



Chairman / Mayors Report – April 2026

Town Council Meeting – 13 April 2026 at 7.30 pm - 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.

Mayoral Update

- East West Rail: East West Rail (EWR) has announced details of its forthcoming, route-wide final consultation on our latest plans for our local railway.

Running from 14 April to 9 June 2026, their eight-week consultation gives communities a vital opportunity to help shape the final design of the railway linking Oxford, Milton Keynes, Bedford and Cambridge before we submit a Development Consent Order in 2027.

<https://eastwestrail.co.uk/news/latest-stories/east-west-rail-announces-details-of-final-consultation>

It includes new high-resolution station images and fly-through animations, alongside updated plans for phased construction that would deliver benefits to communities sooner.

The consultation also sets out proposals for new and upgraded stations, service patterns designed to meet future demand — including for the Universal theme park — and the introduction of hybrid electric and battery-powered trains to support net zero ambitions. Plans to reduce environmental impacts and deliver biodiversity net gain are also included.

EWR is holding a series of public drop-in events along the route, including weekend and online sessions, which will give people the chance to speak directly with our team of experts. A virtual consultation room will also host event materials online, so everyone can access the information and provide feedback in a way that suits them.

For details of the consultation event local to Woburn Sands, please see below:

Saturday 25th April - 12pm-5pm

Summerlin Centre

138 Station Road, Woburn Sands, MK17 8SG

- **MKPA session at the Recreation Ground**

The Town Clerk reports that the Milton Keynes Play Association event at the Recreation Ground on 1 April was very well attended and enjoyed by all.



- **High Street Bus Stop**

Following the feedback from residents to the town clerk, the caretaker has painted the bus stop at the top of the High Street to freshen it up.



- **The Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) Communities Fund**

Woburn Sands Town Council awarded £4000 from the PCC Community Fund, towards a new CCTV camera for the Woburn Sands High Street

The money will be allocated for additional CCTV for the town to discourage fly tipping and to monitor safer parking and personal safety on the Woburn Sands High Street.



Highways updates from MK City Council:

Newport Road

- The speed limit is 30 mph by virtue of the existing street lighting, and as such no repeater signs are permitted. We are looking at locations where we may place speed monitor cameras in the future, but we will prioritise these installations based on where there is the greatest need due to safety risks.

Speed limit enforcement is carried out by the police not the council

High Street Pedestrian Crossing markings

- A job has been raised to refresh the faded pedestrian crossing markings on Station Road. This will be carried out in the 26/27 year as part of a wider programme as we also will require a road closure to do these works.

Wood Street

- A repair job has been raised to fix the defects on Wood Street that met the criteria. The repair will be planned in along with all other jobs and a permit will be applied for by Ringway. Once approved, this permit will be uploaded to *One.Network* which will provide the date/time of the repair works

Tavistock Close

- Tavistock Close is on the patch repair programme for 25/26 financial year however, due to the recent poor weather conditions affecting earlier patch works, we are now looking at April/May for some of these to be completed.



Bollards Outside Tesco

- The 3 bollards were installed to protect the bus stop area from vehicles which were frequently parking on this section of the footway blocking access for passengers. There is limited space along this section to include any additional bollards due to the dropped kerb crossing access and other street furniture

Request for mobile speed cameras

- MKCC cannot enforce speed limits, only the police can do this.

How would data be collected from cameras

- Depends on how this is captured but the Traffic and Transport team use any speed or traffic data to help them plan where works are required and to rule out where it is not required i.e. speeding is a perception issue

20mph speed limit works to be completed across the town

- All the 20mph works for Woburn Sands are complete or under development. These are covered in TRO 411. Any additional roads would need to go through the same legal process.

SEMK and traffic levels

- There is a local plan model already in the documents available on the website.

East West Rail and Bow Brickhill Woodleys Farm

- This is for EWR and they will carry out their own consultations on any future activity.

Timeline for the H10 extension

- This has always been on the relevant page of the MKCC website under 'Major Projects'

School crossing on Station Road

- We have reviewed this before to look at safe crossing points already in place. Space is limited and the number of pupils in this area crossing the road is not significantly high so we will not be installing another crossing point. Pupils may be choosing to take the quickest crossing rather than the safe crossing points in place which is an education issue.

Request for parish/town council to put up own temporary speed limit signs

- By law, speed limit signs must be only by installed by the Highways Authority i.e. MKCC

Highways and Transport Bi-monthly Drop-in Sessions

- Milton Keynes City Council's Highways and Transport teams are launching new bimonthly drop-in sessions throughout 2026, which are open to all parish council staff, Ward and Parish Councillors, and the public. These sessions provide the chance to speak directly with officers about local transport and highways issues. Previously, sessions were held exclusively for parish representatives. However, attendance was low, and feedback highlighted a desire for broader accessibility. In response, the Council has widened the invitation to ensure residents and parish partners alike can engage more easily, ask questions, and receive updates on current and upcoming works.

Where and When

- Each session will take place at the Campbell Park Community Council Hub Springfield, on Thursdays from 10am–12 noon. There is no need to book — simply come along at any point during the two-hour window. **2026 session dates: 21 May, 9 July, 10 September, 12 November.**

What You Can Expect

Officers from across Highways and Transport will be available to provide service updates, discuss projects and planned works, share details of live consultations, help log new enquiries, and check the progress of longstanding issues.

Reporting Issues Outside the Sessions

Residents are encouraged to continue reporting issues via the Report It section <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/pay-report-and-apply/report-it> on the Milton Keynes City Council website.

If you experience any difficulties using the online system, you can submit an enquiry using the Contact Us form <https://mycouncil.milton-keynes.gov.uk/Forms/Contact%20Us> or by calling 01908 252353.



*East West Rail – <https://www.railmagazine.com/news>

Cross-country open access plan using East West Rail withdrawn

By David Stubbings (Rail Magazine) - 30 March 2026

Plans for an open access service between Nottingham and Bristol Temple Meads have been dropped.

Consultancy firm SLC had proposed eight trains a day via East West Rail and Oxford, using the name Midland Central & Western Railway (MCWR).

However, the application has been withdrawn, with the expected introduction of Great Western Railway's Oxford-Bristol services identified as a key factor.

GWR has applied to run two-hourly services six days a week, increasing to hourly in 2027. At present it runs two return trips on Saturdays.

SLC Managing Director Ian Walters said: "This reflects our view that part of the connectivity gap we had sought to address, in the spirit of open access, will now be met through the proposed Great Western Railway Bristol-Oxford services.

"We welcome the opportunity to explore new open access opportunities as they arise in the future. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on progressing our other two applications."

Expressing partial support for the GWR plan, Network Rail said it supported a trial between May 2026 and December 2027.

In a letter to Network Rail in January, Walters expressed frustration that it refused to support the MCWR plan but was partially supportive of GWR's application.

He said MCWR “wishes to understand NR’s rationale for its supportive approach to GWR’s proposed service and its inclusion already in the timetable system, compared to its rejection of MCWR’s identical service proposition submitted some three months before”.

He said SLC noted that while NR raised capacity concerns on the Western section, in March 2025 it had welcomed the proposal of extra services between Bristol and Oxford.

“We should be concerned if one application were approved for use of only a proportion of one available standard hour path across the day and another rejected for use of capacity in that same path, and thus possibly seen as anti-competitive practice by Network Rail,” Walters wrote.

Asked about the different stances, NR pointed to representations it made in December covering both applications.

In it, Daniel Round, Head of Strategic Planning and Wales & Western Sale of Access Rights representative, said NR supported the GWR plan on a contingent right basis with no presumption of continuity, saying it aligns with strategic regional connectivity ambitions and “subject to robust performance review and conditional on funding for safety improvements”.



Thames Valley Police *Have your Say* meetings

Limited turnout at the Have Your Say event on 31st March

10 in total, 4 TVP officers.

Issues raised

- Parking on Vicarage Street (various)
- Residents parking only being ignored
- Evenings as bad as the day with people visiting restaurants
- Access for emergency vehicles blocked
- Double yellow lines ignore

Some suggested solutions

- CCTV
- TVP will up their attendance and will ticket illegal parking
- Increase number of warden visits
- Ask restaurants to put details of Russell Steet car park on their web sites

Other issues

- Cars parking on pavement to access Tesco cash point

Suggested solutions

- Planters
- Extend bollards

Drug Dealing

- (Reported) Incidents decreased
- Taking and dealing drugs on seats close to the Institute
- Crime Statistics (for Danesborough & Walton) were read out
- Issues connected to cross boundary liaison with Bedfordshire Police – which can be summarised as being ‘minimal’
- Knife crime locally and across MK in general
- Use of the Knife arch at Walton High School
- Car thefts in Woburn Sands
- Widespread cannabis smoking during the summer months
- The speed camera on Station Road (which was confirmed as being in operation and motorists being prosecuted)

Crime Prevention Stand Woburn Sands Market, Woburn Sands	10:00AM - 2:00PM, Sat 11 April 2026
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Protecting Our Communities

PC 3146 Lee Turnham
 Community Speed Watch Co-Ordinator
 Citizens in Policing (CIP) in conjunction with Roads Policing.
 Tel; 101
lee.turnham@thamesvalley.police.uk
www.thamesvalley.police.uk



Universal Studios - gidon.freeman@nbcuni.com

Gidon Freeman is the Vice President of External Affairs for Universal Destinations & Experiences, focusing on the proposed UK theme park and entertainment resort project as of January 2026. He previously held a long-term role as Vice President of Government and Regulatory Affairs at NBCUniversal International.

Universal Studios UK moves forward with appointment of infrastructure contractors

- ESP and Veolia to build water and energy facilities on 476-acre site near Bedford



**Join the
Youth Council**

Woburn Sands (Proposed) Youth Club / Possible Youth Town Council

Decisions have now been made regarding making progress on this vital local project and more details will be agreed following the April meeting of the town council.

Community Library Boxes



The library boxes have now been collected from *Men in Sheds* and are awaiting installation.



New Local Plan – MK2050 (Levante Gate)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/seven-new-towns-proposed-to-kickstart-housebuilding-push>

Creating Communities

Key points from this House of Lords Select Committee published in late March 2026

The key findings from the report are:

- Placemaking should be people-centred, nature rich and locally distinctive.
- The new towns must avoid homogeneity. In addition to prioritising walkable neighbourhoods, high quality public spaces, and biodiversity, they must incorporate diverse plot sizes and reuse existing structures as much as possible, drawing on the local landscape and heritage to create distinct identities.
- Health and inclusion must be designed in from the start, not retrofitted.
- The new towns must embed opportunities for active travel, green/blue infrastructure and social spaces that support physical and mental wellbeing and proactively support access for all. New towns should embed the principles of the NHS 10 Year Health Plan, co locating care in community settings and enabling green and social prescribing to improve outcomes and reduce demand on acute services. We also recommend delivering at least one flagship intergenerational housing pilot within the programme. Each new town should appoint an Accessibility Champion to oversee the design and construction process and avoid costly retrofitting. There should also be a central Accessibility Champion to provide oversight across all schemes.
- Masterplanning must be flexible, phased and infrastructure first.
- Each new town must be delivered in phases with regular reviews of the masterplan so that they can adapt to the changing needs and aspirations of the community. Essential social, health, active travel and green/blue infrastructure must be in place from the day the first residents move in, with temporary 'meanwhile' spaces used to bridge early gaps. Masterplans should include diverse, SME sized plot parcels and make routine use of open design competitions to encourage purposeful innovation while adhering to established, evidence-based design principles.

True value for money comes from early investment, patient capital, and “meanwhile” delivery; cutting corners will cost far more.

There must be adequate funding up-front for social, health, and green infrastructure (including temporary, flexible community spaces). This requires all stakeholders to take a whole life view of each new town: good design and stewardship reduce costs and increase value in the medium- to long-term; speculative, low-cost delivery ultimately only leads to failed communities and far higher remedial costs. The Government and delivery bodies should use digital twins and whole life value metrics, including the Construction Innovation Hub’s Value Toolkit and robust social value measures, to track outcomes, demonstrate value for money, and share best practice.

Levante Gate Proposed Development (Local Plan site MK20550)



Gallagher Developments is seeking the views of the local community on plans for a residential-led development for circa 1,250 new homes and associated facilities.

Levante Gate Strategic City Extension is proposed to be allocated for a new, mixed use, residential-led, strategic development to the south of the A5 and east of the A4146 in the emerging MK City Plan 2050. The proposals include circa, 1,250 new homes, a new primary school, local centre, mobility hub, public open spaces and sports pitches.

You can view the proposals on the project website: www.gallagherdevelopments-levantegate.co.uk which will be live for the event

More information also available here: <https://gallagherdevelopments.com/>



Milton Keynes E-scooter Forum Update

The Transport Minister plans to make it clearer where you can and can't ride bikes and scooters – as we all know that pavement riding is an issue, and it is illegal.

“The Transport Secretary, Heidi Alexander, has stated that any new regulations to legalise privately owned e-scooters will strictly prohibit their use on pavements. While the government plans to legalise these devices on public roads and cycle lanes, the Minister has been "unequivocal" that they should never be allowed on pavements to protect pedestrians and vulnerable road users”

Definitions of the cycle infrastructure in MK – and where you can and can't ride.

A Redway is a specialised, legally designated network of shared-use paths in Milton Keynes, typically surfaced with red tarmac. Legally, they are defined as public highways (specifically cycle tracks) that are dedicated for public use by pedestrians, cyclists, and mobility scooters or electric wheelchairs.

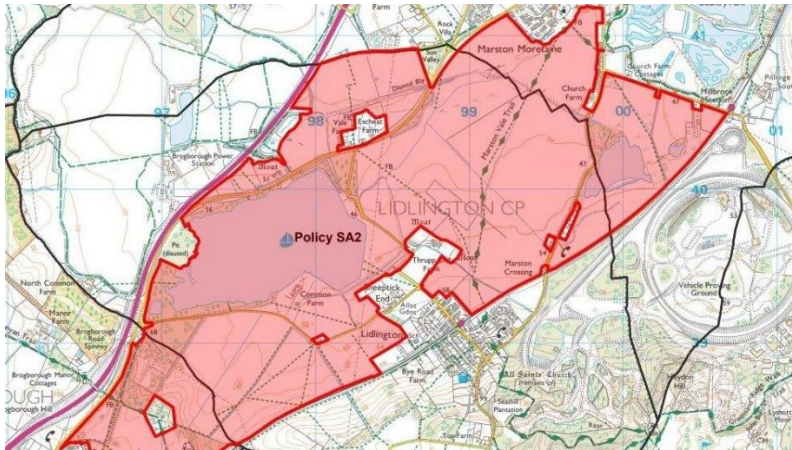
In Milton Keynes, a leisure route is defined as a non-adopted, often unlit, recreational path, typically featuring a gravel or loose surface, designed for casual walking, cycling, and equestrian use, frequently located within the linear parks. Unlike the paved, lit, and adopted Redway system (which acts as a public highway), leisure routes are often private paths managed by the Milton Keynes Parks Trust.

Hire e-scooters (part of official UK trials) can be ridden on public roads, cycle lanes, and designated cycle tracks/Redways (anywhere bikes can be ridden). They are prohibited on pavements.

Based on UK highway laws and general safety regulations, cycles are prohibited from using the following areas:

- Pavements/Footways: It is illegal to cycle on a pavement or footway adjacent to a road, as these are reserved for pedestrians.
- Motorways: Cycles are not allowed on motorways.
- Specific "No Cycling" Areas: Areas marked with specific "no cycling" signs, often found in pedestrianized zones, city centres, or certain parks.
- Public Footpaths (Countryside): While cycles are allowed on bridleways and cycle tracks, they are generally not allowed on public footpaths, which are intended for walkers.
- Certain A-Roads: Some high-speed A-roads have signs explicitly prohibiting bicycles.
- Private Land/Gardens: Access rights do not extend to private residential gardens, houses, or land used for growing crops.
- Inside Buildings: Unless permitted by the venue (e.g., velodromes), riding inside buildings is not allowed.

Planning



PLN/2026/0540

- Consultation from Central Bedfordshire Council on application ref. CB/18/01969/OUT for the amended documents relating to the Outline Application (EIA): development for up to 5,000 new homes specialist residential accommodation, up to 30ha of employment land, retail, community, open spaces, leisure and sport uses, hotel uses, four lower schools, two middle schools, one upper school, woodland planting, waterbodies and waterway links, ecological areas, accesses, cycle and pedestrian routes, supporting infrastructure, ground remodelling, landscaping and demolition works at Land between Brogborough, Lidlington and Marston Moretaine



- ***A response was submitted on behalf of WSTC in March***



Backing local high streets with new investment

As you recall, Woburn Sands has been allocated £5,000 allocated for Woburn Sands. The town clerk was advised that the funding should be used for an event aimed at increasing footfall on the High Street. Previously, the funding was used for the town’s anniversary birthday celebrations.

The town clerk was also informed that the town council has £3,741.46 in S106 funds available for social infrastructure improvements within the Greens Hotel development. The clerk discussed biodiversity and whether the funds could be used for planting in the planters and installing bug hotels (something the clerk had experienced at Kingsbrook in Aylesbury). The funds could also potentially be used for benches. The town clerk also wondered if we might consider relocating a couple of the green benches to the bus stop on The Leys and the bus stop on Station Road, as previously suggested by a resident, and installing new benches on the High Street.

Mention was also made regarding the mural that Dickie from Mrs Mac's has been talking about for the past few years. It was suggested that the clerk speak with Fiona Boundy regarding any arts funding that may be available

MKCC 106 officer reports'From what I can see there is around £104k for Public Art from development in Woburn Sands. It breaks down like this'.

13/01117/FUL	Public Art & Culture	S1,3I	13 Jan 2027	25,454.39
15/02319/FUL	Public Art & Culture	S2,2.1d(x)	22 Dec 2030	20,819.93
15/02319/FUL	Public Art & Culture	S2,2.2d(x)	22 Dec 2030	24,526.53
15/02319/FUL	Public Art & Culture	S2,2.3d(x)	22 Dec 2030	24,695.56
18/00458/OUT	Public Art & Culture	S3,2.1I		2,745.68
18/00458/OUT	Public Art & Culture	S3,2.2.2I		6,152.20

- 15/02319/FUL was the final phase of Nampak (Parklands) and the expectation seems to be simply that the money is spent on Public Art but I would need to look into more closely to be definitive. The contribution due was £67,300 so it looks like we have had it all and a bit of indexation. We have until the end of 2030 to spend that money.
- *13/01117/FUL is slightly more pressing as it looks like that needs to be spent this year effectively. That relates to the Greens Hotel development. Again there doesn't appear to be much guidance on what it has to be spent on other than Public Art and again the original contribution due was £22,700 so we have had it all and a bit of indexation.*
- 18/00458/OUT relates to the little infill development on Asplands Close. That funding has to be spent on 'the delivery of public art projects within Woburn Sands or the wider Danesborough area'

Cllr David Hopkins

Mayor of Woburn Sands 2025/26

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