues and associates this Christmas.

She's looking for the most festive design so don't hold back! The mayor would be delighted to see inclusion of a bike in the design - in support of her year of cycling. We only ask that glitter and shiny materials are not used in the design as this may affect the quality of the scanned submission and final electronic design.

Competition guidelines:

1. The competition is open to children attending Mainstream schools up to Year 6 and pupils attending Special Schools up to Year 14 plus home-schooled children in these year groups.
2. Please send your designs to us electronically (in PDF format where possible) and draw them so they fit on an A4 or A5 sheet.
3. **Deadline for entry is Sunday 3 November.**
4. The Mayor will judge the entries w/c 4 November and the winner will be contacted shortly after. The design will then be finalised for electronic submission.

The design must be submitted to mayorsoffice@milton-keynes.gov.uk , please include the artists name, age and contact details (phone and email) for a parent/guardian/teacher.

The winner's parent/guardian/teacher will be contacted before distribution commences and winners will be announced on the Mayors social media with permission from parent/guardians.

Cllr David Hopkins

November 2024



East West Rail Consultation

Guide to the EWR consultation announced 31 October 2024

Listening to and understanding the views of people living and working in the communities EWR would serve is fundamental to the way this new rail connection will be designed, built and operated. We're carrying out a non-statutory consultation for 10 weeks from 14 November 2024 to 24 January 2025 to share emerging plans and gather feedback on the early designs, including areas where we are considering options.

We will take this feedback into account as we develop the designs in more detail and select preferred options, using your responses to review potential opportunities and inform plans to mitigate the impacts of the project. These will be considered alongside ongoing environmental, economic and technical studies to make sure we're building the right railway for communities across the whole area.

This is the third consultation on EWR (following on from our consultation on route options held in 2019 and route alignment options in 2021) and is an opportunity for us to obtain informed feedback from local communities and stakeholders on updated proposals for EWR. Each consultation gives people the chance to provide feedback to help shape our proposals as they progress.

We want to hear from local communities, businesses and people who work in the area, and people whose homes or properties could be affected by the proposals. We will carefully consider the feedback we receive as we continue to finalise plans for the railway.

The proposed new section of railway between Bedford and Cambridge has been designated as a project of national significance. This means we will apply to the Secretary of State for Transport for a DCO, which would grant consent to build and operate the new railway between Bedford and Cambridge and the additional upgrades to the existing railway between Oxford and Bedford.

As part of the pre-application stage, we are consulting on our proposals. We intend to carry out two consultations before applying for development consent: this non-statutory consultation and a statutory consultation that will be held late 2025/early 2026. We believe carrying out two rounds of consultation will maximise the opportunity to share our proposals, gather people's feedback and take this into account as we finalise our proposals for the railway.

Once we have completed all of our consultation and finalised our proposals, we will prepare and submit our DCO application to the Planning Inspectorate, which processes applications on behalf of the Secretary of State. Following the examination into the DCO application, the Planning Inspectorate will make a recommendation to the Secretary of State who will decide whether development consent should be granted.

More information about this consultation and the planning process for a DCO application can be found in the consultation materials which will be available from 14 November.

How to get involved in the consultation

You're invited to take part in our consultation to share your feedback on our proposals for the new railway. The consultation will be open from 14 November 2024 to 24 January 2025 and your feedback is crucial to help us create a railway that will work for communities.

There are several ways you can get involved in our consultation:

Attend our in-person events

Attend our online events

Visit our virtual consultation room

View our proposals online and at information points

In-person events

We are holding a series of in-person consultation events across the route. At each event you can review the updated proposals, talk to members of our team, ask questions and submit your feedback.

We are holding 16 events during our consultation period which are outlined below.

- Oxford, Oxford Town Hall, 19 November 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Bicester, John Paul II Centre, 21 November 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Great Shelford, Shelford Rugby Club, 22 November 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Steeple Claydon, Steeple Claydon Village Hall, 26 November 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Bedford, The Grand Hall, 30 November 2024, 12pm - 5pm
- Cambourne, Cambridge Belfry, 3 December 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Lidlington, Lidlington Village Hall, 6 December 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Bedford, Bedford Swan Hotel and Thermal Spa, 9 December 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Wilden, Wilden Village Hall, 11 December 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- Tempsford, Stuart Memorial Hall, 13 December 2024, 2pm - 7pm
- St Neots, St Neots Town Football Club, 7 January 2025, 2pm - 7pm
- Comberton, Comberton Village Hall, 10 January 2025, 2pm - 7pm
- **Bletchley, Bletchley Masonic Centre, 15 January 2025, 2pm - 7pm**
- **Woburn Sands, The Summerlin Centre, 17 January 2025, 2pm - 7pm**
- Cambridge, The Clayton Hotel, 18 January 2025, 12pm - 5pm
- Cherry Hinton, St Andrews, 21 January 2025, 2pm - 7pm

How to respond to the consultation

A feedback form, which contains questions about the proposals, is available in both paper and online versions for you to share your views.

You can respond to the consultation by:

- Completing the consultation feedback form online using the button below. (Available from 14 November 2024)
- Emailing a copy of the feedback form to consultation@eastwestrail.co.uk .
- Sending a copy of the feedback form to Freepost EAST WEST RAIL.
- Handing in a copy of the feedback form at a consultation event.

For further information on materials in accessible formats or alternative languages, or to request a paper copy of the feedback form, please call us on 0330 134 0067, or email us at contact@eastwestrail.co.uk.

Please make sure you share your views with EWR before the closing date of 24 January 2025.

Contact EWR

EWR want to make sure everyone can take part in this consultation. If you have any queries or additional requirements, please email us at contact@eastwestrail.co.uk or call 0330 134 0067. If you prefer to return your feedback form by post send it to Freepost EAST WEST RAIL.