



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2023

www.woburnsands.org.uk
(see privacy policy)

What could be changed or added in the future as Woburn Sands gets bigger?

Is there anything that you miss, or you don't like about Woburn Sands?

Where do you or your family like to spend leisure time around here?

Would you like to help mould the future of Woburn Sands?

What do you most value about living in Woburn Sands?

**Come and have your say at
The Futures Group meeting**

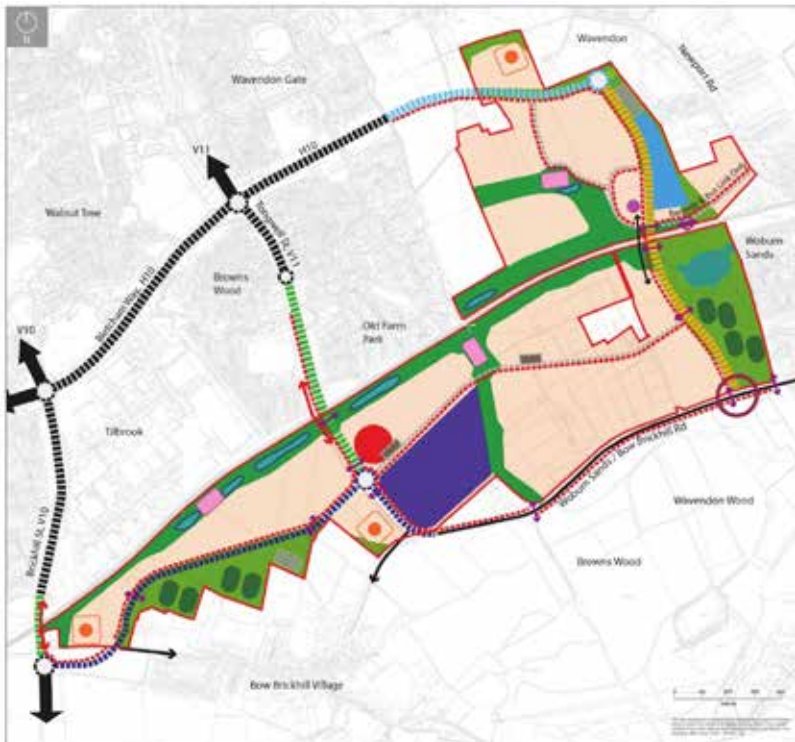
Wednesday 22nd February at 5pm
in The Memorial Hall

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



- PG 2/3 FUTURES GROUP MEETING / MUSIC FESTIVAL
- PG 4 ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH
- PG 5 LITTER AND DOG MESS / NEW MULTI-USE GAMES
- PG 6 LIBRARY
- PG 7 SWANHILL DEVELOPMENT / TOWN MEETING
- PG 8 NEW BUS SERVICE FOR WOBURN SANDS
- PG 9-11 SNIPPETS
- PG 12 MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A COUNCILLOR

FUTURE GROUP MEETING 5PM, WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY AT THE MEMORIAL HALL



Come and make your views heard to help make Woburn Sands an even better place to reside in over the years to come.

As most of the development land between Woburn Sands, Bow Brickhill and Wavendon falls within the parish of Woburn Sands, the town is due to expand hugely in the next 10-15 years. This expansion will put pressure on our infrastructure but will offer massive opportunities for an even more dynamic, diverse, and eclectic community with the possibility of more facilities funded by development money.

On **Wednesday 22nd February from 5pm at The Memorial Hall** there will be a display of some of the issues and a unique opportunity for YOU to discuss various angles for the future,

realise what the expansion means to the residents of Woburn Sands and contribute to the evolution of its future, however small or large your ideas.

Many of the town's community groups have been invited to send representatives, but opinions and views are welcome from individuals as well – pop in and see us - the more the merrier! With your help, ingenuity and perseverance, a combined group of different ages and backgrounds will be able to make an impact on the future of Woburn Sands and make the town's voice heard loud and clear in the chambers of Milton Keynes City Council.



Music Festival



This year's music festival is to be held on the **26th & 27th August** - potentially it will involve 5 venues across the town, a community market and poetry corner. Approximately one hundred artists will be in attendance, all performing for free; we also hope to have a local school driven art competition. Monies raised will be donated to local charities, so please get in touch with Gill Brooke.

Further details can be found on the festival website:

www.woburnsandsfestival.com



ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

With the new year we have started a new venture in St Michael's.

We are running a **sports club for young people with special educational needs** in the new Woburn Sands Sports Hall. We are grateful to Woburn Sands Town Council for financial assistance while we get started. The first session on 10 January was a great success, but we still have space for some more members. The club is for children aged 8 – 12 with special educational needs. It runs on the **second Tuesday of each month from 7.00 – 8.00 p.m.** (ie 14 February, 14 March, 11 April) There will be an opportunity to play Badminton, Table Tennis, Volley Ball, Parachute Games and much more. The Club is organized by the youth and adults of St. Michael's Church, and all safeguarding rules are adhered to.

If you are interested, please contact **valeriesymon779@btinternet.com** or phone **01908 583779**.

We are also holding a **toddler group** on **Thursday mornings** in St Michael's Church. We put out the playmats; the centre aisle is great for skittles or for ride-ons, and the pews are excellent for

hiding and exploring. We meet from 9.30 – 11.00 a.m. with a break for a sing song in the middle, and we end with refreshments. The church is warm; it's a lovely supportive group, and we have space for more grown ups and children. No need to book, just come along and try us. There is no charge, although we appreciate a small donation to cover our costs.

We are still collecting for **Milton Keynes Food Bank**, and donations can be left in the boxes in church at any time during the day when the church is open (usually around 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. every day).

Details of all our services can be found on our website **www.stmichaelsws.org.uk** or our Facebook Page – **St Michael's Church Woburn Sands**. Do come and join us if you can.

With my prayers for us all and for our community.

Revd Diana Young



LITTER AND DOG MESS: AN EXPENSIVE NUISANCE

When people drop their rubbish on the ground this is known as littering. Litter can have a huge impact on our environment, it can block up drains causing localised flooding, it looks messy, and it can harm our local wildlife. Animals cut themselves on discarded glass, get stuck inside metal cans, get entangled or eat plastic. Our pets can be injured too.

The Town Council now spends nearly £6,500 per year collecting litter, emptying bins, and disposing of dog mess. MKC spends over £3.5million annually keeping our streets and public land clean. MKC Council aims to clean all council owned public land on an

eight-weekly basis and within WS we undertake our own voluntary litter-pick to keep the streets tidy.

But did you know that MKC has an The Environmental Crime Unit (ECU) which can investigate certain criminal offences on behalf of the council. These offences include littering, dog fouling and many other nuisances and there is now a pilot scheme running where the council has employed a private company, WISE, to issue fixed penalty notices for littering offences.

So you litterbugs of Woburn Sands beware, you could be issued with a fixed penalty notice!



The Recreation Ground has a brand new multi-use games area (MUGA).

Line painting had to wait until the tarmac has settled but this didn't stop play and the court has been very popular.



LIBRARY

The couple of weeks before Christmas were probably the busiest of 2022 here at the library.

Many customers will by now have seen and admired our new windows which were fitted so efficiently. Our painter/decorator then did a great job of making the walls good. The whole effect has been a lightening and brightening from the inside whilst sympathetically retaining the required appearance from the outside. All this refurbishment provided the best backdrop for the final week's activities which included a social for our dedicated volunteers. Cllr Mike Geddes presented beautiful bouquets to coordinators Maggie and Brenda and then we all enjoyed food contributed by the volunteers and arranged by Erica to background festive music from Margaret. Nicky's family band rounded off the afternoon after the town clerk Alison Jordan gave thanks to all from the Town Council.

On Friday 23rd we ran a Christmas card printing workshop – this was greatly enjoyed by the young participants and their parents with some lovely comments in appreciation of tutor Chris who brought along brightly coloured



inks and stimulated imaginations with his creative input. We were able to do this with no charge to the families due once again to the generosity of the Town Council who funded the materials and tutor time in order that the youngsters had a lovely festive print or card to take home.

We anticipate more workshops in 2023 so keep checking the Milton Keynes Library Website for news of those, and also follow us on **Instagram:** @mklibraries and #whatsonwoburnsands



SWANHILL DEVELOPMENT

(known locally as The Dog Walking Field)

Redrow Homes met with Woburn Sands Town Council on Monday 9th January to discuss the Reserved Matters plans submitted to MKCC for the Swan Hill site. This followed MKCC granting the Outline Planning permission (previously opposed by WSTC) in October 2022. The Reserve Matters plans involved more detailed proposals for the site.

A lively discussion took place where several issues were raised. In addition to asking for certain conditions to be satisfied concerning the general principle of the development, with reference particularly to SEMK and the future of East West Rail, the TC questioned the number of houses planned, their layout and social mix, the location of the play area and green space, the refuse collection plan and Redrow's sustainability claims with emphasis on the ecology of the site. Whether these will make a difference only time will tell.

The full comments submitted can be viewed on the TC's website:

www.woburnsands.org.uk

The Reserved Matters plans can be found on MKCC's planning portal: 22/03005/REM where you can still make comments up until the time that MKCC makes the final decision in early March. The Town Council will endeavour to keep residents informed of any further developments.

WOBURN SANDS
ANNUAL

TOWN MEETING

The Memorial Hall,
Tuesday 2nd May
7.30pm – 9.30pm

Everyone
welcome!

A review of the year
from the
Town Council
and our
community groups



A NEW BUS SERVICE FOR WOBURN SANDS!



Following the delivery of a successful petition calling for the restoration and support of a timetabled bus service for Woburn Sands, the Britannia Bus Company has agreed to extend the current one bus a day service to CMK to an hourly service (Monday to Friday).

Many thanks to all those who signed the petition which helped in no small way to make all this happen and prove to Britannia (and to MK City Council) the levels of support in the community for a regular, timetabled bus service.

A huge ‘Thank You’ to Cllr David Hopkins for driving this forward.

This service is due to start on 27 February and will operate from 07.30 am to 17.30 (first bus from CMK to Woburn Sands) and from 08.00am to 18.00 (from Woburn Sands to CMK). The service will operate via the Kingston Centre.

It is a traditional bus which can be flagged down at any bus stop along the route; residents be aware, either we use this new service, or we’ll risk losing it.

Warmth and Wellbeing
Helpline
freephone 0800 107 0044

**see page 11 for
Warm Spaces**



SNIPPETS

Barclays

We are disappointed that Woburn Sands is to lose its last high street bank. On Tuesday 18th April Barclays Bank will be closing its doors for the last time. Although the branch is closing, Barclays are optimistic they'll maintain an active presence in the community via a new and alternative physical presence, with the intention of providing additional face-to-face access for banking services via one of their community locations. Further details, including the timings and the location of the Barclays Local site, will be communicated to their regular customers in the coming weeks. Town Councillors plan to meet with Barclays to discuss the closure and future plans, details of which will be posted on the TC website. But please note, residents can still undertake everyday transactions at the Post Office in the high street, such as withdrawing cash and paying in monies.

Greensand Trust

The Greensand Trust is putting the “**Green into Greensand**” and looking for Greensand Champions: groups or individual young people who are doing something amazing for the environment.

This might be litter-picking, planting a garden or trees, supporting local environmental groups or making an effort to reduce their carbon footprint.

They want to hear what young people are doing and give them the recognition they deserve as our Greensand Champions.

Everyone that enters will be a Greensand Champion, and will receive some seeds. One winner will be picked from the entries and will receive £250 towards their environmental work.

Please check out the WSTC website for further details.



Marston Vale Railway

On Friday 13 January, Iain Stewart MP met with the Marston Vale Community Rail Partnership (MVCRP), the Chair of Bedford – Bletchley Rail Users' Association (BBRUA) as well as Councillors from Woburn Sands Town Council regarding the current suspension of the Marston Vale Line between Bletchley and Bedford: the main cause of which is due to the line not having the required team to maintain and service the rolling stock as Vivarail has gone into administration.

Both Iain and the Town Council are fully aware of the impact the service suspension is having on residents who use the line for education, employment, and leisure reasons. Iain has raised his concerns with Huw Merriman MP, the Rail Minister, Iain also asked a question in Parliament - links to both of these are on the WSTC website.

The best way for residents to contact London Northwestern Railway is via their website which is www.londonnorthwesternrailway.co.uk Alternatively, Customer Complaints & Comments Forms can be collected from Bletchley or Milton Keynes Central Stations & Ridgmont Station Heritage Centre. Either can be used for complaints over the lack of train services or issues with the Rail Replacement Buses.

Pavement Parking

We all know parking is a problem in Woburn Sands – too many cars and insufficient legitimate parking spaces. The two biggest bugbears are parking on (or half on) pavements, including overhanging from driveways, and parking on double yellow lines. The first is not only illegal but hugely inconveniences both mums with buggies and elderly people with walking aids or mobility scooters who must go out into the road to get round the obstruction. The second illegal and can cause accidents as the double yellow lines are there for a reason: to give clear sight lines at junctions for pedestrians and cars pulling out of roads. PLEASE, PLEASE think of others when you park - it may mean you have to walk a bit further (Shock, Horror!) but it would be a huge step towards more neighbourly behaviour making Woburn Sands a happier place to live and work.



Warm Space

Warmth and Wellbeing Helpline

Hopefully temperatures will improve over the coming weeks; but in the meantime, MKC is continuing to encourage local people to call its 'Warmth and Wellbeing Helpline'. Residents can call **freephone 0800 107 0044** to get expert advice from National Energy Foundation's Better Housing Better Health team, who will assess your situation and suggest help including how to get better energy deals, and how to apply for grants to make a home better insulated and more energy efficient.

Library Warm Space Initiative

This seems a good point to again remind residents that the library is heated, lovely, warm, and open to all. All residents are very welcome to spend time in the library. Volunteers are on hand for a chat and there is free Wi-Fi. Opening hours are displayed outside the library.

Wheellie Bins on Tour

11th March 2023 at Woburn Sands Library 10am – 1pm.



Come and see what the future holds for your waste collection services – starting later this summer. A new contract has been awarded to SUEZ who will be rolling out (literally!) a 4 bin service – Grey, Green, Blue and Red for all your waste –only the grey(black) bin will be for non-recyclable waste while the other three bins will be for recyclable refuse.

More information will be coming from both MKCC and the Town Council before this date, particularly for those residents whose homes are not suitable for storing 4 bins.



MAKE A CHANGE BECOME A LOCAL COUNCILLOR



**IF YOU CARE ABOUT
WHERE YOU LIVE AND ARE
PASSIONATE ABOUT YOUR
COMMUNITY, WE NEED YOU**

**JOIN US AND MAKE A
LOCAL CHANGE**

