



Wavendon Parish Council

February 2025 – Chairmans Report

Phoebe Lane

Reports from various residents relating to the work being undertaken by contractors working on the development of Church Farm have been reported to planning enforcement at MK City Council.

Youth Club

The Clerk and I met with Marco Loxley of Pulse Youth on 27 January and Pulse Youth has subsequently forwarded a proposal for consideration. We have a second meeting planned with the YMCA and I propose submitting both proposals for consideration and discussion at our March or April meetings.

The MK Local Plan (MK2050)

I attended a meeting of the MK City Council Cabinet Advisory Group on 13 February.

In brief, having analysed the responses to the Reg 18 consultation, MKCC is moving towards a Regulation 19 submission. The headline points being;

- Following change to government guidelines in relation to NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework) the total housing numbers required in MK between now and 2050 have reduced from 1902 per annum to 1724. Thus the total required under the plan has reduced from 53,000 to 48,000.
- There is a focus on social rent housing in the new NPPF.
- MKCC is now delaying submission of the new plan to December 2026.
- The Universal Studios theme park proposals and changes to the guidelines on the Dury to Cooperate framework will also impact an delay the submission. For example Universal will impact the responses to the Local transport Plan that will need to be prepared and the number an size of hotels built witing he boundaries of MKCC
- The outcome of the informal East West Rail consultation will also have a bearing as will the governments announcement expected in August on the location and size of its proposed 'new towns' – should one be located in the city boundaries' or close to its borders. There are also urgent requirements for improvements to junction 13 of the M1.
- The expected Planning & Infrastructure Bill will also have an impact on the content of the MK2050 local plan.

- The responses to the spatial strategy showed a general support for growth in the city centre area and the proposed expansion areas identified in the Reg 18 consultation. However, developers responses majored on the proportion of numerous smaller sties cross the city area and rural areas in particular. Bucks Council were proposing meeting its unmet demand from within the MK area.
- There were identified numerous transport related, flood related and heritage related 'at risk' areas.
- The site east of Newport Road Wavendon received overwhelming support for the proposal that it be delayed until 2038 at the earliest. MKCC accept that possibly 3000 dwellings is excessive and 2400 is more realistic.
- Focus on CMK for office employment and for sites close to the M1 for logistics warehousing.
- Study into where and how a lorry park might be located to be taken forward.
- Protection for the Greensand Ridge would mean a reduction in numbers of dwellings on the expansion site suggested to be located in Bow Brickhill adjoining the Ridge.
- MKCC Planners are meeting monthly with a representative of the Planning Inspectorate to obtain advice and guidance on aspects of the plan. In particular sites for Gypsy & Traveller sites. The representative of the Inspectorate reportedly supports the thrust of the plan in general terms but has commented on Gypsy & Traveller site provision and 'the evidence base' used to justify that provision. In light of this MKCC will issue a new call for sites including MKCC owned land which will start in April. MKCC are advised that sites should be located away from the settled community.
- National Highways have been engaged for monthly advisory meetings.
- MKCC will hold a Delegated Decision by the responsible cabinet member on 25 February approving *The New Local Development Scheme*.

Timetable of Local Plan moving forward

Work starts now on preparing the Regulation 19 Final Draft Plan with a six-week consultation planned for the summer (September). As part of this process MKCC planning officers will undertake further informal meetings with key stakeholder groups (e.g. Woburn Sands Futures Group). MKCC will also be seeking more evidence relating to the provision of affordable housing.

Following that the plan will be submitted for examination in March 2026.

It is proposed that the strategy will go forward largely unchanged although the Walton Hall site will either be removed or dramatically reduced in terms of housing numbers and the Bow Brickhill site see housing numbers reduced in line with the revised environmental classification on the Greensand Ridge.

A series of concept plans for each individual site will be released in September to accompany the consultation.

Land east of Newport Road will go forward with the 2038 condition attached – officers expect that to be challenged vigorously when the plan is before the planning inspectorate at public examination.

East West Railway Consultation

I attended the EWR public consultation event in Woburn Sands (Summerlin Hall) on 17th January. 450 people were registered by the EWR team as having attended but they accept that many more attended or attempted to attend but did not stay long due to the numbers in attendance (and the queuing and the crush) and the resulting inability to speak to the EWR representatives/experts to ask questions.

Lower End Road

The SIDs are now in place and operating well.

Newport Road

Consultation underway regarding the 30 MPH limit

Stockwell Lane

Repairs to the potholes have been carried out but the state of the road is still far from perfect.

Dankworth Way (bus only) access to Glebe Farm

Consultation underway regarding the enforcement of this bus only access which was put in place as part of the planning conditions. I have received a limited number of representations from residents living in that part of Glebe Farm asking the bus only lane be removed as they maintain the site needs a second access/ingress point. Numerous private vehicles have been observed entering and leaving the estate at this point.

Walton Road

I was hoping to be able to report some progress on this as a meeting on this issue was scheduled for Friday morning 14 February. However, Murray Woodburn was called for a hospital visit and the meeting has been postponed until after the Parish Council meeting. I will report verbally on this issue at the meeting.

The call to meet is set out below

As previously discussed, we are keen to explore an interim solution to mitigate risks to pedestrians on the S bend on Walton Road while a likely lengthy consultation on a permanent solution is ongoing.

We have now received two alternative proposals from traffic technology suppliers for intelligent 'light-up' signage using vehicle and pedestrian detectors that we'd like to share with you, to gauge your views.

To this end, I wonder if you could indicate your availability for a short Teams call – say 30 mins – later this week or next?

Murray Woodburn - Traffic & Transportation Manager

Changes to Community Hub at Glebe Farm School

The clerk and I attended a meeting at Glebe Farm school on 11 February organised by Community Action at which various community groups, the rector and his wife, my fellow ward councillor and the Operations and Project Manager at Glebe Farm outlined the changed circumstance at the Community Hub element at the school. Due to school numbers rising unexpectedly quickly and the need to fill the space occupied by the Community Hub with teaching and learning daytime community related activities have had to cease. Safeguarding and (to be frank) school design issues have led to this disappointing state of affairs. All parties are working tirelessly to see if a short-term resolution can be found. I will report further verbally at the meeting.

Jet Wash Works:

Planned on 3-6 March on Walton Road to clear the drains and lessen the impacts of the flooding every time it rains. The road will be closed <https://one.network/?GB142074780>

The work is described as including jet and clear carrier system from flooding with ADC - plus CCTV work by client.

The Loop

I continue to liaise with Arriva regarding the new bus service. Matt King from Arriva reports *Great to hear from you. Loop has enjoyed a brilliant inaugural month; we've been encouraged by customer's comments and celebrated reaching the 10,000-customer journey milestone last week.*

We're continuing our launch campaign around the route. The first bus in Loop branding entered service on Tuesday, and we've visited Shenley Wood Retirement Village, the Open University campus, and Milton Keynes Hospital over the past fortnight. We've a few more ideas to continue pushing on spreading the good word; will be in touch if there are any more events local to you.

If you're able to continue your championing of the route within the community, we'd be very thankful. I seem to recall you have a Parish magazine (which a copy made its way to my office, much appreciated!). If we're able to use some space within that, that'd be helpful – please let us know how this could be arranged.

Matt King - Network Manager – Luton & Milton Keynes

Arriva UK Bus - Arriva plc | T: 07977 263691 | E: kingm@arriva.co.uk

Others

We continue to chase MKCC regarding

- Adoption of roads in the new parts of the parish and the ability then to implement the promised 20 MPH zones, traffic and road safety management on Burney Drive

(especially close to St Marys and Glebe Farm schools), parking restrictions, bus stops and the provision of bus shelters (Newport Road, Dankworth Way, Burney Drive)

I will report on updates to minuted actions from the January meeting verbally at the February Meeting.

Covid

On Sunday 9th March 2025, the United Kingdom will be pausing to remember all lives lost during the pandemic in a new National Day of Remembrance backed by the UK Government and the DCMS. We propose to mark this in our memorial space here in the village community centre space.



VE Day

On **Thursday 8th May 2025** the government is encouraging the lighting of Beacons and **Lamp Lights of Peace at 9.30pm**, the raising of a unique VE Day flag at 9am (<https://hampshireflag.co.uk/product/ve-day-logo-flag/>) and, where possible, holding parties of celebration throughout the day in the streets, gardens at home, churches, villages, town halls, pubs, clubs, hotels and all manner of locations throughout the United Kingdom, Channel Islands, Isle of Man and UK Overseas Territories. I have spoken with the WI and the Rector on this matter, and we can discuss at the meeting.

Cllr David Hopkins

Chairman – Wavendon Parish Council

February 2025