



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL



**MEMORIAL HALL, 4 HIGH STREET,
WOBURN SANDS, MK17 8RH**

CLERK: JOANNE FARRANT

TELEPHONE: 01908 585368

EMAIL: CLERK@WOBURNSANDSTOWNCOUNCIL.GOV.UK



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2026 promises to be the year when we finally see some certainty about the future planned for our town and its surrounding villages and countryside.

The East West Rail consortium promise to make some definite decisions regarding the land adjacent to the land trackside between Bletchley and Bedford (the Marston Vale line as it is known) with decisions made about the future location of our station (which may move some ¼ mile or so to the west of its current location and the future of the level crossing and whether it might be closed permanently and a 'by pass' built with a bridge crossing the line at Woodley's Farm (onto Bow Brickhill Road). The governments Planning and

Infrastructure Act will allow EWR to make such further decisions without the need to consult further with local residents (unless they choose to do so 'informally') and thus speed through such decisions.

MK City Councils final version of its local plan (MK2050) will be published in March and should go before a Planning Inspector in the autumn of this year. The plan includes some additional 2,300 homes to the east of Newport Road plus 2,750 around Bow Brickhill and Little Brickhill. The Town Council plan to be represented at any Planning Enquiry (EIP) when the details are announced. A local plan's "enquiry" in public refers to the Examination in Public (EiP), a formal, Inspector-led hearing where the soundness and legal compliance of the new Local Plan is tested, with the public and interested parties (like town and parish councils, residents, developers, interest groups) able to attend, hopefully speak, and submit evidence.

The development consortiums developing South East Milton Keynes (the land in the current local plan to the west of the town – known as Plan MK with an anticipated 4,000 dwellings and accompanying infrastructure) will most probably be submitting the first of a series of detailed planning applications for housing and accompanying infrastructure such as a Bow Brickhill bypass and the site for two new schools, sports and leisure facilities and a local health centre included. This has been delayed by the uncertainty over East West Rail and the general sluggishness of the economy in terms of new housing starts but with EWR taking off the housing market locally should 'benefit' from increased demand.

And of course, a catalyst for much of the releasing of this demand will be the publication of the plans for the Universal Studios Theme Park at a site between Kempston Hardwick and Stewartby which will have a game changing impact on our local economy and all our lives in the years to come.

The Town Council is ready to meet these challenges and to work in the best interests of the town and all its residents now and those who will be joining us in the years to come. One Woburn Sands has been our mantra for many years as the town has expanded and benefited from the hundreds of new residents joining and contributing to our community. Long may it be so.

Cllr David Hopkins – Mayor of Woburn Sands



From The Clerk

It has been absolutely lovely to meet so many of you and to help **residents** in the office over recent weeks. I've really enjoyed getting to know members of our community and hearing your thoughts, questions, and ideas.

Please do feel free to email or pop in if you would like to have a chat or raise anything with me. The **Town Council** office is open Monday to Thursday, 10am-1pm, and you are always very welcome.

A reminder that our **Meet the Mayor** sessions take place in the library from 10-11 am on Market Saturdays, offering a relaxed opportunity to talk about local matters. In addition, our **Ward Councillor Surgery** is held in the library on the first Tuesday of every month 10am - 11am.

We have a number of community **events** throughout the year, and these are always made special by the people who help to organise and support them. If you would like to get involved in arranging events, or if you are interested in volunteering in any way, please do get in touch with me - I would be delighted to hear from you.

I look forward to meeting more of you soon.

With best wishes,

Joanne

COMMUNITY ACTION: MK

promote·support·engage·involve

Do you have or care for a young child under 5 in the area? Community Action MK is hoping to help facilitate a play session in Woburn Sands for under fives. We would help set up and run the sessions to start with but are looking for a few volunteers to get it going and keep it sustainable in the longer run.

We have helped set up a similar scheme in Whitehouse Park with great success, this has now been running for a year and started a second session a few months ago. We can help with access to funding and training for any volunteers as well as physical support in the early days.

If you think you might be interested in getting involved please contact Josan at Community Action MK on: josan@communityactionmk.org

The George Wells Educational Foundation

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS!

GRANTS

Towards cost of Books, Equipment or other Miscellaneous Expenses.



ELIGIBILITY

Available to all students (under the age of 25) who are attending university or have embarked upon further education/NVQ/Apprenticeship.

Your home address must fall within the ancient parish of Wavendon:

Woburn Sands (Bucks only)
Wavendon
Aspley Heath

APPLY

An application form can be downloaded from www.woburnsandstowntouncil.gov.uk under Community>Student Grants.

CONTACT

Please email the clerk of the George Wells Foundation georgewellsfoundation@hotmail.com if you require any further information.



From St Michael's Church

Walking through the churchyard at St Michael's it's now possible to see the daffodils beginning to come up. This is a hopeful sign that Spring is on its way. With Spring, in the church comes Lent, a serious season of self-examination and discipline. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 18 February. Mothering Sunday falls on Sunday 15 March this year. It's a day when we especially remember our Mums, and when every woman in St Michael's goes home with a spray of daffodils. We commemorate the last week of Jesus' life from Palm Sunday (29 March) to Easter Sunday (5 April). Everyone is welcome to come along to any of the services this week (see our website www.stmichaelsws.org.uk or our Facebook Page – St Michael's Church, Woburn Sands for more information about them)



Our Toddler Group in St Michael's church continues to thrive (Thursdays 9.30 – 11.00 a.m.). We are a friendly and supportive group, and we have space for more members. Anyone aged from zero to school age is welcome to come along accompanied by appropriate parent or carer. We don't charge, but appreciate a small donation towards our costs.

I'm delighted that Love Woburn Sands will be holding a Community Concert in Woburn Sands Methodist Church on Sunday 15 February in the afternoon. We have a number of local 'acts' lined up to make an enjoyable afternoon. The concert will be free, but donations will be invited to support LWS and our Community Transport in particular. Look out for more publicity about this.



If quiet is more your thing, St Michael's is always open as a quiet space during daylight hours, and we welcome visitors to enjoy both our church and our churchyard.

Revd Diana Young



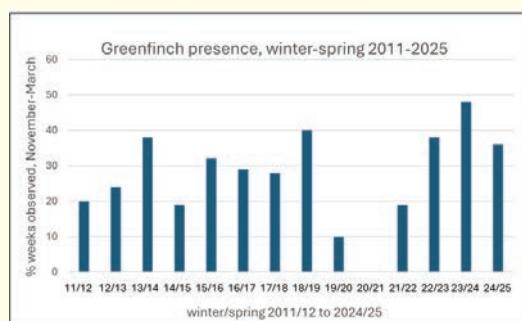
Please clean your bird tables to prevent disease spreading among garden birds!

Last October, I found a dead greenfinch lying on our garden path. There were no signs of molestation by, for example, a cat, or of any other accident such as flying into a window. I'd read about a disease called trichomonosis devastating finch populations in recent decades, so I wondered if that might have been involved in this instance. On reporting it to the 'Garden Wildlife Health' website, run by the Zoological Society of London <https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/>, I was invited to submit the carcass for examination. After a thorough analysis, their response was conclusive: 'The cause of death in this greenfinch is finch trichomonosis'.



This horrible disease results from infection by a single-celled parasite, which hinders swallowing, causing many birds to die from starvation (for more information, see: <https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/portfolio/trichomonosis-in-garden-birds-2/>) Following an epidemic of finch trichomonosis across much of Great Britain in 2006 and 2007, sporadic local outbreaks have since occurred. I've been counting bird species seen each week in our garden here over the winter to early spring months (November - March) since 2011/12, for our local RSPB group. For greenfinches, the percentage of weeks for which I recorded them held up quite well for most years, always in the early spring months, but it crashed during 2019-2021, as shown in the graph below. Though I have no evidence that this crash was due to trichomonosis, the pattern would certainly be consistent with it. So I'm naturally concerned that the identification of trichomonosis here this last October might presage another local crash.

One way the disease is thought to spread is via contamination of food and drinking water by infected birds on bird tables. So we can help to reduce the risk of such outbreaks by regularly cleaning bird tables (weekly, for example) using a weak solution of domestic bleach to disinfect them. More detailed advice is given here: <https://www.gardenwildlifehealth.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2021/04/Feeding-Garden-Birds-Best-Practice-Guidance.pdf>





THREE PARISHES COACH TRIP

For the over 60s living in the parishes of Woburn Sands, Bow Brickhill, Wavendon

WEDNESDAY
18TH
MARCH
2026



Market
Harborough

DEPARTURE TIME 09:00

(Leaving Market Harborough at approx 16:00)

PICK-UP/DROP-OFF POINTS:

- Wavendon Pavilion, Wavendon Gate
- Wavendon Community Centre
- Parkway/Bellway
- Woburn Sands Recreation Ground
- Woburn Sands Tesco
- The Leys, Woburn Sands
- Greenways, Bow Brickhill

**FARE
£17**

FOR PARISH
RESIDENTS*

HOW TO BOOK:

Woburn Sands: Rachel 01908 585368
Wavendon: Monica 01908 281424
Bow Brickhill: Brenda 01908 375151

*Under 60s or those living outside of the three parishes are welcome.
You will be put on a reserve list initially and the ticket price will be £20



From the Library

At the start of this fresh year we again have so much to be positive about here at the library. Already in the first few days of opening in January we had 5 new members. We welcome them and thank all our existing customers for their support last year and look forward to serving you all again with inspiration for reading, as well as provision of photocopying and scanning, IT and WiFi, Knit and Natter, and the children's activities of Lego/Duplo and Storytime

Over the festive period we were touched to receive Christmas cards and some tins of biscuits from happy library users. On one of the labels was written 'To all staff with thanks ...' What better evidence could there be that we are succeeding in our staff/volunteer partnership. From the customer's point of view there is not a distinguishable difference in service. At any given time they are met with the seamless 'wrap-around' experience we always aim for.

In December we celebrated the ongoing commitment of time that our volunteers continue to give with a social afternoon complete with delicious food and live music. This year was made even more special when new volunteer Morag, a published author, read from one of her latest books.





From Edgewick Farm

Since our last update and the end of summer, the sheep have come and gone. Autumn rewarded us with a generous harvest from the apple orchard, which was gladly shared with everyone who joined us for our two Apple Days and helped with the picking. Andy Mason and volunteers kindly carried out a geophysical survey of the farm, details of which can be found on the MK Heritage website.

Winter remains a busy time at Edgewick Farm, with plenty of jobs still on the to-do list. Thankfully the gorse cutting is complete but over the coming months we are looking forward to installing a Tawny Owl nesting box, finishing the annual orchard prune, fixing new signage, alongside other planned improvements — possibly even a new bench.



You may have noticed that we have installed a new gate linking the picnic area to Hogsty Field (also known as Middle Field). This gate will normally remain locked, as it is not a new access point, but it will allow the sheep to graze when present, helping to keep the grass under control and encouraging the growth of wildflowers.

As always, Edgewick Farm would not be as well cared for without our dedicated group of volunteers, who come together each month to put in a tremendous amount of hard work. If you would like to get involved, please email edgewickfarm2002@gmail.com. We meet in the morning of the first Sunday of each month and warmly welcome newcomers of all ages and abilities for some rewarding work in the fresh air.

MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR



Make a Difference Where You Live

The Town council is at the heart of local life — looking after the things that make your community great, from parks, playgrounds and community centres.

Councillors are local people who care — they listen, make decisions, and help turn ideas into action.

As a councillor, you could:

- Shape local projects and services
- Support residents and community groups
- Have a real say in how your area develops

Every day is different — meetings, community events, problem-solving, and plenty of chances to make a real impact.



Care about your community? Get involved. Make things happen.

If you would like more information please contact:
Town Clerk - Joanne Farrant - clerk@woburnsandtowncouncil.gov.uk