

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Memorial Hall, 4 High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8RH

Clerk: Mrs L.J. Stapleton

Telephone 01908 585368 (24hrs.)

E.mail l.stapleton@wstc.org.uk www.woburnsands.org.uk

Dear resident

There's lots to read about inside, much of it we think very important! We hope you think so too as we continue to work hard for our local community. Some items are on the serious side, others more for your enjoyment. Read on.....

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Spring Newsletter 2016

You are invited to
ANNUAL MEETING OF WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL
On Monday 25 April 2016
In The Memorial Hall, High Street at 7.30pm

At the above meeting we will have reports on the various elements of the Town Council's work over the past year and an account of how we used your precept money as well as our plans for 2016-17. You will be very welcome to ask questions or make comments on each report after it has been presented.

Before and after the formal part of this meeting you will be able to see the application by Wavendon Properties to build on some of our remaining green fields. The doors will open at 7pm. This is the application:

*Proposed development on land east of Newport Road
and west and east of Cranfield Road,
Woburn Sands MK17 8UR*

*A residential development of up to 203 dwellings;
doctor's surgery, open space, landscaping;
pedestrian, cycle and vehicular access from Newport Road and Cranfield Road
and supporting infrastructure.*

Actually the bulk of this development will be in Wavendon parish but clearly will impact on Woburn Sands. The fields actually within Woburn Sands should be protected by our Neighbourhood Plan.

We will also display this application on Friday 29 April 5-7pm in The Summerlin Centre, so hopefully everyone will get a chance to see the plans. They will, of course, also be on Milton Keynes website.

THE REFERENDUM THURSDAY 23 JUNE

Can't make up your mind how to vote? Join the many! Chris Beales, the vicar at St Michaels, has organised two speakers who may help you towards coming to a decision. On Sunday 12 June in the morning service starting at 9.45am, the “sermon” will be a question and answer session with Iain Stewart, MP for MK South. Iain is for Brexit, and Chris will ask a series of questions to elicit why Iain thinks we should leave the European Union. The following Sunday, 19 June, the same format will be part of the service, this time with a “Stay in” supporter. This may be Mark Lancaster, MP for MK North, but has not been confirmed at the time of writing.



Everyone is warmly welcomed to come along to either or both these services and the speakers will be available after the service for you to ask any other questions on the issue. Iain Stewart will come down to the High Street afterwards, about 11.30am, to the Community Market, where he will also be available for you to speak to.

OTHER NEWS FROM ST MICHAELS: Chris Beales writes *St Michaels is taking forward plans for maintaining and improving the churchyard and ensuring it can be used for at least the next 50 years. We have also got plans for developing inside the Church, creating an accessible toilet near the entrance and installing a kitchenette at the back of the Church. Plans are available to see in the Church which is kept open every day. We have lots more going on. A party at the Church on Sunday afternoon 15 May to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday and our annual Pets Service (bring your own pets) on 3 July, and more through the summer. Please see our website www.stmichaels.org.uk for more details of what's on.*

We are delighted that the Diocesan Mission Support Fund has donated a further £28,000 for Love Woburn Sands to continue its work in promoting community activities.

LIBRARY NEWS

By the time you read this, our librarian of the past several years, Candy, will have left Milton Keynes Library Service. Many will have said goodbye to her and expressed their sorrow that she is going. The enforced cutbacks by Milton Keynes on the Library Service has meant the hours now on offer here do not make it viable for Candy to remain. We wish her every success in finding a new job which will almost certainly have to be in a different area of work.

Milton Keynes will continue to provide us with a fully trained librarian for the hours below in bold but the library will be open for the hours indicated in italics, thanks to a small band of volunteers who will extend the opening hours

Mondays 10.15am-12.30pm

Tuesdays 10am -2pm *extended until 5pm*

Thursdays 10am-2pm *extended until 5pm*

Fridays 10am-2pm, 2pm-5pm

Saturdays 10am-1pm

However, this is a very big commitment by a small group of volunteers who have offered to cover these hours for the next couple of months, but **WE NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS**. If you could help in any of the hours in italics above for just once or twice per month we could hopefully maintain the above hours, but without additional volunteers to ease the load, the hours will be cut further. Please give this real consideration and contact *Robin on 01908584565* or via email at *themdogs@gmail.com*.

AND SOME GOOD NEWS: the extensive works carried out last year to rid the library of its damp problems show every sign of being successful. Further monitoring will be undertaken but so far it seems as if the expense was worthwhile.

COMMUNITY USE OF THE LIBRARY

Since the move of the library into The Institute back in 2012, we have tried to encourage other activities in the library both during opening hours and beyond. Here is a reminder of what's on:

Mondays 10.30am-12.30pm is the **IT clinic**, your chance to improve your IT skills either on your own tablet, ipad, iphone using the wifi



now installed in the library or on a tablet provided by Waitrose. This is run by Love Woburn Sands and help is on hand to guide you through new skills.

BRAVE, a bereavement support group, will have someone present in the small meeting room on the *first Monday of each month 10.30am—12.30pm*. If you have lost a loved one and feel that chatting to someone over coffee might help, then come and meet Sharn who understands how you maybe feeling.

Tuesdays 10.00am. – 12.30pm. **Age UK** Advice service is available to help out on any questions you may have about a wide range of issues. This is funded by The Town Council.

Story Time has been run by the librarian at *11.15am every Tuesday*. The librarian will no longer be able to do this but we do have a volunteer who will continue this activity until the end of May. After that **we need some other people to offer to take on Story Time**. So, if you think you would be good at reading books to little ones – most are babies and toddlers under 3 – and their carers, why not pop in one Tuesday in the next few weeks and see how it's done and then join the people who are running this. Candy has built up a good supply of equipment to use in helping make this a fun activity and getting children from a very young age to love books.

The second Tuesday evening of each month between 6-7pm sees the **Book Club and the Art Group** meeting. At present both these activities have no vacancies, but feel free to get in touch with the Town Clerk if you may also be interested and your names will be given to the relevant organisers.

Wednesday 10am. – 12pm. is the very successful **Senior Friends** a drop in session for Seniors to meet and chat informally, make new friends, and enjoy a drink and cake. Entry via the back kitchen door.

Thursdays: Story telling for adults takes place usually once per month and is gaining in popularity. The next two sessions are on 14th April and 12th May at 7pm.

If you have any ideas for starting a small community group which could make use of the library either during or after opening hours, do get in touch with the Town Clerk.

EASTWEST RAIL and PLAN:MK

You may be interested to read this extract from a letter sent by the Chancellor, George Osborne, on Budget Day last month, to Lord Adonis who is Chairman of the National Infrastructure Commission.

There are two particular significant areas where we have agreed you will carry out a more detailed review in order to provide targeted recommendations to the Government:

1. The Commission will make recommendations to maximise the potential of the Cambridge-Milton Keynes-Oxford corridor as a single, knowledge -intensive cluster that competes on the global stage, whilst protecting the area's high quality environment and securing the homes and jobs the area needs. The Commission will look at the priority infrastructure improvements needed, and assess the economic case for which investments would generate the most growth.

The first stage of the work will focus on ...key planned infrastructure such as EastWest Rail and Expressway.

Clearly there will be a continuation of the work on developing EastWest rail which has big implications for us. The statement also ensures that the plan is for Milton Keynes to continue to grow and Plan:MK assumes even more significance as does the Central Beds Local Plan. We will continue to work closely with our neighbouring parishes both in Milton Keynes and Central Beds to endeavour to protect our immediate environment, a task which is becoming increasingly difficult. Thank you to all who have responded on the Plan:MK proposals, and we will continue to keep you informed about this and EastWest Rail and other potential expansion which impacts upon us. A busy few years ahead!

Councillor David Hopkins is arranging a presentation of MK 2050 which is a commission of some independent Consultants for a separate plan on how Milton Keynes could develop up to 2050. This will be taken into account when producing the final Plan:MK.

This will be held in The Memorial Hall on 18th May, 7pm – 8.30pm.

Please watch our website and our entry in the Hogsty Handbook for further details.

COUNCILLOR NEWS....COMINGS AND GOINGS.

We are likely to be able to co-opt another parish councillor shortly to fill a vacancy which will be left by Councillor Pauline Bryne who is resigning as from the end of March. We are very sorry that Pauline has decided to leave us. She has played a very supportive role in meetings both here and with Milton Keynes, led the plans for establishing our Community Market, and has been a steadfast “hands on” helper whenever required.

We interviewed three people earlier in the year for a co-option when Cllr Ian Macleod left us and appointed Peter Skelton to join us. Peter’s particular expertise is in environmental matters and he has already started a detailed piece of work on improving the landscaping in Parklands, attempting to ensure in the first place that the landscaping is carried out as per the plans which were passed. Some of this is now down to Milton Keynes Council and some due to be done by Taylor Wimpey. Clearly with all the future proposed expansion in our area where we will be doing our best to minimise the impact upon us here, there is a great deal of hard work ahead for the Town Council. We will reconsider the applications submitted before for the vacancy and welcome any further applications from people who feel they can help us in the challenging times ahead. Details of when and how to apply will be on our website and in Hogsty End as soon as we have the go-ahead from Milton Keynes Council.

We know many residents are very concerned about the volume of traffic. One resident has been doing considerable amount of research on this matter and we are currently holding a meeting with Milton Keynes Council to see what can be done to alleviate the problem.



SNIPPETS AND DATES

Shakespeare evening: we are planning an event in June, probably in the library, to raise funds for children's craft activities in the library in the summer holidays. The evening will consist of madrigals of Shakespeare's time performed by the Sands Cryers and some readings from the Bard's works hopefully with a well known local celebrity! Details on posters and website once confirmed.

Woburn Sands Band Concert on Saturday 16 April at The Stables will be one worth going to as it will include music from the last night of the proms. **Tickets available from 07790 454149 or 07784 576076 or at the Stables Box office (01908 280800).**



The Annual Garden Competition, generously sponsored by Frosts Garden Centre, will once again take place with judging in July. Prizes available for front gardens, back gardens and hanging baskets, so watch the website for details and get planting! Anyone in Woburn Sands can enter.

Community Coach Trips continue with a visit to Bishops Stortford 18th May and destinations to be confirmed for outings on 15th June, 20 July and 17th August. Contact the Town Clerk for tickets. These are jointly run and subsidised by the parishes of Wavendon, Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill.

Woburn Sands Community Market: don't miss the next one on Sunday 12 June. There will be a heritage exhibition by Paul Cox in the library as well as refreshments, and lots of stalls outside, and from about 11.30pm our MP, Ian Stewart, will be around for you to have a chat.

Syrian Refugees. If you are a private landlord with a house available for Syrian refugees, please contact davidburns@dbdconsulting.co.uk for more info. David is liaising with the Local Authorities who guarantee rental at market prices for up to two years.