



## Update from your City Councillor, Cllr David Hopkins (January 2026) Representing Wavendon at MKCC

### Snippets

**I have been asked by residents about the legal duty placed on MK Couty Council (connected with health & safety matters) during periods of severe winter weather**

The best place to start is the Council's winter service plan(s) at Winter services | Milton Keynes City Council <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways/winter-services> . This contains interactive maps that show not only which roads the council is gritting but where the nearest grit bins are for residents and how town and parish councils can go about ordering them. Please note that a delivery time of 12 weeks is likely from order to delivery of the bin(s). This information is helpful to residents to make decisions about movement and their safety.

The legal position on liability stems from MKCC as the highway authority. Section 41(a) of the Highways Act 1980 places a duty on a highway authority to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice. Key to the council carrying out this duty is its winter service plan which sets out its approach to the dangers arising from snow and ice on the highway. In addition, the highway authority will respond to evolving weather situations. Claims that the Council is liable for damage suffered on the highway due to snow and ice will be dealt with on their merits having regard to this legal duty.



• <https://www.gov.uk/cold-weather-payment>

You may get **Cold Weather Payments** if you're getting certain benefits or Support for Mortgage Interest.

If you're eligible, you'll get these payments automatically. You do not need to apply, but you may need to tell Jobcentre Plus if you have a baby or if a child under 5 comes to live with you.

The payments do not affect your other benefits.

You'll get a payment if the average temperature in your area is recorded as, or forecast to be, zero degrees Celsius or below over 7 consecutive days.

You'll get £25 for each 7-day period of very cold weather between 1 November 2025 and 31 March 2026.

Find out if the weather where you live means you may get a payment.

Check a postcode in England or Wales. <https://coldweatherpayments.dwp.gov.uk/>



Just before Christmas, the Government published proposed reforms and other changes to the planning system via a new National Planning Policy Framework. These changes are subject to consultation which closes on 10 March 2026.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/national-planning-policy-framework-proposed-reforms-and-other-changes-to-the-planning-system>

The Planning Advisory Service (PAS) will be holding a FREE webinar for Councillors to discuss the draft National Planning Policy Framework on 21 January 2026 10.00 - 12.00. For more information and to book a place click here. <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/councillors-nppf-webinar-jan-2026-tickets-1978105063494?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

**Consultation description** <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/housing-sec-pledges-to-go-further-than-ever-before-to-hit-15-million-homes>

This consultation seeks views on a revised version of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). A draft NPPF has been published alongside this consultation and both documents should be read together.

The government is also seeking views on:

- data centres and onsite energy generation
- standardised inputs in viability assessments
- reforming site thresholds



**Plans for New Events Venue are Making Headlines** This week Milton Keynes Development Partnership announced it will invest £76 million in a brand-new

city centre events venue that's expected to open in 2029, creating around 70 new jobs and potentially bringing a return to the city worth £158 million.

You can find more information here. <https://mkdp.org.uk/76-million-events-venue-to-transform-milton-keynes-entertainment-scene/>

### **Consultation On School Term Dates For 2027/28**

School term and holiday dates are set by the council for community and voluntary controlled schools and maintained nursery schools. Governing boards set the term dates for foundation, voluntary aided schools, free schools and academies. Following discussion at quadrant meetings, the consultation for the proposed term dates for 2027/28 is now live and can be found on the MKCC website. <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-proposed-school-term-dates-20272028>

We know that you, like us, believe that it's helpful for families and staff when terms dates align locally and, where possible, with neighbouring areas. So, make sure to have your say. Responses can be sent by completing the online form. Alternatively send us your views by emailing [sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:sufficiencyandaccess@milton-keynes.gov.uk).

This consultation closes on 22 February 2026 and feedback from this consultation will be considered by the Cabinet Member for Children and Families during the spring term.



Date	Bins to be collected
29/1/26	Black, green and red
4/2/26	Black, green and blue
11/2/26	Black, green and red
18/2/26	Black, green and blue

### **Post Christmas 'normal collections' resumed from Monday 19 January 2026.**

Real Christmas trees will be collected if the trunk is no more than 15cm / 6in in diameter, fit neatly inside your green bin with decorations removed. Alternatively, trees can be taken to one of the city council's recycling centres. You can book a slot and check the opening hours at: [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/hwrc](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/hwrc)



## Winter Phishing

The new year and winter is a prime time for cybercriminals to launch phishing attacks. Remain vigilant, if you have any doubts about a message or links, don't engage and report it!

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2024/11/22/file\\_attachments/3080148/Phishing-attacks-dealing-suspicious-emails-infographic.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2024/11/22/file_attachments/3080148/Phishing-attacks-dealing-suspicious-emails-infographic.pdf)

Phishing is where hackers try to steal your money or identity by getting you to reveal personal information such as credit card numbers, bank information, or passwords on websites that pretend to be legitimate. The NCSC has highlighted below what may stand out in a phishing email.

- Subject marked with [EXT] which shows it's coming from an external address
- Wrong email address listed
- Unusual sending time
- Generates warning or caution message
- The address may be unusual or spelled wrongly
- Poor English/grammar

If you're worried about an email, don't reply or click on links and do send it to IT to check out. See the National Cyber Security Centre poster for more advice on phishing.

[https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2024/11/22/file\\_attachments/3080148/Phishing-attacks-dealing-suspicious-emails-infographic.pdf](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKMK/2024/11/22/file_attachments/3080148/Phishing-attacks-dealing-suspicious-emails-infographic.pdf)

## Regulation 19 consultation

## Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) MK City

### Plan 2050 consultation

In advance of formal notifications being sent, MKCC Planning team has written to let us know that due to a technical issue, some consultees did not receive an email notification at the start of the

Proposed Submission (Regulation 19) MK City Plan 2050 consultation that began on 7 November and ran until 22 December 2025.

To make sure everyone has a fair and equal opportunity to comment, all consultees will be able to take part in a further six-week consultation period, which starts on Monday 5 January and runs until 16 February 2026. We are notifying you of this in accordance with the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

If you have already submitted comments and do not wish to add to or change them, you do not need to take any action. If you have not already made any comments or have made comments but wish to change them, you can do so. Please make it clear if any submission replaces a previous one. All comments must be received by 5.30pm on 16 February 2026.



**Thames Valley Police Cuts** - The police settlement announced by Government just before Christmas confirmed Thames Valley Police's core funding will be £8.8m less than expected, barely covering the costs of inflation and pay increases.

Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber said: "This settlement is terrible news for Thames Valley Police. While the Government push headlines claiming they are investing more in policing the harsh reality is that yesterday's settlement means nearly £9m less than we were expecting. Even with the significant burden the Government are looking to pass on to local council taxpayers this still leaves a huge gap in our funding plans for policing next year. I am appalled by the way the Government has handled this process which leaves Forces struggling to balance budgets and is in complete contradiction to the Government's own Comprehensive Spending Review.

"I have already met with the Chief Constable and will be working over the Christmas period to consider how we can still set the budget in the New Year which will continue to prioritise the protection of front-line services. It will be challenging to balance the budget going forward. It is likely to mean delaying or cancelling future spending plans as well as drawing down our reserves sooner than anticipated rather than finding additional productivity savings above what the force has already planned.

"Sound financial planning means that Thames Valley is in a stronger position than many police forces. I am confident that we will be able to amend our plans to ensure that we can maintain frontline policing; these cuts from the Home Office will inevitably have a long-term impact unless the Government think again.

"This appalling situation reinforces the urgent need for a review of the police funding formula which is outdated and becoming more unsustainable every year."

The PCC's survey asking residents to share their views on which priority areas they would like to see the policing element of council tax (the precept) used for in the 2026/27 budget will be open until

12pm (noon) on Friday 2nd January. The survey can be completed at <https://survey.alchemer.eu/s3/90503915/OPCC-public-consultation> or by visiting the PCC website.



#### **Centre for Ageing Better Age Friendly Town & Parish Councils**

**(see attached document circulated to WSTC members)**

This guide demonstrates the important role of town and parish councils in creating age-friendly communities and gives examples from local councils who are already leading the way.

The guide for towns and parishes, endorsed by both the National Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks, is aimed at anyone working in town and parish councils, as well as those who are working with them.

The guide covers:

- How town and parish councils' responsibilities, activities and influencing roles can be applied to make the built and social environments of towns and parishes more age-friendly
- Example case studies from 21 town and parish councils of age-friendly practice in action
- Mapping and action planning tools to help town and parish councils take the first step.

Building an age-friendly town or parish requires coordinated efforts between local older people, the local council and principal authorities, health services, transport providers, businesses, and voluntary organisations.

Town and parish councils have an important role to play, as they are uniquely positioned to facilitate or support these partnerships and advocate for decisions that enhance the wellbeing of their communities. This guide is not only for those who work in towns and parish councils but also those who would like to work with councils.

This guide is grounded in the WHO Eight Domains of Age-friendly Communities, which outline key areas of community life that enable people to age well. It highlights the diverse range of stakeholders essential to making towns and parishes age friendly.

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241547307>

Designed for town and parish councils in England, the guide explores how their statutory duties, powers, and influence can be aligned with the eight domains. The age-friendly activities wheel in this guide offers a practical framework to help councils consider, expand, and celebrate age-friendly initiatives in their local areas.

To support councils in their journey toward becoming age-friendly communities, the guide includes examples of age-friendly activities, case studies and relevant resources for each domain. For more insights across different tiers of local government, see Centre for Ageing Better's Age-friendly Handbook <https://ageing-better.org.uk/resources/age-friendly-policy-handbook>





## Cold Health Alert

The yellow cold health alert is in effect until 09/01/2026 across the South East. The yellow alert has a matrix score of 9. This means:

There is potential for significant impacts across health and social care services, including:

- a rise in deaths, particularly among those aged 65 and over or with health conditions. We may also see impacts on younger age groups
- a likely increase in demand for health services
- impacts on the workforce affecting delivery of services
- challenges keeping indoor temperatures at the recommended 18°C leading to more risk to vulnerable people

Chief executives of the following organisations in England receive cold health alerts:

- health trust providers of NHS commissioned care
- local authorities
- social care organisations

The Cold-Health Alert Service in England runs from 1 November to 31 March each year, in partnership with the Met Office. This is the period when low temperatures are likely to occur.

- If we observe low temperatures outside of this period, we will issue an extraordinary cold health alert. If this happens, stakeholders should take the usual public health actions.
- You can share this email with your organisation or sign up to receive alerts using our registration form. We have a separate form if you would like to update your registration details.
- Please let us know if you have a question or have a problem with your subscription.
- UKHSA and the Met Office use the Risk Matrix to assign a risk score for each alert. Users can refer the alert's risk score to the matrix to understand the severity of the alert and likelihood of its impact.

**We have received reports of water pollution of our local river (Lovat / Ousel) and tributaries feeding into same. Incidents need to be reported to the Environment Agency as they are the regulatory and enforcement authority for controlled waters. Pollution Incidents can be reported on their emergency hotline 0800 807060 or via their incident email address [incident\\_communication\\_service@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:incident_communication_service@environment-agency.gov.uk)**



**Planning permission has been granted to build the first Universal Studios theme park in the UK.**

The Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government issued a Special Development Order (SDO) for the complex to be constructed in Kempston Hardwick, close to Bedford.

Universal had sought planning permission through the SDO, which allowed the government to approve the project directly and bypass standard local planning procedures. The entertainment company said the "transformative" project was expected to attract more than eight million visitors a year and could open by 2031.

**'James Bond and Paddington'**

The site will be built on a former brickworks and was chosen for its nearby transport links, including rail services and London Luton Airport.

Planning documents released in July showed that structures reaching up to 377ft (115m) were proposed for the site, making them the tallest rides in Europe.

About 55,000 visitors are expected on peak days.

The plans showed that most structures at the park would range between 20m and 30m, with some taller structures creating a skyline with "visual interest".

It would also include parking for more than 7,000 cars, additional spaces for hundreds of people to arrive by coach and bicycle and an entry plaza.

Details of the rides have not been released, but a source close to the project told the BBC that James Bond, Paddington and The Lord of the Rings-themed attractions could feature.

Page Thompson, president of new ventures, Universal Destinations & Experiences, said: "I want to express my sincere appreciation for the continued engagement from Bedford and the various communities surrounding our site, as well as the many other national and local stakeholders who



have provided feedback and expressed such enthusiasm on the transformative nature of our project."

A government spokesman said the planning permission was "subject to conditions and limitations".

They added that Steve Reed, the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, "gave proper and impartial consideration to the planning merits" and made the decision on "the evidence and advice in front of him at the time".

Bedford Borough Council said the park would provide £50bn of "economic benefit to the economy" and followed several years of close collaboration between Universal, councillors and council staff.

Adam Zerny, the independent council leader of Central Bedfordshire Council, said it would bring "significant benefits to our area, creating new jobs and increasing income for many local businesses".

Universal said it was "poised to become one of the region's largest employers, creating 20,000 construction jobs and 8,000 permanent positions once operational, with approximately 80% of all jobs going to local workers".

"The project will help deliver key transportation upgrades, including an expanded Wixams railway station and new direct slip roads from the A421."

Work to build a new railway station at Wixams started in August 2024, but it was put on hold to allow a bigger station to be built to accommodate Universal.

Last month, East West Rail Company (EWR Co) said a new railway station would be built to serve the park in Stewartby.

National Highways confirmed there would be upgrades to the transport network in the area, which would include a new link road off the A421.

Zerny said: "I have met with Universal to discuss the implications for our area, and I am encouraged by the acknowledgement that improvements to local road infrastructure will be necessary."

While some residents welcomed the plans and the prospect of more jobs, others, including some living close to the site in Manor Road, Kempston Hardwick, told the BBC they had not been informed about what would happen to their homes.

In July, they said they had not received confirmed offers of compensation even though their properties were earmarked for demolition in Universal's plans to transform the former brickworks site.

Blake Stephenson, the Conservative MP for Mid Bedfordshire, said he would "work closely with residents, the council, and Universal Studios as the project moves forward, to ensure the infrastructure our communities need is delivered so that we can reap the rewards of this exciting development".

He welcomed the project and said it would "bring thousands of jobs" as well as exciting new opportunities for young people, and "a major boost for local businesses and tourism".



**Bucks & MK Fire**

I was delighted to visit the team at our local Broughton Fire Station just before Christmas, taking gifts from the local community.

The Chief Fire Officer, Louise Harrison was present to accept the gifts.

**Reported: Fly Tipping in Woburn Sands**

The Environmental Crime officer at MKCC has responded as set out below. I have asked for an onsite meeting with him in January to discuss the issues 'on the various sites notorious for fly tipping'.

*We currently have a contract that runs up until June 2026. We will be carrying out a tender exercise for a new contract which we will start to look at around Xmas time. The current contractor provides us with a managed service; he is not a sole CCTV supplier. He does provide both covert and overt cameras to us and these are viewed (not monitored 24/7) by a team he has working for him. If an offence is committed, he will interrogate the cameras and see whether it has been captured and what evidence is available. This will then be packaged up and provided to us for us to take forward.*

*He does supplier this same service to other Wards and Parishes in the MK area as we have given permission for him to do so. None of this fall under the main MKCC contract, it is done on an individual basis. He doesn't sell or provide cameras alone. I have not seen solar power cameras, but I know that his opinion is that they are not what they claim to be. For instance, the dark early nights will not allow enough charge for them to run during the nights of the winter. The cameras that he provides are powered by mains from lamp posts and I know that we have deployed our own cameras there before. It is a large area and difficult to monitor with the limited resources that we have available.*

*The ability of CCTV is somewhat exaggerated and needs to be managed correctly or it is a waste of money. There are a lot of companies out there who will sell you a few cameras and tell you that they will capture everything, I assure you they don't.*

*I am happy to meet with you to have a chat or put you in touch with our supplier to discuss the possible appropriate equipment.*

*Environmental Crime Manager - Environmental Crime Unit*



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes  
Association of Local Councils

**Bucks and MK Association of Local Councillors**

The BMKALC annual FREE January Training Programme is now live and open for booking on the BMKALC website! This is your opportunity to access a wide range of training and information sessions delivered by BMKALC, NALC, and our expert partners – all at no cost to member councils.

All sessions are delivered online and have a 1 hour running time including Q&A unless otherwise stated on our website

### **Programme Highlights**

- New! January 13th at 2pm Banking for Town & Parish Councils with Unity Trust Bank
- January 16th, 2pm Getting ready for Assertion 10 compliance covering websites, domains, email, and IT policies with Aubergine
- January 20th, 11am Martyn's Law Updates, providing legal updates and Q&A with Clear Insurance Management
- January 21st An Introduction to Leadership Skills – at 11am online with Breakthrough Communications
- January 27th, 2pm Local Insights, exploring social and demographic data for councils with Bucks Data Exchange
- January 30th, 11am NALC Legal Update with experienced solicitors from the National Association of Local Councils
- January 30th, 2pm Roles & Responsibilities online session with the BMKALC CEO

### **How to Access**

- Events are online webinars, accessible via BMKALC's booking system.
- Participants must be council members or part of member councils to register for free.
- Booking tickets in advance is required to secure a place.

Free January BMKALC events are an excellent way for local councillors, clerks, and other council members to stay up to date on legal, technological, and governance matters relevant to parish and town councils.

For full details and bookings, see the BMKALC website here <https://bucksalc.gov.uk/tag/free-january-2026/> to select your preferred topics and dates and BMKALC look forward to welcoming you to FREE JANUARY 2026!

### **Have Your Say : Wed 07 Jan 19:00**

The most recent local Safer Neighbourhood Team was held at Wavendon Community Hub, Dankworth Way, on **Wednesday 7th January 2026**.

25 residents took the opportunity to raise concerns and local issues they had with our local PC and PCSO officers from TVP and were offered suggestions on just what we are doing to tackle the issues that matter to local people.

Everyone is welcome at these events. For more information, please contact PCSO JONES - C9812 - [tracey.jones@thamesvalley.police.uk](mailto:tracey.jones@thamesvalley.police.uk)



Contact from Alzheimer's society uk. Which may be of interest.

*My role is new; I am the community's officer for MK and Bedfordshire.*

*I wanted to get in touch to introduce myself and offer support.*

*My objectives are to support communities to;*

- *Understand more about dementia.*
- *Reduce the stigma around dementia.*
- *Learn how we can reduce our risk of developing dementia.*
- *Learn about challenges faced by people affected by dementia.*
- *Find out how to get a dementia diagnosis and why it can help you access the right support.*
- *Understand the ways we can all make a difference.*

*If you'd like a chat do let me know. I am happy to call or meet up in the new year.*

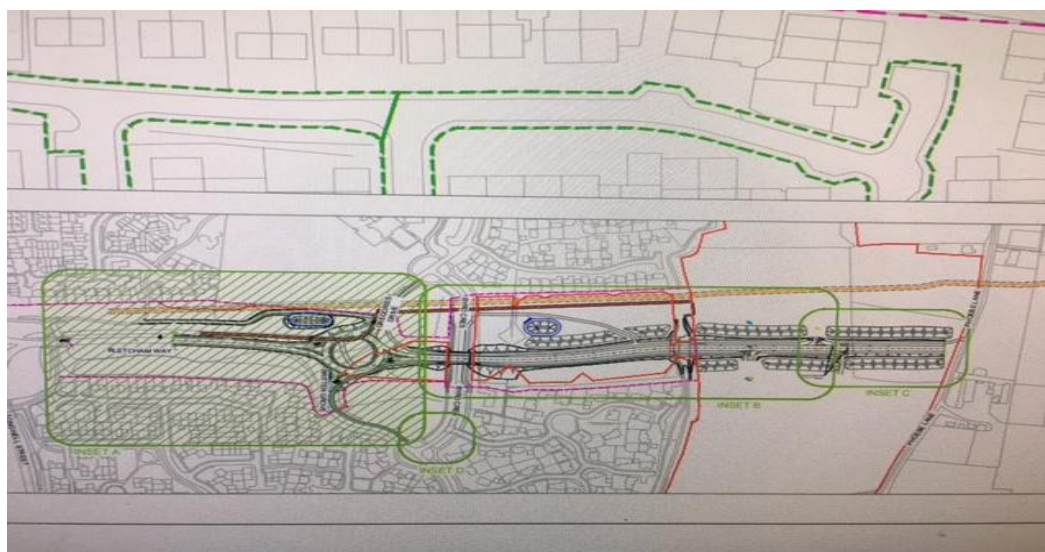
*I hope to hear from you,*

Ann Louise Taylor - Communities and Volunteering Officer (Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire)

Mobile: 07710 204212

[www.alzheimers.org.uk](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk)

## Update on H10 Bletcham Way Extension – Phase 2 (Old Farm Park to Wavendon)



wanted to share an update on the H10 Bletcham Way Extension Phase 2 Project.

Planning permission for the extension was granted in June 2024, and funding was approved at the Cabinet meeting on 4 November after all technical design work was completed. Our Highways Major Projects and Development Teams are managing the project from design through to construction.

This is a significant, multi-million-pound scheme, so we are using a competitive tender process through the Midlands Highways Alliance (MHA) to ensure the best value.

### Project Overview

The project is being delivered in two Phases:

#### Phase 1 – Temporary Access Road

This was completed in April 2024.

We installed 15 new trees and carried out major ditch clearance works earlier this year.

#### Phase 2 – Main Construction

This will involve building the main eastern extension of H10 Bletcham Way, along with associated works.

#### Advance Works (January – April 2026)

These will be carried out by our Highways Service Provider, Ringway, and include:

- Site clearance (trees and vegetation) in Byrd Crescent and nearby land
- Diversion of Anglian Water pipes and electrical cables
- Diversion of overhead high-voltage cables and a section of foul water sewer in Gregories Drive (planned around Easter holidays to minimise disruption)
- The footway on the west side of Byrd Crescent will be closed for a short period of time. The Redway will remain open throughout the works. We may need to close Byrd Crescent for a short on safety grounds, access to local properties will be maintained.



## Main Works (Starting Summer 2026 – approx. 18 months)

Scope includes:

- Construction of the H10 road extension
- Enlarged roundabout at Britten Grove / Gregories Drive
- New bridge over Byrd Crescent
- Landscaping and tree replacement
- Noise bunds
- New Pegasus crossing
- Two attenuation ponds
- Extension of Redways and footways
- Service diversions
- Temporary car park for residents during road closures

We will maintain local access to all properties and provide safe pedestrian routes throughout. Full project details and drawings can be viewed at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways) under 'Major Projects' or by scanning the QR code below.

We have worked hard to minimise disruption, but as with any large-scale project, some inconvenience is unavoidable.

Thank you for your patience and understanding—we will keep you updated and share details of road closures and diversions closer to the start date.

Diljeet Singh BSc (Hons), MCIHT

Senior Engineer

Milton Keynes City Council L Environmental & Property

Highways | Civic Offices | 1 Saxon Gate East | Central Milton Keynes | MK9 3EJ



A local Wavendon resident contacted the WPC stating that after 4 yrs of trying there is still no connection of the Redway along the A421 past Farr Meadow to the “new” CBC Redway to junction 13. It was built as part of the A421 improvement scheme to create a strategic east-west cycling route. It has become known as the "Nowhere" Problem: While it connects usefully at the Cranfield Road end in Wavendon to the MK redway, it stops short at J13, requiring cyclists to cross busy roads or find unsafe alternatives to get further.

**MKCC responds**

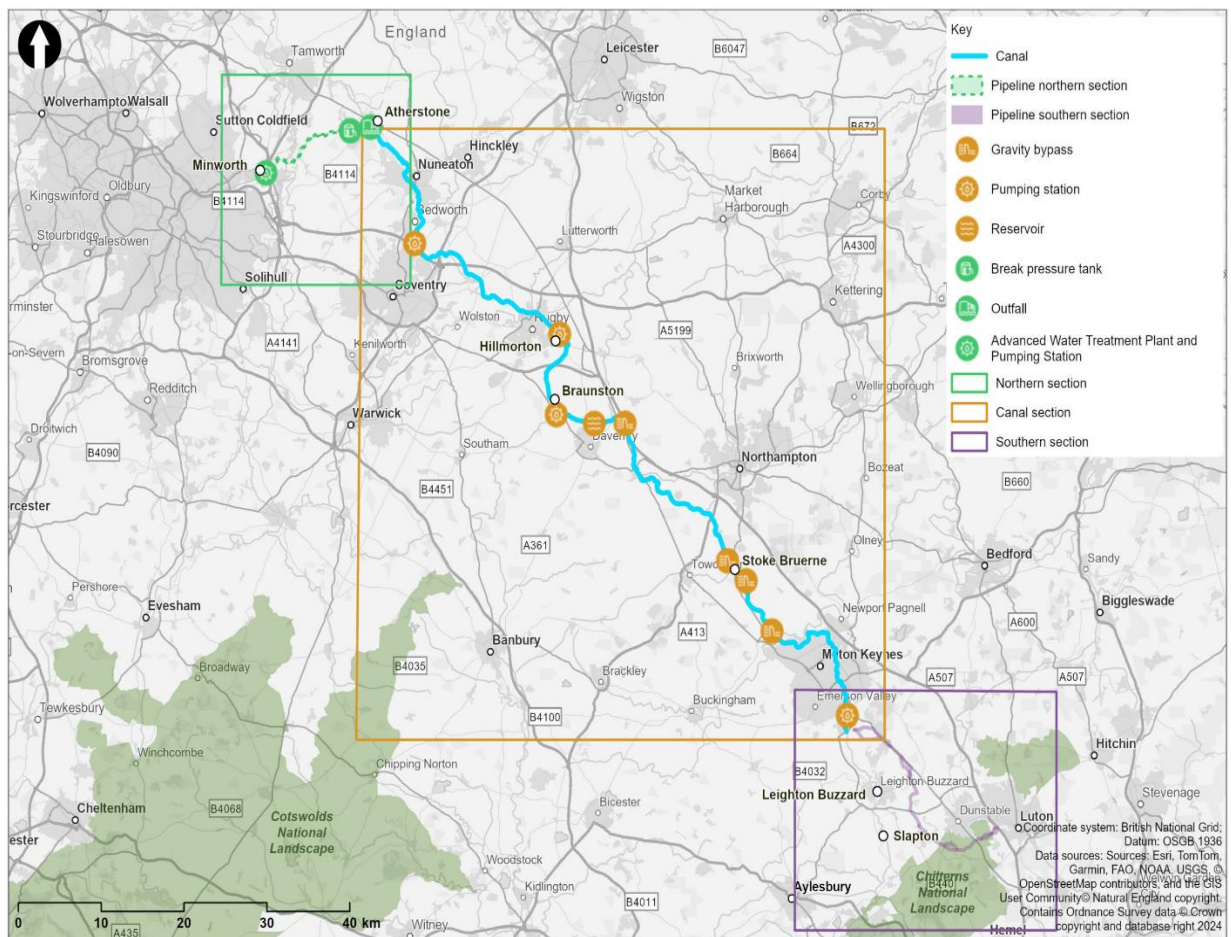
There is a design in place, and MKCC is 'likely' to start in 2026.

MKCC is entering into a section 8 agreement with Central Beds to allow it to do so.

However, the Project manager allocated this project is the one focused on the H10 work and as colleagues will be aware, MKCC need him to focus on the H10 extension, so assuming the relevant team get that moving by the summer there will be more time for other things later in the year.



<https://guctransfer.co.uk/resources/document-library/>



We're planning for the future – together

Water's essential to our everyday life, wellbeing, and environment. It's a precious resource and considering how water is resourced and managed is vital to securing a sustainable water supply for the future, for everyone who needs it.

Every five years, water companies in England and Wales have a statutory duty to produce a Water Resources Management Plan or WRMP, setting out the options they have to supply water in their areas in the long-term, to address future water resource challenges.

One of the options identified by Affinity Water in their WRMP, to meet the challenge of a future water supply deficit in their supply area, is the Grand Union Canal Transfer. This scheme will transfer up to 115 million litres of water along the Coventry, Oxford and Grand Union canals, owned and managed by the Canal & River Trust, from a water recycling centre in Birmingham in Severn Trent's supply area, to Affinity Water's areas of deficit in the Southeast.

Affinity Water and Severn Trent will work together as water companies to develop and deliver the scheme, using the canal network, owned and managed by the Canal & River Trust.

We'll be holding our second public consultation in February and March 2026. In the meantime, you can contact us by email, phone, or in writing, with any questions or comments about the scheme and you can sign up for updates here. <https://guctransfer.co.uk/contact-us/>

<https://guctransfer.co.uk/resources/document-library/>

#### **Supporting our city - the year in review from MKCC perspective**

<https://cmemailmarketing.co.uk/img/A56D78427/Milton%20Keynes%20City%20Council/One%20Council/One%20Council%20-%209%20Jan/Year%20in%20review%202025.pdf>

From The Economist magazine naming Milton Keynes as 'the city to watch for how to grow' to Universal Studios announcing its major new plans on our doorstep, it's been another high-profile year for the city.

Our Economic Development Team have put together a short Year in Review which highlights some of our positive business stories, events and achievements.

#### **Operational review reflects on a year of progress**

<https://cmemailmarketing.co.uk/img/A56D78427/Milton%20Keynes%20City%20Council/One%20Council/One%20Council%20-%209%20Jan/MKCC%20Operational%20Review%202025.pdf>

Last year was an important and successful year for the organisation. Our Operational Review 2025 describes the substantial progress we have made as a team towards being one of the best performing councils in the country. Some colleagues might also spot themselves in the review, like Adenike from our Reablement team (right).

***Cllr David Hopkins – Representing Wavendon at MKCC***

***January 2026***



## The Information Pages

### Section 106 / Planning Obligations Funding

Paul Van Geete, James Williamson (Monitoring and Implementation Team Leader [MKCC]), Sharon Price (Principal Planning Obligations Officer [MKCC]) and Jennifer Head (Senior Planning Obligations Officer [MKCC]) lead on this issue.

Planning obligations are essential to assist in mitigating the impact of development. Contributions from a developer can be non-financial, such as a new play park for residents, or financial such as delivering something in the local area. A signed S106 Agreement will have met 3 tests, to be lawful, to be directly related to the development, and be reasonably related to the scale of the development. The team ensure that any financial contribution is spent to avoid funds being returned to the developer. S106 is limited to areas where development or growth has occurred and it was noted that the funds belong to the developer, not the Council.

Funding is collected in instalments. Funding spent, goes through a Board to be approved, and must be spent in the timeframe or returned to the developer. The team will contact parishes if unspent funds have not expired in their area and work with the parish to advise what the funds can be spent on. EXACOM is updated daily with projects and funding, and the team will assist in completing Release forms so projects can be taken to appropriate Boards for approval.

Ward councillors should be informed of projects. Parish and town councils are bound by subsidy control regulations, as is MKCC, and there also needs to be a check on spends by third parties to check they are meeting the regulations. If a spend is over £100,000 it would need to be taken to a Members Delegated Decision.

Once funding is paid, feedback is required every 3 months, even if the monies have not been spent, as there will be a deadline to use the funds by. Supporting evidence such as invoices will be required, and photos can provide more detail. Parish Clerks will have the latest version of the Funding Release Form. The definition of the project on the form must be clear to ensure the spend is compliant.

Early engagement with the team, MKCC, and other relevant parties at all stages is key as there may also be other funding available to access. Parish and Town councils will be consulted on the actual planning application and on the S106.

Initial enquiries should be emailed to [planningobligations@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:planningobligations@milton-keynes.gov.uk)

EXACOM link is <https://pfm.exacom.co.uk/miltonkeynes>

## Funding Sources

Below you can find a list of some the most up to date and new funding streams that emerge both locally and nationally.

## Local

### Milton Keynes Community Foundation Grants:

<https://www.mkcommunityfoundation.co.uk/apply-for-a-grant/>

- Seed Grants – up to £750, ad hoc
- Sapling Grants – up to £5,000, monthly applications
- Oak Grants – up to £15,000, available quarterly
- Strategic Partnership Grants – over £15,000, no deadlines and multi-year options

### Landfill Communities Fund

Contact is Luke Gledhill (Principal Waste and Minerals Planning Officer [

Their role included assessing applications for waste and minerals development, covering the policy side for the scheme, and visiting waste and mineral sites to ensure they are being developed in accordance with the planning permission. Businesses and other organisations are encouraged to reuse and recycle more waste.

Landfill tax is charged on every tonne of waste that is sent to landfill and in MK a proportion of this tax is available as grants, to fund community projects by non-profit organisations within 10 miles of Bletchley Landfill. Applicants for the grants must either own, lease or have a long term written management agreement for the site they are seeking funding for. Projects can include public amenity projects and biodiversity and nature conservation projects.

The FCC Community Action Fund relates to sites within 10 miles of the Bletchley Landfill Site and the SUEZ Communities Fund relates to sites within 2 miles of the SUEZ waste site in Old Wolverton. Applications are subject to regulations as to how and when the funds are spent.

Further information can be found at:

<https://fcccommunitiesfoundation.org.uk/funds/fcc-community-action-fund>

<https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/suez-communities-fund/suez-communities-fund-england/>

### Mick George Community Fund <https://grantscape.org.uk/fund/mick-george-community-fund/>

Location:

Parts of Bedfordshire, MK, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Norfolk and Rutland.

#### Total Grants Available:

£200,000 (approximately) per year

#### Fund Provided by:

Mick George Limited through the Landfill Communities Fund

The Mick George Community Fund provides grants of between £10,000 and £30,000.

Organisations can only apply for a grant if their total project cost is less than £100,000.



The Fund supports projects located in proximity to our donor's landfill sites and other waste treatment sites situated throughout the East Midlands and Anglian regions.

### **National**

**Eddie Stobart** - Stobart Sustainability Fund: UK charities, community groups, educational institutions and small businesses for community led sustainability projects that help create a greener, more sustainable world. The fund supports initiatives that tackle climate change, reduce carbon emissions, or protect and enhance the environment, with applicants invited to specify the level of funding required. Eddie Stobart positions the fund as part of its wider commitment to reducing its own carbon footprint and helping others do the same. [https://eddiestobart.com/the-stobart-sustainability-fund/?dm\\_i=6MG6,1B3YF,5MI2BC,64CZZ,1,,](https://eddiestobart.com/the-stobart-sustainability-fund/?dm_i=6MG6,1B3YF,5MI2BC,64CZZ,1,,)

**Fisheries Improvement Programme:** Grants of up to £5,000 for projects that enhance fish habitats, improve angling facilities, and help fisheries adapt to climate challenges. Match funding is required. Eligible applicants include angling clubs, fisheries, and community organisations. Closes 6th February 2026. <https://anglingtrust.net/funding/fisheries-improvement-programme/>

**Grassroots Grants programme:** Small charities and community groups in England can apply now for grants of £500–£2,000 to support community-led projects tackling local issues. Supports organisations with annual income under £25,000, prioritising those serving marginalised communities and areas in the top 15% of deprivation. <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/grassroots-grants/>

**James Tudor Foundation - Mental Health:** The James Tudor Foundation is inviting applications to its Mental Health programme, which supports charities helping children, young people and parents affected by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Funding focuses on evidence-based, trauma-informed interventions that help people recover from trauma and prevent the intergenerational cycle of abuse. The Foundation supports charities working in one of two specialist areas:

<https://www.jamestudor.org.uk/mental-health>

- Children and young people affected by ACEs, including childhood abuse, domestic violence, parental mental illness or substance misuse, bereavement, or having a parent in prison. Funded organisations must have a clear children-first focus.
- Parents affected by ACEs, mental illness or addiction, delivering whole-family, trauma-informed programmes designed to prevent harm and support healthier family relationships.

*Closes 6 February 2026.*

**Windrush Fund:** Community organisations across England are invited to apply for funding through the Windrush Day Grant Scheme 2026, a national programme supporting projects that commemorate, celebrate and educate about the Windrush generation and their descendants. Closes 10th February 2026. <https://www.near-neighbours.org.uk/windrush26-home>

**The Young Futures Fund** - Asda Foundation: Supporting grassroots community groups across the UK in enhancing the mental health and wellbeing of teens aged 13–18. Grants of £500–£1,000 to deliver workshops, peer-support, recreational activities, rehabilitation, or educational events tackling issues like bullying, knife crime, or gangs. Closes 20th January 2026. <https://asdafoundation.org/our-grants/young-futures-fund/>

