

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL
Memorial Hall, 4 High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8RH
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Members of Woburn Sands Town Council are hereby summoned to attend the Town Council Meeting of Woburn Sands on **Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Committee Room, Memorial Hall.**

Members of the public are welcome to attend.

DRAFT MINUTES

- 167/25 **Present:** Chairman David Hopkins, Councillors Trudie Sutton, Alex Poppleton
Ward Councillor Tracey Bailey, Town Clerk Alison Jordan
Members of the public x 6
- 168/25 **Apologies:** Cllr Keith Temple
- 169/25 **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:**
Cllr Trudie Sutton on Music Festival Committee
- 170/25 **Visit from PCSO Tia Butler Woburn Sands new PCSO:** apologies but will attend another meeting when available.
- 171/25 **Mayor's Announcements and Report:** Appendix A
- 172/25 **Public Question Time:**
The time allocated is at the discretion of the Council/Chairman. Residents are invited to give their views and question the Town Council on issues on this agenda, or raise issues for future consideration at the discretion of the Chairman. Members of the public may not take part in the Town Council meeting itself. A Councillor with a prejudicial interest in a particular issue may address the Council on the issue during Public Question Time subject to the Councillor leaving the room in the event of an exchange of the issue between the public and the Council during this period. 3 minutes per person if public wish to speak, or at the Chair's discretion.
- a. Miss D Davis spoke on an issue with the pavements, they are a trip hazard, MKCC do some repairs but not complete the whole street, she asked why the work cannot all be done in one go rather than keep returning. Miss Davis understands this is for MKCC but the council will pass on her concerns. Also reported a drain appears blocked at the top of the High Street.
- 173/25 **Woburn Sands Festival Feedback and request for public consultation:** A resident wanted to raise some issues regarding the live outdoor music in Woburn Sands over the Bank Holiday weekend, specifically the Weathercock Inn, and the impact of the noise on local residents. She understands this is not a Woburn Sands Town Council event but wished to raise concerns with the Town Council. The resident commented the event appeared well run but suggested ways to better manage noise pollution. There was some discussion with councillors pointing out the large number of attendees who enjoy the festival and that it has been running since 2012 with very few issues or complaints. While acknowledging the concerns about noise, it is Central Bedfordshire Council and MK Council who are responsible for pubs licensing and outdoor entertainment.
The resident was thanked for her positive comments and compliments on the appearance of the town.
- 174/25 **Minutes:**
To consider the approval of the draft minutes of the last meeting of the Council held on Monday 14th July 2025. Circulated

175/25 **Actions from Previous Minutes and Clerk's Report:** See appendix B

176/25 **Ward Councillors Reports:**

- a. Cllr Tracey Bailey:
 - St George a resident said would paint over we must not do this as special road paint require. CBC/Cllr Baker said wait to see if washed off
 - Cycle race good
 - Observed drainage engineers on High Street, MK side was clear but hadn't started on CBC side
 - Hardwick Rd blocked drains cleared; CBC to clear drains and raise curbs outside cottages – not yet completed and Cllr Bailey will follow up
 - Complaints about parking on Vicarage and Downham Rd. planters may have pushed problem down the road. Investigating resident only parking
 - Traffic warden data at least 5 times per month and one month here 15 separate days, issued 117 parking notices
 - Has had residents mention drug dealing. Has emailed police & crime commissioner and asked DH to speak to him too.
 - Met MP E Darlington to express resident's concerns re. EWR pressed EWR to improve communications and clarity on timelines
- b. Cllr David Hopkins - Appendix C

177/25 **Committee updates:**

- a. **Staffing Committee Update:** to note recruitment is on-going
- a. **Halls Committee Update:**
 - **The Institute:** the automatic doors failed again, replacement should be considered in the budget, and a decision whether to have automatic doors or not needs consultation with the Library Service. Cllr TS suggested looking at \$106 money for new doors
- b. **Sports Hall roof needs to be repaired:** Roof leaking – see Clerk's report. ACTION Cllr DH to raise with Paul van Geete.
- c. **Environment Committee update:**
 - **Edgewick Farm:** Volunteer meeting Friday 5th Sept. Doug kindly attended to give us an update on EF activities. Appendix D

178/25 **Finance:**

- a. **To approve payments for September and note payments made in August (lists circulated):** APPROVED
- b. **To approve the bank statements (circulated):** AGREED
- c. **To note the budget report (circulated):** NOTED
- d. **AGAR update:** Not yet signed off by the auditor but they have requested the Financial Risk assessment be reviewed.

179/25 **To review the Financial Risk Assessment, circulated in July:** APPROVED

180/25 **EWR consultation/information:** More information will be available in November.

181/25 **Street map showing benches:** Cllr T Sutton asked if the Clerk can produce a map indicating all benches and planters. Cllr D Hopkins suggested we could make use of the interactive maps now available for asset records. The council could also ask in newsletter if anyone has suggests for location for new benches.

- 182/25 **Response to MKCC Transport Strategy Consultation:** The Town Council think this should be linked to local plan and to East West Rail's plans. WSTC encourage residents to go online to participate in the consultation.
- 183/25 **New Local Plan (MK2050) and date for meeting of SEMK Stakeholder Group:** the next meeting will be on the 12th Nov in Memorial Hall, Woburn Sands.
- 184/25 **2 Station Road – MK Council wish to sell the car park:** Cllr D Hopkins and the Clerk had a Teams meeting with a Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) officer. MKCC have agreed to include in the terms and conditions of the sale that WSTC can retain the eight parking bays we already have. The Clerk has spoken to the Town Council solicitors.
- 185/25 **Drainage Works in Woburn Sands by MKCC:** Work has been completed and lots of drains were clear but they appear to lack capacity when it rains very heavily, this is the same on the Central Beds Council side so maybe remedial work is needed. Bedford Estates have been working on the footpaths to help flood prevention.
- 186/25 **Universal Studios:** Cllr D Hopkins requested this as a standing item and updated the council on news.
- 187/25 **Co-opting councillors:** Clerk reported pleased to have three interested parties, **ACTION** to send Co-option Policy to candidates.
- 188/25 **Double Yellow Lines on Summerlin Drive, consultation:** there have been six responses from this consultation, all in support of yellow lines being painted along Summerlin Drive.
- 189/25 **Remembrance Sunday:** the PA system owned by the Town Council is not powerful enough, nor was the Christmas Fayre PA system which was borrowed last year. **ACTION** Clerk to get quotes to hire a system and to ask the local pubs if they might will hire their systems
- 190/25 **To agree to Mowbray Green tree works - acting on the tree report of 2024:** Clerk to get quotes for the work.
- ~~191/25 **Policies:**~~
- a. ~~**Financial Risk Assessment to be reviewed (to be circulated)**~~ see item 179/25
- 192/25 **Planning:**
- a. **PLN/2025/1448** crown reduction of Thuja Plicata (T1) approximately 6m in height to be crown reduced by 1.5m-2m and all deadwood to be removed at 50 STATION ROAD, WOBURN SANDS Make any comments by: 28/08/2025 - to note
- b. **PLN/2025/1664** Change of Use from first floor storage (Use Class B8) to Office (Use Class E) with installation of external staircase and entrance door at first floor level at REAR OF 75 HIGH STREET, WOBURN SANDS Make any comments by: **12/09/2025** WSTC has no objection
- c. **PLN/2025/1691** Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) seeking to enlarge front extension to include pitched roof to enlarged garage, amend the ground floor fenestration on the rear elevation and internal alterations (relating to permission ref. PLN/2025/0575 The demolition of existing garage and erection of a part single and part two storey side and rear extension and single storey front porch extension) at 28 VICARAGE STREET, WOBURN SANDS. Make any comments by: **16/09/2025** WSTC has no objection

- d. **PLN/2025/1663** Proposal: Approval of details required by condition 14 (pumping station and substation) of permission ref. 22/03005/REM at Land West of Newport Road, Woburn Sands. Make any comments by: **09/09/2025** WSTC has no comment
- e. **ENF/2025/0310** an alleged breach of planning control regarding a shed relocated on driveway at: 41 Drayhorse Crescent. Noted
- f. **ENF/2024/0431** 12 The Leys enforcement investigation closed. Noted
- g. **This application arrived after the agenda went out but the deadline for comment is before the next Town Council meeting. Therefore is only here for information - PLN/2025/1764**
Proposal: The felling to ground level of Ash (T3) protected by Milton Keynes Council Tree Preservation Order no. PS/540/15/110 at Land adjacent to 1 Hillway, Woburn Sands. Make any comments by: 01/10/2025

193/25 Notifications of decisions made by Milton Keynes City Council:

- a. **PLN/2025/1289** 12 The Leys APPROVED
- b. **PLN/2025/1559** 17 Wood Street APPROVED
- c. **PLN/2025/1475** 49 The Leys APPROVED
- d. **PLN/2025/1360** 44 Russell Street APPROVED

Correspondence to note:

- a. A complaint about the Woburn Sands Festival and lack /of consultation (see 173/25)
- b. Compliments on the High Street planting
- c. Responses to the double yellow lines consultation (see 188/25)
Further correspondence to note:
- d. Complaints about the zipwire on the recreation ground. This has had to be removed for pairs following misuse
- e. Complaints about overnight fishing at Parklands ponds, and anti-social behaviour of fishermen
- f. A complaint about parking by the rear of the Co-op
- g. Complaints about abandoned e-scooters and bikes in Woburn Sands
- h. A complaint about the mini-roundabout at the top of the High Street being vandalised

194/25 Notification of urgent decisions made:

- Contractor was called out to repair the Institute automatic doors

195/25 Councillors Reports and items for the next agenda:

- a. **Greens Court Rooms (Cllr T Sutton)**

196/25 Date of the next meetings:

Friday 12th September, the Summerlin Centre.
Monday 13th October 2025

Signed:

Date:



Mayors Announcements – September 2025

- **Band Concert**



August bank holiday Monday and the Woburn Sands band gave their 40th performance on Mowbray Green. Introduced by Woburn Sands Deputy Mayor, Keith Temple who kindly stepped in whilst I was on holiday.

We were blessed again with lovely weather and a super crowd, and residents' generosity raised a good sum for the band to use for, among other things, free lessons and free instrument loan to anyone who wants to learn.

During the concert interval, the Woburn Sands Gardening Competition winners were presented with certificates, trophies, and tokens. There were four categories - Hanging baskets & containers, front garden, back garden and community area. As ever, a very high level of entries.



- **Town Music Festival**



Woburn Sands celebrated its most successful festival with over 3000 people in attendance. There were five venues including the recreation ground. 90 bands featured over the August bank holiday. Over £4000 was raised for local charities. This year Girl Pack and National Animal Welfare Trust (formerly HULA) were the chosen recipients. Congratulations to Gill Brooke and her magnificent team. All are volunteers and work throughout the year to bring the show together. Artists appeared for free.

- **Invitation to Burlington Hall** – Thanks to the initiative set by Cllr Keith Temple I have been invited as Mayor to visit the residents of Burlington Hall on 12th September.
- **Invitation extended to Matthew Barber Police & Crime Commissioner** – I am pleased to report that the Police and Crime Commissioner has accepted our invitation to visit Woburn Sands for a walk around and will be here on **30th September**.



- **Tour of Britain Cycle Race (and news report published in advance of the race)** – The rain stopped just in time and last parked car removed as the peloton sped through the town on 4 September. Hundreds of local students from Swallowfield and Fulbrook provided a rousing celebration to this one in a generation event.

Both the town clerk and I sent out media releases promoting the town in advance of the race passing through and I did interviews with BBC and Horizon Radio in advance.

- **Flooding** – More exceptional heavy rain on Wednesday 3 September impacted the all too regular places Aspley Hill, Downham Road, Vicarage Street, High Street (Co-op), and Cranfield Road. Having notified the teams at MKCC, I attended the town in the afternoon and again in the evening where I also spoke to the tams preparing to work through the night to mechanically sweep the Woburn Sands/Bow Brickhill Road in advance of the Cycle Race.
- **Recruitment of new Town Clerk** – I am delighted to report that applications have now closed prompting a strong field of candidates and interviews are underway.
- **As Mayor of Woburn Sands, I visited Woughton Community Council on 29th July** to review the work that council has done to address flooding issues in their parish. Information from that visit was

shared shortly after that date with fellow councillors and others concerned about similar issues in our town.

- **As Mayor of Woburn Sands, I have accepted an invitation to attend the MKCC Mayor Civic Service on 12th October.**
- **As Mayor of Woburn Sands, I have accepted an invitation to attend The High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire Justice Service on Friday 3rd October.**
- **Summerlin Drive parking concerns** - As Chairman (Mayor) following concerns regarding road safety and parking issues on Summerlin Drive and in line with MKCC Highways guidance I wrote to all residents of Summerlin Drive and the streets off Summerlin Drive. The responses have been collated (six in total) and forwarded to MKCC Highways requesting appropriate measures be considered.
- After repeated requests from the town council MKCC is finally repairing **Wood Street** with a closure on 10th September 2025 - 8:00am to 6:00pm. The road will be closed from its junction with Chapel Street to its junction with Asplands Close and whilst the above closure is in place the alternative route will be via Chapel Street, Station Road and Asplands Close (and vice versa).
<https://one.network/?GB145345416>

David Hopkins
Mayor of Woburn Sands

Appendix B

Clerk's Report

Actions from last meeting minutes (July 2025)

- Santander Bank signatories update (Clerk)
- Lantern/lamppost quotes (Clerk) – no progress
- Invoices/quotes for Sports Hall work sent to Paul Van Geete (Clerk) – no progress
- Grants form to be updated (Clerk/Cllr T Sutton) – done and on website
- Swallowfield Gate now with the school, the license has been agreed and signed
- Beech on Memorial Green has been inspected

- Sports Hall roof leaked on Wednesday – to arrange for a roofer to repair. Existing quote £1140.00 to put right issues. No quote yet for leak
- Millstream identified a couple of dead trees on Mowbray Green; general tree maintenance works are due but require application as in conservation area
- Attended Scribe training on Stripe payments and reconciliation
- Liaised with printers of the Town Council Autumn newsletter to be delivered in October
- Printed Garden Competition certificates and arranged engraving of cups, presented on a successful day at Mowbray Green WS Band Summer Concert.
- Various staff / HR duties
- Request to arrange a skip – filing cabinets and under stage items
- To arrange shredding
- Reported graffiti of mini roundabout to CBC and MKCC

Caretaker's Report

- Dan has been undertaking the annual asset check of halls and looking at risk assessments for the halls in addition to his routine duties
- To liaise with Zoe and volunteer to take down flags



Woburn Sands Town Council Update from your Unitary Councillor – September 2025



Welcome back after the summer break.

It's time to contemplate what we can expect over the coming few months in terms of government announcements and how they will impact our local community. I was reading a piece in a national newspaper over the summer setting just how the development of Universal Studios near Kempston Hardwick will fundamentally alter our local economy here in MK transforming it into very much of a Leisure based economy offering both opportunities and challenges for us all in the coming decade.

The 2050 Local Plan (MK2050)

MK City Council comments that in the light of the many responses to the Regulation 18 plan and ongoing evidence base work, they have moved the consultation back to November - December 2025. A delegated decision to consider approving the final draft (Regulation 19) consultation and the subsequent submission of the MKCP is planned for 28 October 2025. The city council still intend to submit the plan in March 2026.

We can expect an announcement from MK City Council in late September / early October and of particular interest to Woburn Sands will be ...

1. Will site 3000 dwelling designation for land east of Newport Road be retained (with an extensive parkland area) but not developed before 2038 .
2. What designation might the city council place on the Greensand Ridge to protect its integrity and amenity value.
3. Will the expansion areas include the expansion site south and west of Caldecotte and Bow Brickhill be included and for how many more houses.

East West Rail

The government has announced that it will be making an announcement (via the East West Rail company) in November regarding much more detail relating to the project and the associated infrastructure.

It maintains that it is aware of the concerns of local people regarding the future of local stations and whether Bow Brickhill station will survive, the actual position of local stations, possible closures of level crossings and the development of bridges etc. However, being aware and listening to local people may be two different things as the terms of the Infrastructure and Planning Bill make their way towards becoming legislation ...

The Infrastructure and Planning Bill

The government maintains that the purpose of the Planning and Infrastructure Bill (PIB) is to speed up and streamline the delivery of new homes and critical infrastructure projects across England and Wales by reforming the planning system. Key aims include accelerating housing approvals, minimizing delays for infrastructure, enhancing planning transparency, creating a nature restoration levy, and strengthening the powers of development corporations. The bill also seeks to address issues like water and nutrient neutrality, which have stalled development in certain areas.

In effect, the Planning and Infrastructure Bill will significantly reduce opportunities for public consultation on major infrastructure projects by removing the statutory pre-application consultation requirements for Development Consent Orders (DCOs), which include projects like roads, railways, and windfarms. This change aims to streamline the planning process, speed up delivery, and reduce opportunities for legal challenges, though it has raised concerns about reduced environmental protections and democratic accountability.

What this means in real terms is fewer opportunities to comment on planning issues, especially strategic planning issues such as East West Rail and the Local Plan.



Highways officers are offering a drop-in session for MKCC ward councillors in advance of the next MKCC Full Council meeting on Wednesday 17 September so if WSTC members have highways issues they wish me to raise please let me know in advance of the meeting.



MK City Plan 2050

Following the consultation on the draft Milton Keynes City Plan 2050 (MKCP 2050) that took place between July and October 2024, we have been reviewing the comments received and updating and finalising our evidence base to shape the final draft MKCP 2050.

We received around 7,000 comments on the Regulation 18 Plan and are continuing to work with stakeholders as the MKCP 2050 is being finalised. We are also checking and refining

the proposed policies and allocations in the MKCP 2050. MKCP 2050 must be based on comprehensive and up to date evidence, and we cannot progress without this. As we are still awaiting completion of our transport modelling, we have had to reconsider the timings for the next stages.

Previously we intended to consult on a final version of the MKCP 2050 between September and October 2025, before submitting the Plan for independent examination in March 2026. While the intended submission date has not changed, we are now planning to consult on the final draft MKCP 2050 between November and December 2025.

A delegated decision to consider approving the final draft (Regulation 19) consultation and the subsequent submission of the MKCP is planned for 28 October 2025. Please see the Council's Forward Plan for more information: Forward plan- Executive Decisions (including Key Decisions). (1 August 2025) Onwards Milton Keynes City Council <https://milton-keynes.moderngov.co.uk/mgListPlanItems.aspx?PlanId=242&RP=154&>

This means that we have had to rearrange the event that we had planned to hold on 10 September, this will now be held on 5 November. This event is open to both MKCC Councillors and Town and Parish Councils. The session will cover details about the final draft of the MK City Plan and its consultation. Informed by comments made during the draft Plan (Regulation 18) stage and the finalised evidence, the final draft MK City Plan 2050 (also known as Regulation 19, or 'proposed submission') will be published for consultation for six weeks.

Due to capacity, as before spaces will be limited to 2 attendees per Town & Parish Council, more details will be sent out nearer the time including how to register for the session.



Planning Applications and Notifications

Application Number: PLN/2025/1691 - Removal/variation of conditions

Location: 28 VICARAGE STREET, WOBURN SANDS, MILTON KEYNES, MK17 8RE

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) seeking to enlarge front extension to include pitched roof to enlarged garage, amend the ground floor fenestration on the rear elevation and internal alterations (relating to permission ref. PLN/2025/0575 The demolition of existing garage and erection of a part single and part two storey side and rear extension and single storey front porch extension)

Case Officer: Sonia James

Consultation Expiry: 2025-09-16

Application Number: PLN/2025/1663 - Approval of details reserved by a condition.

Location: Land West of Newport Road, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes MK17 8UE

Proposal: Approval of details required by condition 14 (pumping station and substation) of permission ref. 22/03005/REM

Case Officer: Yu Ling Wong

Consultation Expiry: 2025-09-16

Application Number: PLN/2025/1664 - Full planning permission

Location: REAR OF 75 HIGH STREET, WOBURN SANDS, MILTON KEYNES, MK17 8QY

Proposal: Change of Use from first floor storage (Use Class B8) to Office (Use Class E) with installation of external staircase and entrance door at first floor level

Case Officer: Yu Ling Wong

Consultation Expiry: 2025-09-12

Application Number: PLN/2025/1691 - Removal/variation of conditions

Location: 28 VICARAGE STREET, WOBURN SANDS, MILTON KEYNES, MK17 8RE

Proposal: Variation of condition 2 (Approved Plans) seeking to enlarge front extension to include pitched roof to enlarged garage, amend the ground floor fenestration on the rear elevation and internal alterations (relating to permission ref. PLN/2025/0575 The demolition of existing garage and erection of a part single and part two storey side and rear extension and single storey front porch extension)

Case Officer: Sonia James

Consultation Expiry: 2025-09-16

Enforcement Notices Served

Notice Served: ENF/2025/0280 - A-3017 - PCN - Planning Contravention Notice Served

Location: 6 Tansley Lane, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8GH

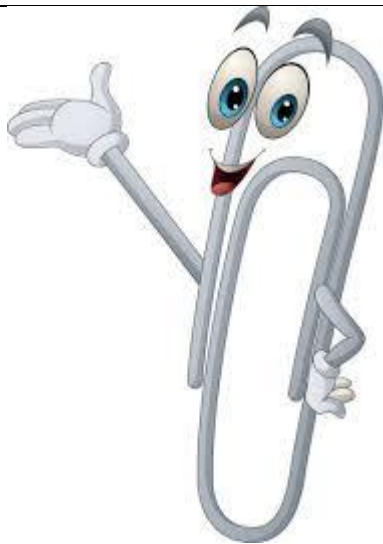
Alleged Breach Unauthorised outbuilding exceeding height limits

Case Officer: Thomas Halsey



Parklands

I have been liaising with MKCC (Phil Snell) with issues relating to fishing and the use of the Parklands Lake and repairs to fencing.



Snippets

- The benches close to the library are back in place and fixed to the ground with (hopefully) stronger fixings.
- There were comments on Facebook about Dott/ Lime bikes and scooters, and some information that they are being dumped because of a £10 charge once in Woburn Sands. The recent situation is as a result of a mistake by MKCC and Dott/ Lime to change the accessibility to WS without actually consulting with WSTC. That is why there currently is not a place to park and position bikes/ scooters, but WSTC are working on clarifying this situation.
- The next meeting of the SEMK Stakeholder Group is likely to be held on 12 November at 5.30 pm. Venue to be decided.
- **Household Support Fund – funding for Parishes. MKCC has made a funding offer to WSTC**

As previously agreed, the town clerk has asked CAB for a quote and availability, and they have quoted per session. The funding should be used with the aim of preventing poverty locally and building local resilience and support.



Research Request

The Diffley Partnership is conducting research in Milton Keynes for a project on behalf of Santander UK and with in-kind support from MKCC. Details of the project can be found here - City Council and Santander partner to help residents improve energy efficiency | Milton Keynes City Council <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/news/2025/city-council-and-santander-partner-help-residents-improve-energy-efficiency>

There are several elements to the research commission over 2025:

1. A large-scale public survey with Milton Keynes residents- completed in April
2. Forming a panel of Milton Keynes residents- we have over 80 MK residents in the Tomorrow's Homes Panel
3. Research activities including in-person, online focus groups and surveys to the panel
4. Helping with a wider open day (tbc October/ November)
5. Stakeholder interviews

The Diffley Partnership would like to hear from people interested in taking part in stakeholder interviews. Some further information below

What is the research about?

This research aims to understand key barriers and potential solutions to building decarbonisation in Milton Keynes. As part of this, we are speaking to local stakeholders about these issues including members of the business community, third sector, service providers and political representatives.

Who is funding the research?

This research is funded by Santander UK and supported in-kind by Milton Keynes City Council

Who is conducting this research?

Santander UK has commissioned Diffley Partnership – an independent research organisation - to conduct this research. You can find out more about them on their website- <https://diffleypartnership.co.uk/>. Their research adheres to the Social Research Association's Research Ethics Guidance. (SRA Home | Social Research Association)

What will I be required to do?

Take part in an online or telephone interview of approximately 45 minutes to discuss your views on energy efficiency and related issues in Milton Keynes.

What happens to my information?

Diffley Partnership will analyse all the stakeholder interviews and include key themes in their final project report. All information will be anonymous, and you will not be identifiable from any of the reporting.

When?

Between now and November, Diffley Partnership would set up a time that suits you.

How to I take part?

Please contact Diffley Partnership directly on research@diffleypartnership.co.uk to make arrangements with you.

**Delays**

The National Infrastructure and Services Transformation Authority has issued their annual report for 2024/25 having reviewed progress on Government projects.

The DfT spent £175.3m on East West Rail against a budget of £90.2m -a 94.3% overspend. EWR was assessed as amber with significant issues to be resolved and slower progress than anticipated and uncertainties about deliverability and funding from the Treasury. The next stages from Bletchley to Cambridge are costed at £3.97b with completion in 2030 although a Development Consent Order needs to be obtained.

The current scheme from Bicester to Milton Keynes spent £125m against a budget of £118m. There are concerns over the delays to the start of services. This was due to the delay in awarding the contract to run the services to Chiltern Railways and for agreement with the trade unions on the operation of the service which has delayed driver training. It is hoped services can still start in 2025.

(Summarised in New Civil Engineer magazine 20/8/25)



**HAS MILTON KEYNES
BEEN A SUCCESS?**

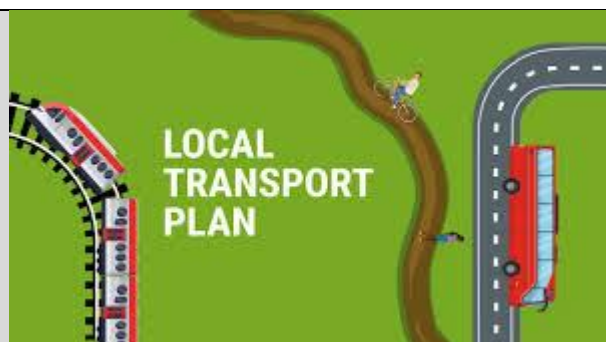
**Hidden Toil Behind Shiny Fronts:
experiences of living in a new housing area with little income
OU Research Report published in July 2025**

In a bid to resolve the UK's housing crisis, the government is planning to build 1.5 million homes by 2029 and establish up to 12 New Towns before the next election. The OU sponsored research in Milton Keynes, one of the fastest growing cities and one that is often hailed as one of the most successful New Towns, reveals that new housing areas offer a two-tiered experience with low-income residents often drawing the short straw. The research draws on experiences of residents in Glebe Farm and Eagle Farm South, amongst others.

To avoid the city bursting at its seams and new housing areas trapping low-income residents in a life of precarity rather than move them out of it, the report calls on national government and local authorities to work with developers and other stakeholders to:

- Prioritise the establishment of vital services, including schools, health facilities and shops, to serve new and existing residents within reasonable distance;
- Ensure that public transport links are established as soon as new housing areas are being developed to offer affordable and viable ways of travelling around the city;
- Construct community buildings with ample capacity to meet communities' needs, and ensure temporary facilities are provided until permanent facilities are available;
- Invest in community development to build an inclusive and thriving community;
- Hold housing associations to account for lack of responsiveness or inadequate response to faults or complaints;
- Meaningfully enable the participation of voluntary, community organisations and resident groups before and throughout the development of new housing areas to understand the needs of all residents, and especially those on lower incomes.

A copy of the full report is attached.



MK City Council Local Transport Plan

Officers have been preparing the new Local Transport Plan 5 document for the last 18

months, in response to a Department for Transport (DfT) call for all local authorities to update their transport plans in the light of new national focus on public transport, active travel and the decarbonisation of transport.

The draft document has been developed in the context of the Council's own plans and policies, including MK:2050 Strategy, the Sustainability Strategy and the Local Plan and in the context of wider national guidance on transport policy, such as Decarbonising Transport, and the emerging Integrated Transport Strategy.

The LTP has an extensive evidence base, which sets out our current baseline in terms of modal share and use of the transport system in MK and has also been informed by an extensive public consultation exercise which commenced in Summer 2024 which received over 5,000 responses covering all aspects of our transport system. This information, along with the councils own MK strategies and national policy guidance have been used to inform the suggested policies in the LTP5 document.

The consultation will run for a period of 12 weeks and will start in the first week of September.

MK City Council officers have been preparing the new Local Transport Plan 5 document for the last 18 months, in response to a Department for Transport (DfT) call for all local authorities to update their transport plans in the light of new national focus on public transport, active travel and the decarbonisation of transport.

The draft document has been developed in the context of the Council's own plans and policies, including MK:2050 Strategy, the Sustainability Strategy and the Local Plan and in the context of wider national guidance on transport policy, such as Decarbonising Transport, and the emerging Integrated Transport Strategy.

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This information, along with our own MK strategies and national policy guidance have been used to inform the suggested policies in the LTP5 document.

Following the consideration of the draft LTP5 document by the Environment and Place Scrutiny Committee in June, an accessible summary document for public consultation has now been prepared and is attached.

The agreement to proceed to consultation will be made on Tuesday of next week and then an eight week consultation will commence.

Some headlines emerging from the briefing to parishes perhaps include...

- Link to MK2050 Local Plan
- The city can no longer rely on country lanes
- The network is decaying – especially bridges
- Stronger parking enforcement is planned
- All parking surplus monies will be invested in transport
- Plan to reduce grid road speeds
- Plan to introduce average speed cameras
- MKCC will obtain camera enforcement powers in November of this year
- Car cruising is a major issue – operation Chromium addressing the issues with TVP

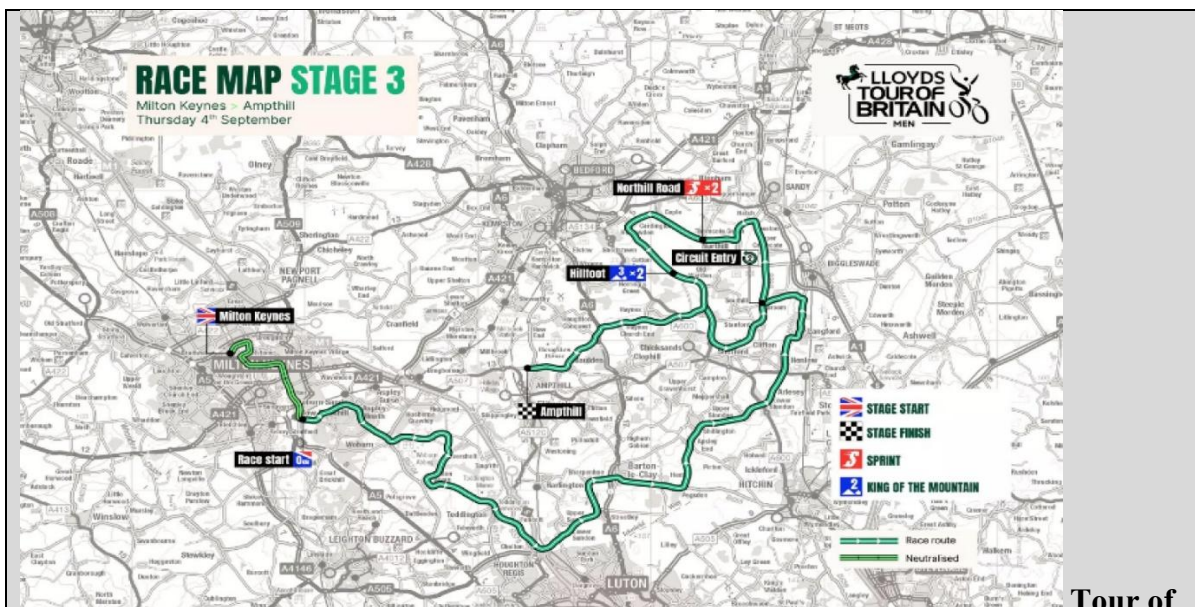
- MK Metro network in place by 2030 (see slide above and the document itself)
- MK Connect will have driverless vehicles in the near future with enormous cost savings enabling expansion of the network
- New Towns Taskforce discussing with MKCC funding of the new MK Connect Services
- Council planning to take on transport franchising powers can offer cross subsidised services
- Smart ticketing is coming
- And finally chord ... which is apparently the project that will enable trains coming from MK Central to join the East West Rail network without reversing or people having to change trains (Denbigh Hall Junction project)

Details attached.



On Sunday 7 September at around 3pm, anyone with a mobile phone in the UK will be sent a test emergency alert by Government. Beyond the tests, the alert system will sound when there's a risk to life, such as extreme weather. It will be a loud, siren-like warning on your mobile with details of the risk and instructions on what to do. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/national-emergency-alert-test-to-be-held-on-7th-september>

It is possible to opt out of the alerts. It's not generally recommended but might be useful for some people, e.g. those living with an abusive partner who keep a secret secondary mobile – there's details on how to do so here. <https://www.gov.uk/alerts/ opting-out>



Tour of

Britain Cycle Race

The Lloyds Tour of Britain is the largest free-to-attend sporting spectacle in the UK. Thursday 4 September saw stage three of Britain's biggest professional cycle race starting in Milton Keynes; a 122.8-kilometre (76.4-mile) leg from Milton Keynes to Amptill, that will take in Woburn, Toddington, Barton-le-Clay, and Shefford, and include a spectator friendly double-loop around Northill and Old Warden.

Stage three begun at Milton Keynes' Midsummer Boulevard at 11:30, where special activities will be happening for spectators, crossing Campbell Park before heading south on grid roads, leaving the H7 Chaffron Way for a long stretch on the V10 Brickhill Street, passing the Open University headquarters and the Oracle Red Bull Racing Formula One technology campus before racing to Woburn Sands and on into Central Bedfordshire. The stage finishes in Amptill town centre at around 14:40.

In celebration of the Tour, local cycling firm Madison is offering two adult and two child Ridgeback bikes worth over £1,700.

To enter, you'll need to share your favourite photo of cycling in MK here: www.destinationmiltonkeynes.co.uk/cycling-photography-competition/.



Heritage Open Days Milton Keynes

Free Events 12 - 21 September 2025

A reminder that 2025 is the 19th year that the Milton Keynes area has celebrated Heritage Open Days. In 2006 there were 15 events held across MK – this year we have 250 events

to showcase our distinctive and world class heritage, arts and culture. The national theme this year is Architecture, and this icon highlights the 109 events.

From the 12th to the 21st of September there are TEN DAYS of unmissable events taking place, including many activities for children and families. There are opportunities to come along to exhibitions, workshops, walks and tours, open days, craft events and performances. Suitable for all ages. And all events will be FREE.

For further details visit: Events Archives - Living Archive

<https://www.livingarchive.org.uk/events/category/events>

Parishes Forum
Online via Microsoft Teams
11 September 2025
18.00 – 20.00

MKCC welcome local councils' participation and hope as many parishes can join us and take part in discussions.

1. Welcome and Apologies 18:00

1.1 Apologies for absences

1.2 Notes from previous meeting

2. Milton Keynes University Hospital 18.05

Lui Straccia (Membership and Engagement Manager)

3. Drug and Alcohol Family Support (DAFS) 18.35

Lynn Fox

Valerie Forsey

4. Early Years / Youth Services and Family First 19.00

Garry Lake (Strategic Lead for Early Help)

5. Parish Successes 19.40

(Delia Shepherd – Clerk, Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council)

6. Good News and Hot Issues 19.55

7. Date of Future Meetings

- 4 December 2025

- 12 March 202

Cllr David Hopkins - Representing Woburn Sands at MK City Council (September 2025)

