



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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JANUARY NEWSLETTER 2020

www.woburnsands.org.uk
(see privacy policy)

Dear Resident,

We hope you will consider joining the Town Council by applying for co-option to fill two vacancies (see inside), and find reading about our plans for 2020 of interest. It's a busy year ahead and through our website, quarterly newsletters, and entries in Hogsty End we hope to keep you informed of our work.



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COUNCILLOR VACANCIES

Owing to the recent resignations of Gill Brooke and Keith Temple, we are now able to co-opt two people to join our Town Council. We thank Gill and Keith for all their work with the Council and are pleased that both will continue to be involved in the local community via Love Woburn Sands, The Christmas Fayre and the Summer Music Festival. Anyone over 18 who lives in or within 3 miles of Woburn Sands, or who works here, and is a registered elector in the parish can apply. Full details are on our website.

We meet monthly on the second Monday of each month and hold extra meetings to consider matters to do with our halls, the environment and finances as needed. Meetings are sometimes held with MKC officers and these are usually during their working hours. You can get an idea of the

work we do by reading the minutes of meetings which are on our website under the Council Information tab.

If you are interested in applying please send a CV and letter of application to the Town Clerk by 21st February and we will hope to interview before our March meeting. Our next meeting if you want to just see what we do is on 10th February at 7.30pm in the Council offices by the side of the Memorial Hall. All are welcome.



**JOIN OUR
TOWN COUNCIL**



OUR PLANS FOR 2020/21

Over the coming months the Council will be discussing a number of projects we have in mind which will, we hope, benefit the local community as all are items you have raised with us. We have increased our precept in order to be able to consider these, but have kept the increase to under 4%. The precept for running the Council appears on your MKC Council Tax bill as a separate item. A spate of unpleasant and worrying anti-social behaviour and thefts* in the town, particularly in the centre in the High Street and Station Road, indicate that some CCTV might be a useful deterrent and this is one of our priorities. A **traffic warden** to counter parking on pavements and on double yellow lines both of which are a problem, being not only inconvenient

OUR HALLS

We have a number of halls which we hire out for a variety of local activities.

The Summerlin Centre near the station is the largest and nearly opposite it there is the Old Fire Station which is suitable for smaller groups. In the High Street we have the Memorial Hall and the potential use outside library hours of the Institute. Very soon a further hall will be available for the community to book via the Town Council and that is the Greens Court Community Rooms on the ground floor of what was Greens Hotel and overlooking the tennis courts. Whilst this facility is part of the Greens Court development, under

but at times dangerous, would be a very welcome, though quite expensive, addition. We also feel it is becoming necessary to have an **electric charging point** in the public (shoppers) car park and will probably allocate two spaces for this. There may also be expenses linked to the next item below.

**It is vitally important that any antisocial behaviour or criminal activity is reported to the police even if you think the police can't do anything about it in time. The easiest way is to contact them is via their website thamesvalley.police.uk under Report a crime. In this way, the police may have a better understanding of all that is happening in Woburn Sands and can plan accordingly.*

the terms of its planning permission, this community hall has to be made available to the general public. **Please contact Pauline at the Town Council by phone or at Pauline.k@wstc.org.uk for further information.**

The hall is made up of three linked areas and takes a maximum of 60 people, but more comfortably 40. It is equipped with 10 small tables and 40 chairs, a couple of larger tables, kitchen with fridge, toilets and is wheel chair accessible. Pauline or a member of the Management committee will happily show you round.



SPORTS HALL & RECREATION GROUND



The final stages of the Taylor Wimpey development at Parklands are now taking shape and the foundations are in for our Sports Hall next to the Summerlin Centre. We have had a preliminary meeting with people interested in using the Sports Hall and will invite all those and anyone else shortly to a further meeting. Let the Town Clerk know if you want to be involved. The hall should be ready in the Autumn this year and will accommodate two badminton courts, table tennis, 5-a-side football, junior tennis and we can consider other sports as suggested.

Furthermore, we have some section 106 monies from the Parklands development which need to be used for improvements to sport/leisure activities which can be put to renovations in the Recreation ground. This could total about £200,000. We will be discussing this as the funds become available and we would like to

hear your views as to how to best use this money. Ideas which have so far been put forward include:

- *Removal of the skate boards park and replacing it with a tarmacked mini circuit (with bumps and chicanes) for scooters and mini bikes*
- *Installation of a small climbing wall*
- *Construction of a practice wall for tennis practice (could be on back of above)*
- *Replacement of the basketball hoop*
- *New football goals*
- *Installation of a larger climbing frame between the current play area and the Station Road entrance by the pedestrian crossing*
- *A children's zip wire*



What do you think?

Have you seen something elsewhere which might be a good idea?

Please send any ideas to help our deliberations to the Town Clerk as this is likely to be our last chance of significant funds for an upgrade of the Recreation Ground.

We know the Recreation ground is a popular area to walk dogs, but please adhere to the notice to keep your dog well under control so that you can clear up any poo deposited. This is an area much used by children running around and we cannot have the area contaminated.

We appreciate this message only applies to a very few of you and thank the vast majority of people who carefully remove their dog's poo wherever it is deposited.



NEW ERA FOR OUR SCHOOLS

Some residents will remember the days when Fulbrook School was a secondary modern taking pupils through to age 16.

Then Bedfordshire changed to a three tier system and Fulbrook became a middle school for ages 8-13 and pupils from this area had to travel to Leighton Buzzard or Ampthill or transfer to a Milton Keynes School for the rest of their schooling. Now a plan is going out to public consultation early this year for the schools in the Fulbrook catchment to move to a primary/secondary system in line with the vast majority of the country. This means pupils in our community will be able to remain in Woburn Sands for their schooling right through to the end of GCSEs at 16.



Swallowfield (and Aspley Guise) lower school will become primary schools in 2022 and Fulbrook a secondary school thereafter if the plans go through. Clearly building work will need to be done at both sites, but we very much hope the plans will succeed and we will be giving the proposals our full support.



EAST WEST RAIL & THE OXFORD EXPRESSWAY BETWEEN OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE

You will have seen a fair bit of publicity and may have attended a meeting about the proposed Expressway towards the end of last year. We have mentioned it in newsletters too. However, at present we await the decisions of the new government as to whether or not they will support Highways England proposals for this new road link and/or the expansion of the rail link. As it stands at present, all we know for certain is that Woburn Sands lies within the preferred broad corridor for such a highway and that East-West Rail's first phase is to re-establish the rail link between Oxford and Bletchley, hopefully by 2022. Plans, if they go ahead, for the second phase to link the Bletchley to Bedford line right through to Cambridge have been put back to at least 2029. We will, of course, keep you informed of any further developments

and there will be public consultations on any further proposals about the road or the rail links. *Check our website (see article "Important Reading") from time to time and our monthly article in Hogsty End Handbook for the latest news.*

A third consideration in all this is the proposed 3000 homes on the land between Bow Brickhill, Wavendon and Woburn Sands under Plan:MK. If the correct infrastructure is not in place, this will be a nightmare, traffic wise, for Woburn Sands, and almost certainly is planned for the same area as the proposed Expressway. Clearly, both can't take place on the same land. Whilst we have limited control over the latter, we are in a better position to deal with the housing as that is dealt with by Milton Keynes Council.

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

With Christmas and New Year behind us we seem to be rushing headlong into 2020.

During the winter months members of St Michael's support our local winter night shelter based at St Mary's Church, Aspley Hill on Sunday evenings. And all year round we support the Milton Keynes Food Bank. Donations for the food bank can be left at the back of church at any time. Sadly, the need is not diminishing. We hope during 2020 to continue our partnership with Spectrum Recruitment to offer music nights at St Michael's on a monthly basis.

Look out for further details!



At the end of February we reach Lent – a time of seriousness and self-denial before our Easter celebrations, look on our website for all Easter Services and events.

St Michael's Church is always open during the day, and we welcome members of the community to enjoy the peace and quiet of our lovely building.

Revd Diana Young



SNIPPETS & DATES

Our **Annual Town Meeting** open to everyone will be held on **Tuesday 21 April** in the Memorial Hall starting at 7.30pm.

You may have noticed the **SID (Speed indicator device)** located in Newport Road just north of the level crossing for the past several weeks. Our first readings from it indicate just over 70% of vehicles above the 30mph limit. Whilst half of these were within 30-35mph bracket, it certainly shows drivers are not slowing quickly enough at the approach to Woburn Sands. If that's you, please slow down! The SID will be moved to other locations in Woburn Sands over the coming months.

VE day falls on **Friday 8 May** this year and the early May Bank Holiday has been moved from Monday 4th to the Friday. (Your diary may not record this correctly). We will be arranging some celebration in the morning on the Friday, probably starting at 10.30am on Mowbray Green, leaving you free to enjoy street parties or whatever else you wish to organise for the rest of the day.

Yet another Appeal into the **Wavendon Properties application** to build 203 homes behind Ridgeway and Tavistock Close and through to the far side of Woburn Sands Emporium (formerly Wyevale) took place earlier this month and we await the result. Cllrs David Hopkins and Jacky Jeffreys spoke against the development as did various Milton Keynes officers for MKC.

The Christmas Fayre held at the end of December last year was a great success with the High Street full of happy people. We very much appreciate the hard work of all the committee in running this popular community event. Apart from a donation of £500 to the Community Transport run by Love WS, the Fayre provides the decorated Christmas trees and festive street lights in Woburn Sands and contributes 50% of the cost of maintaining, replacing, putting up and taking down of these each year to the Town Council who pays the remaining 50%. If you enjoyed the Fayre, why not make your contribution to the community by joining the committee yourself to prepare for an even better Fayre this year on Sunday 29 Nov? Or join the Summer Festival committee which is another great occasion for the whole community. It will be on Sat 4 July 2020. But both rely entirely on volunteers, including some Town Councillors. The Town Clerk can put you in touch with the chairmen of each committee.

The **next community market** will be on **Saturday 8th February** in the High Street around the library and the Memorial Green from 10am-2pm.



Our popular **coach trips** resume in **March** with a visit to St Albans on **18th**. Contact the Town Clerk for tickets.

Woburn Sands Band gave us all a festive Christmas Eve with their gathering on Mowbray Green enjoyed by several hundred people.

You can support our wonderful band by buying tickets for their **next concert at the Stables on Saturday 4 April** at 7.30pm.

Tickets @£12 from the concert secretary **07790 454 149**.



Advance notice: The Bowls Club will be holding an **Open Day** between 2.00pm and 5.00pm on **Sunday 19 April**. *Give it a go:* it's enjoyable and sociable and a sport for all ages.

The 2nd Annual Community Garden and Craft Competition will be held on **20 June**. Categories include flower arranging, crafts and cooking with refreshments, plant and cake stalls. *Contact Claire.tobin123@gmail for further information.*

Are you looking for a **small industrial/employment unit in Woburn Sands**. The final phase of the Parklands development includes some facilities for such units and you should *contact Emma.Walton@taylorwimpey.com for more details.*

