



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2017

Dear resident,

Welcome to the Spring edition of our quarterly newsletter. Let's hope spring is really with us now: the spring flowers in our town centre, and those on the grid roads, and the Spring lambs at Edgewick Farm are wonderful signs of Spring. We hope to see many of you at our Annual Town Meeting (see inside).

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ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

THURSDAY 27 APRIL
AT 7.30PM
IN THE MEMORIAL HALL

Everyone is most welcome to join us on this occasion when we will report on the Town Council's work in the past year and look forward to future plans. On your recently delivered Council Tax Notice there are details of how much of your tax goes to Milton Keynes Council (the bulk of it) and what gets allocated to the Police and to the Fire Service as well as our own precept, ie what we need to run the Town Council's work. You will see a separate amount under "Adult Social Care" which goes to MKC and the increases in the cost of which is proving so difficult for Local Authorities across the country because of reductions in Government grants for this. Our own precept of just 1.2% is the smallest increase in your bill since last year.

ALWAYS LOOK ON OUR WEBSITE
FOR INTERESTING & UP TO DATE INFORMATION
www.woburnsands.org.uk



PLANNING MATTERS

The **Wavendon Properties** application for 203 and 303 homes is likely to come before MKC in June or July and their Appeal against the former refusal of permission will not take place before July and probably not until September. You can see our responses to the applications on our website and on MKC's Planning website. We will also put the date at which it will go to Development Control on our website and again encourage residents to come along to the meeting to strengthen our case against the applications.

Dominos Pizzas application in Woburn Sands has been refused. Three residents, and Cllrs Jacky Jeffreys and David Hopkins all spoke on different aspects of it, and was turned down by Development Control on grounds of lack of parking and out of keeping with the Conservation Area. Our thanks to all those residents who were at the meeting supporting us. **The Travelling Showpeople** site in Wavendon is recommended for refusal at Development Control on 12 April, result on website.

Plan:MK is now out for public consultation. It covers the proposed growth of Milton Keynes for the next 15 years and includes some areas which will affect us here. Notably there are proposals for 1,000 homes between

Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill, but this land is protected from development until 2026 so that the impact of all the sites with permissions to build in this part of Milton Keynes can be assessed. It is also to allow for the possible route of the **Oxford-Cambridge Expressway** through this area and looking at the likely impact of any further developments on the **EastWest railway**. It is important that you look at these plans and comment and to help you we have organised a presentation of the Plan in the **Summerlin Centre on Thursday 1 June from 6-9pm**. Our own response will appear on our website.

WOBURN SANDS MUSIC FESTIVAL

The plans for our festival are going really well. It is on the **15th July** from 12.30 - 20.30 at the **Recreation Ground** and **The Summerlin Centre** and then afterwards it will carry on with a band at The Weathercock to finish the evening. During the day we will be having live music, majorette & yoga displays, with craft stalls, caterers, prosecco tent, real ale bar, and an art competition involving Swallowfield & Fulbrook schools. We will need some able bodies during the day if possible, so if anyone would like to get involved in any way please call **Cllr. Gill Bunker** on **07826 231035**.



WOBURN SANDS SPRING CLEAN: SUNDAY 7 MAY

Please join us on this litter picking day. Why? There seems to be an increasing problem of litter and the massive funding cuts that Milton Keynes Council has had to make in recent years, and still has to make, it's likely that they'll seek to pass on more and more of their non-statutory responsibilities – including street-cleansing – to town and parish councils over the next few years. Enlisting the voluntary support of the local community (including you, we hope!) on a regular basis is one way in which we can try to cope without 'breaking the bank'.

1. We suggest that over the weekend of the 6th/7th May, people collect up any litter in the frontage area of their homes (a good opportunity to chat to neighbours, too!), sweep back any gravel extending onto the pavements from drives and trim any bushes overhanging pavements and clear twigs and leaves from pavements and gutters. Waste collected thus can simply be added to domestic refuse in bags, blue boxes and wheelie-bins, in the usual way, for the next local collection in the following week.

2. We invite anyone wishing to volunteer to assemble at 10.00 am on Sunday 7th outside the Memorial Hall. There, we'll sort out teams and team-leaders for litter-picking in specific

areas (e.g., High Street and other roads, central car park, Memorial Green, Mowbray Green, Recreation Ground) and equip people with necessary kit for the work. Please come along with suitable gloves.

NB Friends of Parklands and Edgewick Farm Volunteers will be dealing with their respective areas.

On the subject of litter, more generally, local residents have commented to us on the apparent worsening of the situation in recent years. Commendably, some already try to counter the problem by carrying a bag with them when out for a walk, to pick up bottles, cans and general litter and dispose of them in bins provided. To some extent the increase in such litter no doubt reflects the fact more people are around, but in some cases there are clues to certain anti-social habits that it might be possible to discourage. Pressurized metallic nitrous oxide canisters, cigarette papers, filters and little plastic bags with pictures of Bob Marley printed on them were recently collected on Edgewick Farm. Well, no prizes for guessing the likely customers for such wares! Parents might also care to know that frequent inhalation of nitrous oxide is not without risks to health.



LIBRARY NEWS

Thanks to our wonderful group of Library Volunteers the library will now be open all day Mondays 10am-5pm as well as Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as now, plus Saturday mornings. The volunteers themselves suggested this at a get together lunch with food provided by the Town Council in appreciation of their great work. Don't forget Story Time for ages 0-5 in the library every Tuesday morning in term time at 11.15am and recently relaunched Knit and Natter, literally just that, in the library every Thursday 10.30am until 12pm and Love Woburn Sands help with IT on Monday



mornings. Help yourself to tea or coffee also available in the library anytime you are there.

BUSES, TRAINS AND THE MAIN ROAD THROUGH WOBURN SANDS

Good news, we hope, as at last it has been agreed that the A5130, the main road through Woburn Sands will be **downgraded to a B road right** through from Kingston Roundabout to the Hockcliffe A5 junction at the end of May. This means we can have an HGV ban operational from November and, hopefully, it will then disappear from SatNavs for lorry drivers. We can also consider traffic calming measures if appropriate.

For **commuters by rail** another piece of good news is amendments to the Marston Vale Bedford to Bletchley timetables from 22 May to better tie in with London trains. In particular, an earlier train will depart from Bedford at 6.10am arriving at Bletchley at 6.53am

to connect with the fast London bound train at 7.00am arriving in Euston at 7.39am. It also allows connection to South Croydon on Southern service 7.06 train.



Not such good news, however, is that the subsidy provided by Taylor Wimpey with the Parklands development is coming to an end and **the half hourly 300 service** many have enjoyed to Kingston and CMK is not viable without the subsidy. It is likely the service will be reduced to an hourly one from Woburn Sands to Kingston allowing links to several MK buses. Watch our website as further information comes in.



SPORTS HALL ADVANCED INFORMATION

As many residents will be aware Taylor Wimpey have agreed to build a Sports Hall under their s106 obligations relating to the last phase of the Parklands development. The Hall will be located next to the Summerlin Centre and will be completed during the final building stage of Parklands (hopefully within the next couple of years).

Although details have yet to be finalised, the principles have been agreed as part of the final planning permission. The Hall will be multi-use with a playing area of 26 metres by 16.5 metres and a ceiling height of approximately 6.65 metres. This would provide for indoor 5-a-side soccer, a full-size basketball court or two badminton courts which will be marked out on the floor; it will not be large enough for a full size tennis court which

requires considerable run-back space but short tennis could be accommodated. Other sports such as table tennis, short mat bowls, judo etc will also be able to use the hall. However there will be no space for fixed gym equipment; any such equipment would have to be movable. The building will also contain storage facilities, a small kitchen, and basic changing facilities.

Final details will be discussed with Taylor Wimpey over the coming months and the Town Council will arrange an open meeting to enable organisations and individuals interested in using the Hall to contribute to the finalisation of the internal design and discuss the procedure for the allocation and management of the Hall once built.

EDGEWICK FARM

Users of the new footpath that the Friends of Edgewick Farm Volunteers developed through the 'Spinney' opposite Mowbray Green last year will have noticed the addition this year of a splendid new wooden seat beside it, from which the Spring flowers there can be admired.

Meanwhile, the dredging of the pond between the middle and top field by the Greensand Trust last autumn, has evidently met with the approval



of local amphibians, as witnessed by the abundance of frogs' spawn that



appeared there on March 9th – the earliest we’ve seen it there for at least the last eight years.

Regular users of the old footpath along the southern boundary of Edgewick Farm will have noticed that the volunteers, again assisted by the Greensand Trust, have extended the boardwalk a little further over its waterlogged stretch this year, though regrettably it still ends well before ‘dry land’. The rate-determining step is cost, as the necessary materials for this do not come cheaply. Hence completion of this work remains a long-term project needing some two to three thousand pounds.



Besides the usual kinds of litter, Edgewick Farm also acquires – disappointingly – a liberal scattering of dog-poo bags, abandoned by a minority of forgetful or inconsiderate dog-walkers, despite the proximity of the bins at footpath junctions with the road. The bottom field is particularly blighted in this way. This is not just a problem for us humans, but also for

sheep, for whom the fields need to be ‘clean’ at least ten day before they’re let in to graze. So extra volunteers, including dog-walkers (both innocent and any who might wish to salve a guilty conscience!) will be very welcome to help us with the clear-up on Sunday 7th May starting at 10.00 am, at the barn beside Woodland Way. Bring suitable gloves.

Another date for your diary: On Sunday May 14th, starting at 3.00pm, anyone who is interested is welcome to join a nature walk for a couple of hours around Edgewick Farm, commencing from the barn on Woodland Way; just turn up there on the day. Children are welcome, but any under 13 must be accompanied by an adult. Likely sightings might include tadpoles in the pond and a variety of birds, butterflies and other insects, and grasses and wild flowers in and around the fields, as well as several kinds of trees and shrubs in leaf and/or flower. There’s some walking over uneven and locally muddy ground, though none of it strenuous.

Town Council meetings held on second Monday of each month are open to the Public and held in Town Council offices at side of Memorial Hall.

SNIPPETS & DATES

Re. Road closure on 28 March. We have received an object from MKC that the relevant signage and bus reroute did not happen and they accept full responsibility for the failure and want us to pass on their apology to all who were affected.

Sands Singers Community Choir is delighted to welcome Karen Clegg as our new musical director following the resignation of Jerry Breslin to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude for his work over the past 7 years. Karen has a lot of experience with choral work and is very keen to develop our singing talents whilst maintaining a range of music to suit all tastes. The summer term begins on Friday 28 April at 7pm in the Memorial Hall. All welcome to give it a try....no auditions.



Our **Annual Garden Competition** sponsored as always most generously by Frosts Garden Centre will be judged on 25 July, so get busy with your front and back gardens and hanging baskets as there are prizes in all three categories as well as best community garden prize. All nominations to be given to the Clerk.

Plan:MK Consultation in the Summerlin Centre 6-9pm on Thursday 1 June. (see Planning Matters above)

Next **Coach Trips** can be booked at the Town Council office for 17 May Nottingham, 21 June Worcester and 19th July destination yet to be confirmed.

Nature Walks around Edgewick Farm at 3.00pm on Sunday 14 May (see Edgewick Farm article)

All change in the High Street: the Chemist has moved along to bigger premises, Shelley Hansen Homes which sells many attractive additions to your home including china and glass ware is at the southern end of the road, at the other end is Select Recruitment offering just that! In a state of change are the former premises of the Purple Goose, Bodrum for refurbishment, and the old chemist shop as well as sadly NatWest will soon be vacant. So do have a wander along the changing face of our High Street

And finally, **congratulations** to **Cllr David Hopkins** our Ward Councillor on becoming Mayor of Milton Keynes over the coming year

