



WOBURN SANDS  
TOWN COUNCIL

# WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2022

[www.woburnsands.org.uk](http://www.woburnsands.org.uk)  
(see privacy policy)



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## QUEEN ELIZABETH II

On behalf of the Town Council and residents of Woburn Sands, the Mayor Dr Peter Skelton wrote to Sir Edward Young, Private Secretary to Charles III, conveying sincere condolences of the Town Council and the community of Woburn Sands on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (*see Page 3*).

A book of condolences was open at St Michaels' Church and the Civic Offices of the city of Milton Keynes, of which Woburn Sands is a part.

### King Charles III Proclamation Scroll

Woburn Sands was represented by our ward councillor Mr. David Hopkins,



who collected the scroll for Woburn Sands from Debbie Brock, who is the High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire. The Proclamation Scroll will be framed and placed on the wall of the Town Council meeting room with a copy being placed on the Council website.





Sir Edward Young KCVO, PC  
Private Secretary to Charles III  
Buckingham Palace  
London  
SW1A 1AA  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Sir Edward

Please convey to His Majesty the sincere condolences of the Town Council and the community of Woburn Sands, Buckinghamshire, on the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The loss will, of course, be felt broadly across the nation and the Commonwealth, and indeed throughout the world, but along with so many local communities elsewhere we wish to express our own great sense of sadness at her passing and personal gratitude for the outstanding example she set of long dedication to the welfare of others and to long-term improvement in the condition of our environments. We were proud to have planted three fine blossom trees around our town earlier this year from Her Majesty's 'Green Canopy' scheme, and we will cherish them in her memory.

Our sympathies go to His Majesty on his personal loss and of course to his family.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Skelton  
Mayor of Woburn Sands Town Council  
Milton Keynes.

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## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

Throughout the year we have young people busy volunteering through the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in Woburn Sands. There efforts can often go unnoticed, so we would like to say a big thank you to them all!

Beth completed her silver award here, a total of 6 months of volunteering. Thanks to Molly too, who just finished her Bronze award. The library is always very glad to support students doing their placements. We appreciate the time and help offered and it is rewarding to see the benefits to them in terms of personal growth in confidence and maturity that comes through working amongst the public in this community provision.

Myles has been working toward his Bronze DofE award. Part of the award includes volunteering and he has been cleaning the streets and car park in Woburn Sands by picking litter for six months. He managed to collect 45.7 kg of rubbish, well done Myles!



- THANK YOU! -

To Jacky Jeffreys for dedication and hard work as a Councillor which included editing of this newsletter.

A presentation will be given on Monday 10th October, 3pm at the Fir Tree. All who know her and would like to say '*thank you*' are very welcome.



## SPORTS HALL

Unfortunately we are unable to report that the Sports hall has finally been handed over to the Town Council. The Hall was constructed under a Section 106 Agreement between Milton Keynes Council and Taylor Wimpey; the Town Council was not a party to this Agreement. Although the hall has been completed to our satisfaction it

is the responsibility of Taylor Wimpey and MKC to satisfy themselves that all the necessary documentation is in order; quite properly the Town Council's solicitor is adamant that the correct paperwork must be completed before the Deed of Transfer between the Town Council and Taylor Wimpey is completed.

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## RECREATION GROUND

The Recreation Ground is central to the hearts of Woburn Sands residents. It is owned by The Gravel Pit Charity, managed and insured by the Town Council with equipment provided, maintained and insured by Milton Keynes Council. At present the equipment is being updated following a poll of residents by WSTC.

Orders have now been placed for the construction of a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) next to the skate board park, which will be upgraded, and a climbing frame (to be sited next to the current play area), and we hope that these will be in place shortly.

The Rec is used extensively by individuals and groups. Earlier in the year the annual Fun Fair took place there to the enjoyment of many, then the Summer Music Festival was widely attended for two days over the August Bank Holiday, and more recently, a charity fun day for Shay's Smiles.

Unfortunately, we do have to report that there has been some antisocial behaviour and graffiti in the park. Please respect what is a vital and enjoyable asset for the residents of Woburn Sands and encourage others to do the same.



## LIBRARY WORKSHOP

August 2022 was at least as busy as any pre-covid school summer break. Woburn Sands library took full advantage of all the youngsters out and about with free time on their hands to enlist them onto some special craft workshops. As in previous years, this was made possible by the generosity of the Town Council in supporting the work of the library. We offered the workshops free to our young visitors, understanding current challenging times, but the Town Council bought us the tutor time and resources. Julie Lanyon-Hogg ran 2 Story Bag workshops, and Chris ran a pop-up card workshop and a colourful printing session. All 4 events were very well attended with some lovely feedback testament to the fun the children had.

Additionally we had Amy, our Community Police Support Officer, do a special Storytime where the children could look at uniform samples and talk about the many gadgets police need about their person. This tied in so well with the theme of 2022's Summer Reading Challenge that 131 local children joined up to 'Gadgeteers'.

Don't forget you will be able to see Julie (and Anna too) at our regular **Tuesday Storytimes at 1.15am**, so bring your pre-school children to this free session.



# SWAN HILL DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Councillor Jo Green attended MK Council Planning Control Committee in September and spoke against the outline planning application, along with the Ward Councillor, Councillor David Hopkins and one resident.

**The reasons they stated for refusal were:**



1. Failure to comply with the Supplementary Planning Document of the SEMK

2. Queries over enforcement of a bus only link from Newport Road into the main SEMK.

3. The plans are premature as the SEMK site is planned to start in the west and Swan Hill is in the far east of the site

4. Increase in vehicle traffic from the site onto Newport Road.

5. Loss of the last area of open, green space to the north west of Woburn Sands

6. Uncertainty over the EWR project means the application is premature

as any railway development takes precedence over housing development

7. Government emphasise that local opinions should take a greater part in the planning process.

8. On a wider, national and global scale, further incursions onto agricultural land would be environmentally unsound

Unfortunately, although the vote went 4 for, 4 against and one abstention, the Chair of the committee supported his planning officers and voted for the plans. WSTC are considering what its next steps will be. A fuller account is to be found on the Town Council web site.



# MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT OVER THE AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY



Various bands and individual singers entertained residents of Woburn Sands and its environs over the three days of the Bank Holiday. On the Saturday and Sunday, the now well-established Summer Music Festival took place not only at the Rec but also at The Weathercock, The Fir Tree and The Royal Oak, with a variety of musical genres. This year a very hardworking small team, led by Gill Brooke, raised an incredibly impressive amount of £2000, being divided as: £600 for Love Woburn Sands, £600 for Al's Pals and £600 for KKOTS (Keep Kids Off the Streets) as well as donating £100 to the Woburn Sands Art Trail and £100 to Asplands Community Project. The festival was blessed by glorious weather and was attended by well over 2000 people, including the Mayor of Milton Keynes Amanda Marlow, pictured here with Gill. The event was made possible by the support of and donations from local businesses in Woburn Sands, as well as many individuals, the hard

work of the committee members, the enthusiasm of the bands and singers who gave freely of their time as well as those who donated stages, toilets, rubbish bins and so on! Well done and thanks to all!

On the Monday afternoon several hundred people were grandly entertained by The Woburn Sands Brass Band who held their Annual Summer Fair on Mowbray Green, raising funds for the band from a variety of stalls, refreshments, a raffle draw and cake auction. This was a foot tappingly jolly event, blessed again by good weather. Thanks go to Len Jenkins and all members, families and friends of the band. In the interval the winners of the Woburn Sands Garden Competition received their awards from Cllr Peter Skelton, Mayor of Woburn Sands.





# WOBURN SANDS GARDEN COMPETITION

The winners of the three categories and special awards were presented at the Woburn Sands Summer Fair on Mowbray Green on Bank Holiday Monday 29th August. The theme this year was Beautiful, Environmentally Friendly Garden. The standard was, as usual, very high – congratulations to the winners and to everyone else who entered.

	Front Garden	Back Garden	Containers
First	75 Elm Grove	7 Elm Grove	22 Maple Grove
Second	72 Weathercock Lane	1 Chantry Close	2 Club Lane
Third	59 Drayhorse Crescent	3 Sturdy Lane	18b Bow Brickhill Rd

**Special Awards to:** Woburn Sands Station Adoption; Green's Court Residents Gardening Group; 125 Greensands; 69a Newport Road.

Many thanks to the judges: Lynne Stapleton, Graham Dean and Janet Greenwood, and to Frosts Garden Centre for sponsoring the competition.

A full account and further photos can be found on the Town Council web site.

## Photos of the first winners of the three categories



# IMPORTANT DATES

## FOR YOUR DIARY

**The Memorial Service** will be held in St Michael's Church on **Sunday November 6th at 9.45 am** followed by the Woburn Sands Band leading the procession of the town's Councillors and community groups down to the Memorial Green for the wreath laying ceremony and the 2 minutes silence at 11am. The High Street will be closed at 10.40am until 11.15am.



**Christmas Fayre. New volunteers are urgently needed** to help both dress the trees and erect them on the High Street buildings on Sunday 20th November.



The Fayre will be held in the High Street in the afternoon of **Sunday November 27th**. The Christmas Lights will be turned on at 4.30pm. The High Street will be closed from 9.30am to 6.30pm.

Volunteers are also needed to help control traffic through the afternoon.

Please contact The Xmas Fair Committee on  
[woburnsandschristmasfayre@gmail.com](mailto:woburnsandschristmasfayre@gmail.com)



# SNIPPETS

## New Town Councillor

Being a councillor is highly rewarding. No other role gives you a chance to make such a huge difference to the quality of life of people in your local area and to influence the way issues are dealt with locally. Woburn Sands is advertising for new a councillor; please contact the Clerk [a.jordan@wstc.org.uk](mailto:a.jordan@wstc.org.uk) 01908 585368 for more information.

## Library windows

The purchase order to replace the Library windows has now been placed and the windows are under construction. Hopefully the work will be carried out by the end of this year.

## Town's CCTV Camera

At present the CCTV camera is monitoring the High Street with particular attention being placed on the pedestrian crossing by the Library across to Club Lane, where residents have reported difficulty crossing as well as monitoring illegal parking on the High Street. More prominent signage has been erected.

## EWR

The former Transport Secretary, Grant Shapps, has cast doubt on the second and third phases of East West Rail, saying that cutting them “would save £3-5 billion straightaway”

Earlier this year, the Government's Infrastructure and Projects Authority Annual Report was released providing the latest insight on infrastructure planning. The IPA has classified Stages 2 (Bedford – MK) and 3 (Bedford – Cambridge) as Red on its “traffic light” system. A Red categorisation suggests that the project is unachievable.

The Report states *“There are major issues with project definition, schedule, budget, quality and/or benefits, which do not appear to be manageable or resolvable”*



EWR have commented *“Developing the project is an iterative process and we will continue to keep the business case and delivery programme under review”*.

The Town Council will continue to monitor developments with the latest news being updated to the Council website.

## **AN UPDATE FROM OUR MP IAIN STEWART**

A personal letter from our MP Iain Stewart to the Woburn Sands residents.

As we now enter the Autumn, I hope this finds you safe and well.

I am heartbroken by the passing of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second. I thank her for her constant service to this country. We owe her so much. I was able to pay tribute to her and what she meant to people in Milton Keynes during the special sitting of the Houses of Parliament. My condolences to the King and the Royal Family. God Save the King.

A new £200 million Women and Children’s Hospital for Milton Keynes was confirmed in 2020 as part of the Government’s plan to build 48 new hospitals across the country, and the green light has now been received to begin preparations. The Health Minister wrote to me to announce that funding had been approved to support the delivery of the scheme including survey works, planning and modelling. It is brilliant news that the Government has approved the development funding for a new Women and Children’s Hospital, the next step in making the new hospital a reality.

As ever, my team and I remain on hand to assist constituents. Please do get in touch on the provided contact details if you have an invitation, query or casework that I can help with.

