



Wavendon Parish Council – Chairman's Report (September 2025)



Bus Stops – Delighted to report that the bus shelters the Parish has been lobbying for, for several months are now being installed along Burney Drive. However, there is more to do, and we continue to make representations to Public Transport team at MKCC especially for the sites on Dankworth Way and the replacement needed on Newport Road to serve the Loop.



20 MPH Signs – Engineers are now installing the 20 MPH signs on the roads off Burney Drive and (as soon as the route is fully adopted) on Burney Drive as well.



Progress on Glebe Farm development – Very real progress on the development of the retail and community spaces opposite Glebe Farm School.

- **Outstanding Issues relating to Wavendon Hub** – The Clerk, Cllr Hill and I are meeting with all the relevant teams at MKCC on 23 September between 2pm – 3pm. Cllr Hill is working on the list of issues for discussion and resolution.



Road traffic issues – I attended the MKCC interactive

Highways briefing session to parishes held at the offices of West Bletchley Council on 11th September. Highways officers received my list of issues relating to Wavendon and neighbouring parishes.

The responses to issues relating to **Walton Road** are;

Question: When is the Swarco SID going to be installed at Walton Road and why no updates?

Answer: We've not been receiving updates either from the manufacturer which is disappointing.

We have been regularly asking Swarco for a delivery date. As soon as we have any information, we can update the clerk and councillors. Work on the consultation is still due to commence in October.

- **The responses relating to work installing the light-controlled crossing outside St Marys School (Burney Drive) is**

St Mary's School - *This relates to a light controlled crossing for Eagle Farm South Burney Drive which the developer said they would've completed by the end of summer but as this hasn't happened, we'll chase them on a completion date. The new road safety officer and one of our traffic technicians will be preparing a detailed plan for a road safety solution at this location in October.*

- **Question: when is the roundel on the road being removed?**

Answer: we are waiting on Ringway to give us a date for this work as we'll be doing a patch over the old ones. They will need a full closure of the road to do this so a permit is needed too.

Steve Bryant from Ringway (at the session today) is going to chase this up.

- **Question: can a repeater sign be placed here?**

Answer: Newport Road is now 30MPH by virtue of street lighting, no repeater signing is allowed for 30mph speed limits where a system of street lighting is present.

- **Question: why are the sat navs still showing the wrong speed?**

Answer: we give the details to the sat nav operators and they need to update their information. Some car systems may be using Traffic Sign Recognition software which will be picking up the old 40mph signs.

- **Question: why was Woburn Sands not included on the Mass Rapid Transit network and how will people from MK East travel to Universal Studios?**

Answer: The MRT network has not been fully finalised at this time. Illustrative routes responding to our Local Plan proposals were proposed for the development of the business case, long prior to the Universal Studio site announcement. Routings across the whole network will be reconsidered at such

a time as the project has funding to move forward, in line with any new development interests or requests for extensions.

We are keen to explore opportunities for expansions of the current proposed network with developers, subject to there being no adverse impact to route-wide journey times and that full priority is provided on any extensions to the proposed core routes. We fully expect the MRT network to evolve over time as development comes forward, and the illustrative routes were merely a snapshot for evaluation purposes. The actual network that is eventually delivered on the ground on day one is almost certain to be different.

We believe that a MRT extension serving the Universal site would be a positive addition to their travel plans for both employees and visitors, but the routing or design detail of this option has not yet been explored, but we would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with the UDX site promoters during the Special Development Order process.



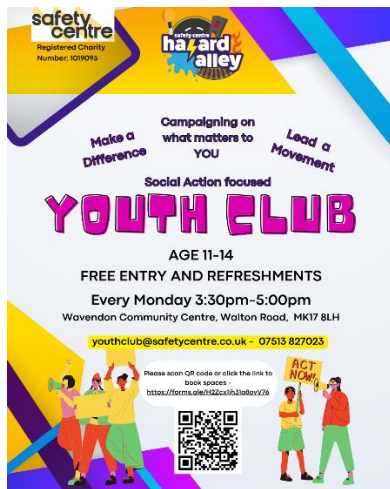
New Road safety Officer for MKCC Highways – Delighted to be able to report that a new Road Safety Officer (Barry Delaney) has been appointed by MKCC and will be starting in that role on 6 October 2025.

Mayors Civic Service – I have accepted an invitation to attend the Mayors Civic Service to represent Wavendon PC on 12th October.



Trees for Wavendon Heights – Cllr Hill and myself met with **Jo Roberts Community Engagement Officer** at the Marston Forest regarding the supply of replacement trees that have been lost to either vandalism or the extreme summer weather. In the interim, here is the link to the 'Trees for Climate' webpage, which has information about the programme: <https://englandscommunityforests.org.uk/trees-for-climate/>

... and here is a link to tell you more about what Marston Forest are doing locally:
<https://www.marstonvale.org/trees-for-climate>



Youth Club – The Youth Club is underway in the Community Centre on a Monday evening. Initial attendance is encouraging, and a review will be undertaken at the end of the eight-week trial period.



Arts Project

The Creative and Cultural Manager at MKCC has recently shared the proposals received for the PAP in Wavendon.

MKCC are in the process of scoring these and I have just shared with the Cabinet member for her consideration.

WPC is invited to have a look through, share any comments and then MKCC will score and ascertain if we need to go to interview.

The applications are from

- Kerry Lemon
- Lois Maddiman
- Interaction
- Cara Courage
- Azadeh Fatehrad
- BMO Conglomerate

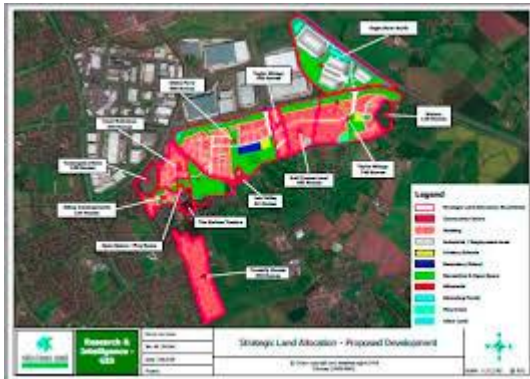
By January 2026 the project will deliver

- A community backed public Art Plan for Wavendon

- A list of priority sites themes and materials
- A record of inclusive engagement and consultation
- A foundation for commissioning and funding public art in future phases of development

This process will embed creativity, identity and community pride into the evolving landscape of Wavendon.

Recruitment of Parish Clerk – The date for applications to be received has now passed and we received 17 complete applications in total. A shortlist of six for interview has been agreed by the appointment sub committee and dates are being set for these interviews to take place.



SEMK Stakeholders Group – The next meeting of the SEMK Stakeholders Group will be held in the Memorial Hall in Woburn Sands on Wednesday 12 November 2025 from 5.30pm – 7.30pm.



Elmswell Gate Park and Play Area, East of Tower Gate, Wavendon.

The Tariff programme is required to deliver a new park and play area facility within the new Elmswell Gate development, East of Tower Gate, Wavendon. The Landscape Architecture team have prepared detailed plans and specifications to procure a contractor to construct the works.

The works include the laying out of new footpath connections, soft landscape and a large neighbourhood play area. The contract value is estimated to be in the region of £850K - £950K.

The proposed Delivery programme is outlined below:

- Delegated Decision 16 September 2025
- Call in expires and tender can be published 24 September 2025
- Tender closes 22 October 2025
- Evaluations and Moderations 19 November 2025
- Contract Award 20 November 2025
- Contract Start Date 24 November 2025

- Works completed 30 June 2026. Please note that The Delegated Decision on Tuesday relates purely to Procurement.

Paul Van Geete has seen the comments that were submitted on behalf of the WPC to the revised planning application, but he has not seen an Officer Report, so he is unaware as to how they were addressed. Paul maintains that MKCC has tried our best here to provide an amenity that has wide support including from residents, the Stables and the Parks Trust but we have also been conscious that the park and play area are well overdue, so MKCC is trying to get to delivery commencing over the winter.

Paul hopes that what is delivered will be welcomed by most but if there are improvements that can subsequently be addressed both MKCC and the Parks Trust he is sure both will be open to dialogue.

- **Connecting redways etc adjacent to Lower End Road**



MKCC further report that all redway links will be connected by this time next year (2026)

- **Eagle Farm South noise Pollution from M1** (acoustic fencing perhaps?) I have reported this issue again to Environmental Health and am awaiting a formal response.

- **Planning Enforcement – Changes to the Planning Enforcement Webpage**

MKCC has made a few changes to our planning enforcement webpage. Please take a look at www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planningenforcement.

MKCC has made these changes to offer residents and businesses the chance to understand what a matter for planning enforcement is. Earlier this year, 72% of all reported breaches of planning control were not planning matters at all. This causes an unnecessary burden on the enforcement team as we have a duty to investigate all alleged breaches reported to us.

The changes to the webpage are intended to reduce the number of complaints which are non-planning issues or where complainants are not checking whether permission already exists for the development, allowing the enforcement team to focus on investigations where a breach has occurred and requires their attention.

It is the MKCC Council's procedure that all alleged breaches of planning control are reported using the online report it forms within the relevant section of the enforcement webpage, and not by any other means such as email, telephone or Cllr Casework.

MKCC also understand that sometimes you require updates or general information on cases under investigation. The Local Planning Enforcement Plan outlines the process we follow in conducting an enforcement investigation and when updates are provided to the complainant:

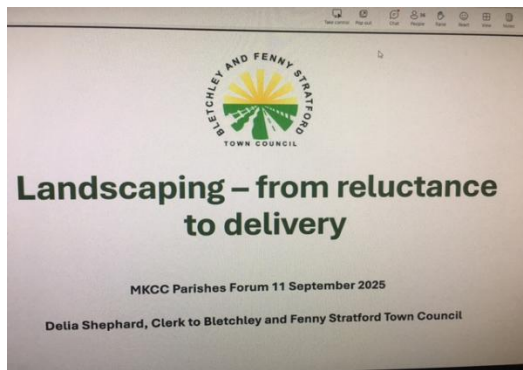
Enforcement investigations can be very lengthy as MKCC seek to obtain all of the necessary evidence to establish whether there is a breach of planning control and robustly substantiate any future formal enforcement action, recognising this could result in an appeal or prosecution. Therefore, by their nature, enforcement investigations are confidential, and MKCC do not share ongoing information on progress relating to an open investigation. This means, beyond completing the initial investigation (as outlined in Table 1 of the Local Enforcement Plan), it is not possible to be precise about the timescales for completing subsequent stages of an investigation.

Any formal notices or action we take are published on the weekly list at the time.

Finally, you may have noticed that MKCC has reintroduced its quarterly planning enforcement drop-in sessions. These are a great opportunity to meet with the team and discuss general planning enforcement topics and to learn more about what planning enforcement can investigate and how investigations are carried out. There will be a drop-in session on 17th September between 6pm and 7pm. There is no need to book, simply attend.

- **Parishes Forum** – I attended the Parishes Forum on 11 September. The agenda items were:





Plus, a talk on Family First legislation as it impacts MKCC.



- **Lime Bikes & Scooters** – There has been a proliferation of these cycles and scooters left in the village and in Woburn Sands and residents have raised their concerns with me and the clerk. The operators of the initiative have written to WSTC on the issue and the response is relevant to WPC as well.



From: Tom Newham tom.newham@li.me

Sent: August 2025

To: clerk@woburnsandstowncouncil.gov.uk

Cc: help-miltonkeynes@li.me help-miltonkeynes@li.me

Subject: Re: e-bikes and scooters

Thanks for bringing this to our attention.

We now have looked into why vehicles are present around Woburn Sands in areas in where they shouldn't be.

Having investigated, we've identified a bureaucratic error on our part. Late last year Milton Keynes Council suggested that we expand our service area around Woburn Sands - but on the explicit understanding that we would seek permission from the Parish Council first.

My predecessor departed her role around that time, and during the process we appear to have noted that the conversation with Woburn Sands Council was complete, and we had your explicit consent. We expanded the service area of the scheme on that basis.

But it is clear that you have not consented to this expansion, and for this honest but serious mistake you have my sincere apologies. I appreciate that this will have caused confusion and concern among some of your residents.

To rectify the situation, we will alter the service area of our schemes to match exactly those described by Dott, in Simon's email of 5th August, and remove any vehicles outside of that zone.

More broadly, we and Dott are in conversations with Milton Keynes City Council about rolling out a more structured parking system, which we believe will address the concerns raised by some Parishes about inappropriate parking or dumping of vehicles. Users will have significantly less choice about where they can park, which means that we will be able to identify and fine those responsible for poor parking more easily.

Again, I am sorry for the confusion and frustration. Please do let me know if there is anything else I can help with.

Kind regards, Tom



Draft Local Transport Policy – Consultation

Consultation starts this month and will run for 12 weeks on the MKCC Draft Local Transport Plan. I suggest we have this as an agenda item in October and/or November to agree a response.

New Clerk to neighbouring WSTC.

Delighted to report that Jo Farrant has been appointed as the new town clerk in Woburn Sands and her role commences on 1 October.

Many thanks to the retiring clerk Alison Jordan for her years of dedicated service to the town and to working closely with Wavendon PC on so many issues of common interest.

Cllr David Hopkins

Chairman – Wavendon Parish Council

September 2025