

WOBURN SANDS  
TOWN COUNCIL

# WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2022

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

Dear resident.

There is much to report on in this newsletter including how you might help refugees from Ukraine, how we need your letters of objection to a planning application, and an invite to our Annual Town Meeting. Meanwhile, Covid continues to thrive in our community so please take care for both yourself and others by taking necessary precautions.



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CLERK: ALISON JORDAN  
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### YOU ARE INVITED TO WOBBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING

On Tuesday 3 May at 7pm in The Memorial Hall

This is your opportunity to hear our reports of the Town Council's work over the past year, our plans for the future, and your chance to ask questions. Please try to come along: all welcome.

## UKRAINE EMERGENCY - CAN YOU HELP?

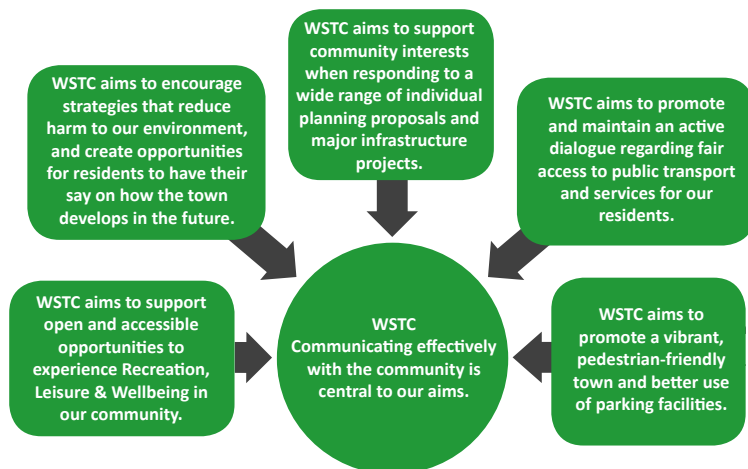
Working with St Michaels, the Town Council is looking to set up a support network for the several families in our community who are offering to host refugees from Ukraine. We are looking for a Volunteer Co-ordinator based in our community who can help us by taking the enquires from people who maybe able to offer meals, lifts, counselling and language help and whatever else may be needed. Then to compile a list from those who would like to be part of this support network. Someone who is willing to be the focus for enquirers.

If you would be interested in taking on this role please contact either  
**Rev Diana** on **07887 296588** or  
**Alison Jordan**, our Town Clerk  
**01908 585368**  
**[a.jordan@wstc.org.uk](mailto:a.jordan@wstc.org.uk)**



# WOBURN SANDS COMMUNITY DIALOGUE EMAIL LIST

## - AN INVITATION TO SIGN UP



### Data Protection.

WSTC is committed to protecting your privacy. All personal data given on signing up to this initiative will be held securely by the WSTC and only used to administer your participation. It will not be passed to any third parties.

WSTC's ambition is to supply all residents with timely, reliable information and to make that information available in a range of different ways. We currently share information and news via our website, Facebook, Newsletter and notice boards and we have also dropped leaflets through every letter box regarding key issues.

We feel that we could do more. Firstly to provide key information directly to individual community members and secondly to create more opportunities for active dialogue with our community. Keeping our community well informed and then creating specific ways for residents to share their views with us is how we think we can involve more of the community in our decision-making processes in the future.

This is where our new digital initiative,

the Woburn Sands Community email List comes in. Once you are signed up to it you can expect to receive via your email:

1. Copies of key documents that WSTC produce,
2. Surveys on key issues,
3. Invitations to take part in discussion groups.

We would really encourage you to sign up. You can do that by filling in your details on the sign-up page on our website ([www.woburnsands.org.uk](http://www.woburnsands.org.uk)) or by emailing our town clerk ([a.jordan@wstc.org.uk](mailto:a.jordan@wstc.org.uk)) with your details. As you can see from the diagram above, we have a lot of specific aims for our community, and we would like to tell you more about them and involve you in deciding how to make them happen.



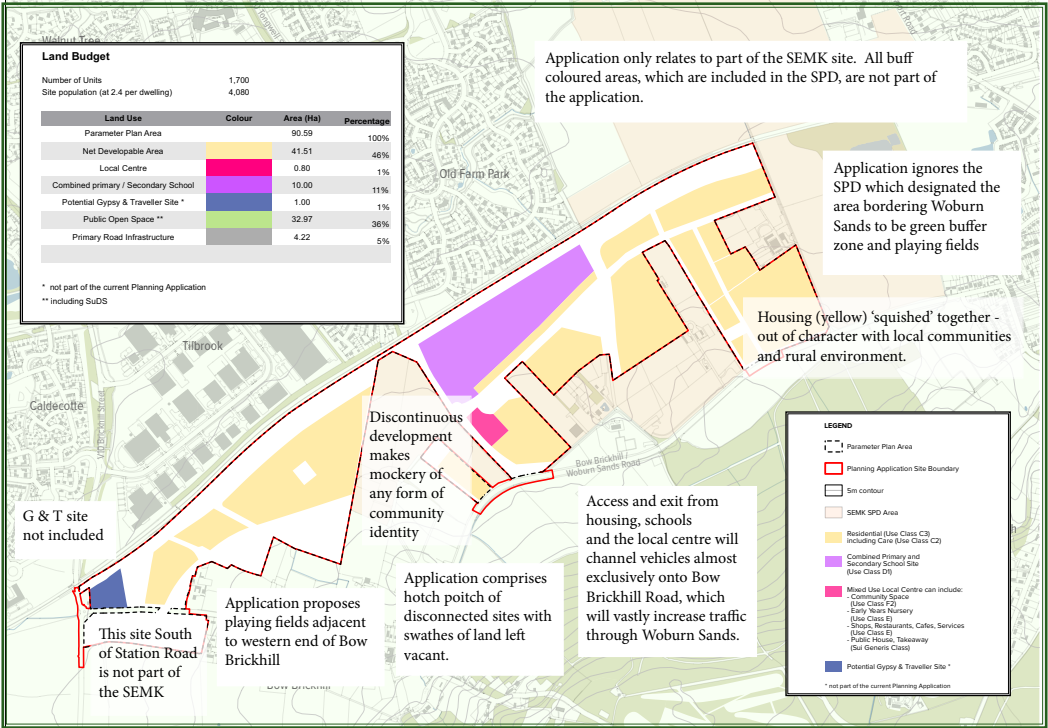
# SEMK PLANNING APPLICATION OBJECTION LETTERS NEEDED!

Future Development of Woburn Sands (SEMK) is up for grabs

The most recent planning application to hit the town has gone live. Most residents of Woburn Sands will have received a yellow and black leaflet before Christmas which announced a scheme from L & Q Estates Ltd and Fox Land & Property Ltd about their plans for developing part of the SEMK site as if their scheme was a fait accompli.

The application to Milton Keynes Council (22/00524/OUTEIS) for land west of Woburn Sands and east of Bow Brickhill has now been put out for consultation and comments. Woburn Sands Town Council is **fighting this application** as it does not bode well for the town's future in terms of its social cohesiveness, its unique character, its traffic management, its future amenities and its links to the new development.

Below is a map of the site and clearly shows **that it does not include the whole area of the SEMK** which Woburn Sands Town Council had previously endorsed as being a comprehensive concept, benefitting the town and its residents.



Woburn Sands Town Council recommends that this present application **is refused** by Milton Keynes Council on the following grounds:

**1.** The application **does not comply with the Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)** for SEMK which was approved by MKC in Jan 2022 after comprehensive discussion with the neighbouring parishes of Woburn Sands, Bow Brickhill, Wavendon and the Walton Community Council.

**2.** The application **is not a comprehensive plan for the whole site** but merely develops portions of it in a haphazard, non-integrated manner, cherry picking the elements which are most attractive to the developers.

**3.** The application **does not reflect the distinct characteristics of Woburn Sands**, Bow Brickhill and Wavendon as per the recommendations in the SPD, nor does it create a thriving community set within a lush landscape with significant planting of forest scale trees that give the sense of extending Brickhill Woods into the Milton Keynes urban area. Thus, the Vision of the SPD is compromised, again persuading Woburn Sands Town Council **to recommend refusal**.

**4.** The site applied for **will be isolated from the rest of Milton Keynes** as there are no access points linking it to the rest of MK to the north but instead 3 or 4 access points to the south onto Bow Brickhill road, funnelling vehicle traffic towards and through Woburn

Sands. This is contrary to the SPD which attempts to limit the traffic likely to come through Woburn Sands by reducing access from the SEMK site to the Bow Brickhill Road.

**5.** In terms of the housing type, the application proposes a **high housing density** of over 40 houses per hectare with more than 50% being 1 or 2 bedroom units, giving a potential for social problems in the future. Housing density is higher than Broughton, which is identified by MKC as a high density area.

**6.** By siting playing fields to the west of the site, furthest from Woburn Sands, the developers **will jeopardise the much needed playing fields** and green buffer zone adjacent to Woburn Sands nearest the fishing lake, which was an essential part of the SPD and welcomed by Woburn Sands Town Council.

**7.** Other than inadequate on-line information and questionnaire following the forementioned leaflet drop, **the applicants have not carried out comprehensive consultation with the local community** - they have not staged any public meetings or exhibitions in Woburn Sands and their discussions with the Town Council have been notably absent. Woburn Sands Town Council are happy to play an active role in further discussions to develop the whole SEMK site as per the SPD if they are consulted.

There is still time for you to respond to





## SEMK PLANNING APPLICATION OBJECTION LETTERS NEEDED!

Continued.....

this planning application and we very much hope you will do so. Ignore the deadline date on the MK website as all responses received before the crucial Development Control meeting must be considered and that won't be for some weeks yet.

You can see the Town Council's full response on our website. This response sets out in detail why Woburn Sands Town Council **is recommending the planning application be refused.**

### FROM IAIN STEWART MP

**I remain deeply concerned about South-East Milton Keynes development plans –**

notably around Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill. Principally I am worried at the lack of alignment and cohesion between Milton Keynes Council's obsession with an enormous housing expansion, with other considerations such as East-West Rail and the wider Oxford-Milton Keynes-Cambridge Arc. I remain to be convinced that there is a need for such urgency or scale of expansion. There is time to reflect carefully for what size and style of development is appropriate; we do not need more massive, high density estates that will be out of character with the surrounding area and existing housing areas. I hope Milton Keynes Council will start to listen.

I will continue to ensure resident's concerns are being heard by the relevant stakeholders in SEMK. I engage regularly with East West Rail and Network Rail about the crossings in Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill, as well as on East West Rail issues as a whole. I remain in communication with businesses in Caldecotte and Tilbrook about MK Council's grid road extension policy. Also, I am speaking with the new Minister of State for Housing at the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Stuart Andrew, about what is happening in SEMK and how the Government can help in this matter.

If I can help you as your Member of Parliament, please do get in touch with my office and we will be happy to assist.



# CALLING ALL GARDENERS

## Calling all gardeners for the Woburn Sands Annual Garden Competition

We are pleased to announce that, once again, Frost's Garden Centre are sponsoring the prizes for this year's Woburn Sands annual garden competition. We are most grateful to Frost's for their continuing support of all Woburn Sands gardeners. All residents of the Woburn Sands community who love their plants and gardens are most welcome to enter. It would be great to see new participants entering this competition whether green fingered or not!



**The theme for this year's competition is 'Beautiful Environmentally Friendly Garden'**



**The four categories are the same as last year:**

Front Garden;  
Back Garden;  
Container Garden (pots, hanging baskets; window boxes);  
Community/Business Floral Display.



There will be prizes for the best three in each category.

**Judging will take place in the last two weeks of July, with the deadline for entries to The Clerk by 9am Friday 15th July.**

Further information can be found on our website [www.woburnsands.org.uk](http://www.woburnsands.org.uk)

## A BIG CLEAN UP FOR THE JUBILEE!

Let's make sure Woburn Sands looks smart for the Jubilee weekend. Can you organise a litter pick on your street on Saturday 28th May? We can provide litter picking equipment and arrange for rubbish to be collected from outside the Memorial Hall.



### Contact the Clerk

**01908 585359**

**[a.jordan@wstc.org.uk](mailto:a.jordan@wstc.org.uk)**

for more information or check our website.



# QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

## MOWBRAY GREEN

A Jubilee Concert will be held in the **afternoon of Saturday 4 June on Mowbray Green**. The Woburn Sands Band will be playing from 3pm, which will be great, as we have all missed them during the pandemic. In the interval, the **Young Environmentalist Awards** will be presented by Dr Jan Rae, the Mayor of Woburn Sands, whose initiative this is.

For all **community organisations** - If you would like to have a stall to celebrate The Jubilee and raise funds for your organisation please contact the Clerk – spaces still available. If you haven't been offered a **Woburn Sands High Street Tote Bag** (promoting the High Street), then come down to Mowbray Green on the Saturday afternoon, where the Town Council will be giving them out (while stocks last!)

There will also be a **Treasure Hunt** on Edgewick Farm during the afternoon (with prizes!).

Also on this Saturday a local resident has organised '**A Vintage Jubilee**' event at St Mary's Church with vintage stalls, fair games and singers. There will be classic cars parading down Woburn Sands High Street at 2.30pm. The highlight of the day will be the Spitfire



Flypast over our community at some point in the afternoon!

There will be an **ecumenical church service** on Sunday 5th at St Michael's Church at 10.30am.

The Town Council are encouraging residents to hold Street Parties later that day. Guidance on organising street closures can be found on Milton Keynes web site.

Watch out for other happenings which will be posted on our Facebook page, the WSTC web site as well as printed in the May edition of Hogsty End.





# NEWS FROM ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Our first thoughts and prayers recently have been for the people of Ukraine. See page 2 for more on help for Ukrainians

We rejoice that in Woburn Sands life is returning to something nearer normal, despite the very high levels of infection we've seen over recent weeks. We have been able to plan some celebratory events over the summer months. On **Sunday 22 May** at 6.00 p.m. do join us in St Michael's Church for a performance of Roger Jones' popular choral work 'Saints Alive' based around the story of Pentecost – sometimes known as the birthday of the church.

On **Sunday 5 June** at 10.30 a.m. we shall be holding an ecumenical Civic Service in St Michael's Church to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. We know there will be lots of street parties in Woburn Sands, but later on Sunday 5 June we also warmly invite you to attend our Jubilee Tea Party at 3.00 p.m. at St Michael's. We are hoping the weather will be fine and this will take place outside.

With living costs going up for us all our food banks are going to need more support to keep meeting the need around us. You can leave donations for the MK Food Bank in St Michael's Church. Just come inside the church

and you'll see the boxes near the entrance on the left. They are emptied regularly and there is also a collection point in the Co-op.

Details of our regular services and activities can be found on our website – [www.stmichaelsws.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsws.org.uk) or our **Facebook page St Michaels Woburn Sands**.

Revd Diana Young,  
Vicar, St Michael's Church  
revdianay@gmail.com; 07887 296588;  
01908 584598



## LIBRARY NEWS

Apologies for the closure due to boiler problems, the Woburn Sands library is open again with our normal hours.

### Do join us for our current clubs and activities:

- **Tuesdays** 11.15am–11.45 Storytime with Julie or Anna for pre-school aged children
- **Fridays** 2pm–3.30pm Knit and Natter (also crochet or cross-stitch of course)
- **Fridays** 4pm–5pm: Duplo Club for our younger users

### Easter Closures:

- Good Friday 15th April - Closed
- Easter Saturday 16th April – Closed
- Easter Monday 18th April – Closed



# SUPPORT FOR HIGH STREET BUSINESSES

Following the initial leaflets advertising the shops and businesses along the High Street and Station Road which were distributed to all residents in Woburn Sands and surrounding villages before Christmas and the successful rollout of the Woburn Sands High Street Tote Bags, there is now a new noticeboard in the Russell Street Shoppers' Car Park which will have a map and list of shops etc to promote the High Street and any new initiatives of the shops and businesses.



The information will reflect the dynamic nature of the businesses in the High Street. All shops and businesses who have new products they want to promote, new events coming up etc are welcome to bring their advertising material to the TC office so that it can be displayed for all to see. Please try to make the material space friendly (ie A5 or less) as we anticipate quite a lot of demand and space will be limited.

Both of these initiatives have been funded by a Regeneration Grant from Milton Keynes Council which the



Council received last November. We are hoping to apply to MKC for further funding for new initiatives to support the High Street in the coming months.

If you haven't been given or received one of the Tote Bags, then you haven't missed out- they will be available to pick up on Mowbray Green on Saturday 4th June at the Queen's Jubilee Celebrations (until supplies run out!).



## EAST WEST RAIL LATEST INFORMATION

At the start of April Five Councillors from Woburn Sands Town Council met with three representatives from EWR to discuss current progress on the EWR project. Over 160,000 comments were received from almost 10,000 returned questionnaires sent in from the whole project area as part of the Non-Statutory Consultation that took place last year. Of these, they estimated that almost 6,000 of the comments came from people living in and around Woburn Sands. We were assured that every one of the comments were read and will be taken into account before the next stage of the Statutory Consultation is published in late 2022/early 2023.

When this happens, it does not mean the end of community engagement – further comments will be welcomed and considered. So, there is an opportunity for you to give more feedback at this stage.

EWR asked us to tell you that they welcomed each and every one of the comments received from Woburn Sands and know how carefully everyone had thought about their responses. They were impressed both with their quantity and quality. The Town Council would also like to thank everyone for being so proactive on such an important issue. They are working in collaboration with neighbouring villages and communities to get the best solution for Woburn Sands. We are still pushing for a resolution to the problem of the level crossing while standing firm against any notion of a Woburn Sands by-pass.

**Further information, as and when it becomes available, will be found on the TC website.**

## STARSHIP ROBOTS UPDATES

These little fellows are endearing themselves to many in Woburn Sands for grocery delivery and other purchases, but they might just have another use. Recently photographed off the High Street, one of the robots doing a bit of traffic duty, patrolling the double yellow lines and keeping miscreants at bay. Perhaps they will start to issue parking tickets soon!

If you need to report anything about the robots, please phone **0808 1641242**.

As yet, they don't deliver to any Central Beds areas nor over the railway line.



# SNIPPETS AND DATES

• **Fly Tipping:** we were horrified to find the items in photo in our town car park. Thankfully, Milton Keynes Council has organised the removal of this along with the disgusting amount of rubbish which accrued behind the chemists.



• **Grants:** small grants for capital costs of a project to help local groups can be sought from the Town Council. Details and application forms on our website.


• **Britannia Bus Service 450:** use it or lose it! This new service is going well and needs your continued use of it to remain profitable. (See cover photo). It leaves Woburn Sands High Street outside the Swan at 11am Mon-Fri and will pick up at any further bus stop if you flag it down. It goes to the Kingston Centre, the hospital and the City Centre. Details on our website.

• **Summer Music Festival** will take place again at Woburn Sands Recreation Ground on Saturday 27th August and Sunday 28th August.


• **Climate Change and our Environmental survey:** many thanks to all of you who completed our survey. A report of our findings is on our website and a summary of actions will be in our next newsletter.

• **Fair in the Recreation Ground:** J W Harris and Sons Funfair will be here from Thursday 23rd June to Sunday 26th June.

• **Sports Hall update:** still waiting for Taylor Wimpey legal department to hand over the necessary papers to the Town Council. We are horrified at the delays which Taylor Wimpey have caused in the opening of this facility.




Join the Quest to be a  
Woburn Sands Young  
Environmentalist




Are you aged 8-18 and from Woburn Sands or the  
surrounding area? Are you concerned about the  
Environment?

**WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL**

**YOUNG ENVIRONMENTALIST  
AWARDS 2022**



For ideas and information about starting your quest  
Look on our website:  
[www.woburnsands.org.uk](http://www.woburnsands.org.uk)



Entry Forms available to download from January 2022. All competition  
entries receive a certificate. Prizes for the winners.

**YEA DEADLINE EXTENDED  
TO THE 8TH MAY**

Get your entries in now to take  
part in the first Woburn Sands  
Young Environmentalist Awards.

