

WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2018

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



Dear Resident,

As the nights draw in it's time for our Autumn newsletter. At least the grass is getting greener as our wonderful long hot summer comes to an end. Sadly there are lots of uncertainties surrounding us particularly from three big projects over which we have little or no control, but there are some good things to report in the following pages.

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FIRST: A REQUEST FOR HELP



It's Remembrance Day on Sunday 11 November and whereas in previous years the Police have manned our road closure in the High Street, they no longer have the resources to do so. Ringway will do the physical part of the road closure, signage etc, but we need volunteers to be at main road junctions to answer drivers' questions. We need just an hour

of your time 10.30am-11.30am at the mini roundabout, Church Road, Vicarage Street, Russell Street, Chapel Street and Downham Road. Please contact the Town Clerk if you can help.

The High Street will also be closed as always for our Annual Christmas Fayre which is on Sunday 25 November this year. A rota needs to be drawn up so that we have two people at each end of the High Street from 10.00am until 6.00pm, an hour at a time.

Please contact Keith:
kj_temple@hotmail.com to volunteer.

WARNING: ROAD CLOSURE



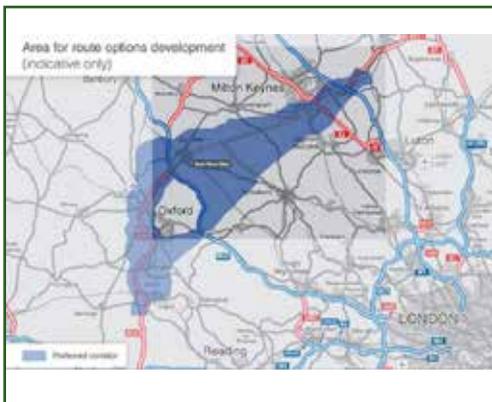
The road between J13 and the Husborne Crawley turn will be closed for resurfacing from **Fri 19th to Wednesday 24th Oct**, 24hrs per day.



THREE MAJOR PROJECTS AFFECTING WOBURN SANDS

1. Plan:MK put forward, despite many objections, proposals to allow development between Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands as well as an industrial site beyond Bow Brickhill. The first stages of this Plan have been considered by an Inspector at the Public Enquiry where Cllr Mike Geddes spoke on our behalf. Amendments will now be considered and the final decision is due in February 2019. We will keep you informed of any further developments.

2. The Government proposals for an Oxford-Cambridge Expressway have now announced their choice of Corridor B for the route, which you will see utilises the upgraded section of the A 421 between J13 and the A1. A route westwards from J13 to Oxford now needs to be selected within this corridor and it will have to pass close to our communities.



There will be consultations next year on the exact route proposals and it is vital that as many as possible attend these and make their comments.

Clearly, it has the potential to impact upon the Wavendon Properties Appeal, the as yet unstarted development of Frosts Landscape site north of Bell Way, and Wavendon Golf Course which has recently indicated that it will in all probability be closing shortly. West of the town, the proposed developments under Plan:MK can also be affected. Further details on all this can be found on <https://highwaysengland.co.uk/projects/oxford-cambridge-expressway>.

3. EastWest Rail: As you will be aware at the same time, plans are progressing for the upgrade of the line between Oxford and Bedford with twice the number of trains scheduled from 2022/3. Recently plans submitted under the Transport Works Act by Network Rail on the closure of some crossing points have led to misleading information circulating on social media. What happened is that the plans included the closure of the “school” crossing between Cranfield Road and the Recreation Ground and a diversion of pedestrians to use the main road level crossing point. The earlier plan to build a ramped bridge to replace the school crossing was withdrawn by Network Rail on grounds of cost and unsightliness of such a huge structure. The



Town Council has objected to the closure on the grounds of pedestrian safety at the main road crossing and suggested instead a simple stepped bridge which could, at least, be used by most people. We await the outcome of this, but at no point was there any suggestion that the A5130 over the level crossing will be closed completely.

You will appreciate the complexities of the interaction of these three projects and the Town Council will do all it can to mitigate the negative impact, but our powers are extremely limited.

PRIORITIES FOR WOBURN SANDS

The projects above make planning for our future very difficult at present, but we do intend to shortly publish our ten top aims for the town. These will appear on our newly designed website which should be in use soon. The address is the same: www.woburnsands.org.uk, but we hope you will find it easier to use and full of the latest information. In the meantime, we really appreciated those of you who got in touch with ideas about our future and a summary of these with our response follows:

Traffic and Parking

A number of concerns were raised about the increased volume of traffic in the town, and the difficulty of finding a car parking space in the High Street. This is an inevitable result of the growth of Woburn Sands and the surrounding area. However later this Autumn Milton Keynes Council will initiate a Highways Impact Study which will examine the current traffic flows in the Woburn Sands area and try to model the impact on the current traffic flows of the new developments proposed in the area. We will then be in a better position to assess what mitigating

measures can be put in place (including the implementation of a 20mph limit). Unfortunately there seems very little that can be done to increase the number of parking spaces in the High Street area but we can look at tightening the enforcement regime.

Bus Service

The relatively recent reduction in the 300 service was made because the number of passengers did not



warrant a half hour service. We will, however, discuss the possibility of re-introducing the half hour frequency at peak times with the operator.

Rail Services

A new semi-fast hourly service between Bedford and Oxford, stopping at Woburn Sands, is planned to be introduced by 2022;



Network Rail is planning to adapt the platforms to accommodate this service. They are also planning to close the two footpaths (*see East West Rail above*)



Sporting Facilities

A number of comments were made under this heading:

- Some residents would like an indoor swimming pool; unfortunately the cost of operating a pool (even if we could raise the capital cost) makes this uneconomic.
- A dedicated football pitch was suggested by some since the pitch in the Recreation Ground is too small. We will continue to look for opportunities to establish such a facility in one of the very few remaining open spaces within our parish. However, all these are in the hands of developers.
- The skate park is very small and could be upgraded but the number of potential users is difficult to predict.

Medical Services

The delay in obtaining an appointment at Asplands (and the dental practice) was mentioned by some residents; the provision of medical services is a matter for the NHS. In the longer term it is envisaged that additional practices will be established in the development now underway between Wavendon and the M1; if the area between Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill is developed (which can only proceed after the route of the proposed Oxford-Cambridge expressway has been agreed) additional facilities will be included in that development.

Educational Provision

Additional schools are being provided to the Wavendon/M1 development. The future of Fulbrook School is a matter for the Governors of the school.

As can be seen from the above comments a number of the issues raised by residents are under active discussion by the Town Council but can only be resolved as the strategic plan for the area (Plan:MK) is finalised. The Inspector has completed his examination of the Plan and the finally approved version should be published during the first half of 2019; we will then start preparing the next version of our Neighbourhood Plan and will hold a number of consultation events as part of the process.

Members of the Town Council are aware that many residents use social media to discuss local issues. Although the Town Council has a Facebook page on which to post messages, we do not monitor other local Facebook groups. However, we understand that some comments that have been made are based on inaccuracies or misunderstandings. There is a lot of background information on the Town Council's website, and other websites linked to the Council's site, which might be helpful in the social media discussions; we would be happy to amplify or expand the information on the website in the light of any suggestions arising from social media discussions.



A COUPLE OF LOCAL PLANNING MATTERS

1. Many residents particularly from Aspley Guise will be relieved to know that the Hayfield Park Village application in Central Beds between the A421 and Lower End Road/Salford Road has been withdrawn.
2. The application for a block of flats off Asplands Close was approved, subject to a Section 106 agreement still being finalised, but in the meantime, the developers can clear as much of the site as is necessary to discharge a number of conditions including ones relating to trees, badgers, footpath, drainage and access, which all need to be done before a detailed application is submitted.

WOBURN SANDS BAND

We are very proud of our Brass Band consisting of nearly 100 players divided into several groups all directed by volunteers. The band provides tuition, instruments and uniform, all free, in return for a commitment to the Bands and practice at home. Complete beginners and those with some experience are all welcome. Some members are also involved in helping out the orchestra at Fulbrook.

Various groups of the Bands play at many charity events supporting their work too. All this under the directorship of Len Jenkins with some invaluable help from Karen Boote and others.

The main source of income for all this free work and upkeep of the band, hall and van come from sponsors, local business advertising in concert programmes but mainly from sale of tickets for their concerts.

So, please support the next one on **Sat 8 Dec at The Stables at 7.30pm**. The concert will have a Christmas Theme and tickets available from Concert Secretary on **07790 454149** or at The Stables Box Office **01908 280800**.

Bring your friends too!



The WSTC webpage is maintained by the Council Staff and is an ongoing project. If you have any comments, or you think that something should be included or a contact detail changed on the website, please contact the Council.

You could always use the Contact us & Enquiry Form link from the Home Page!



SOME GOOD NEWS!

Our wonderful summer produced two floral celebrations of high quality. First our Annual Garden competition generously sponsored by Frosts in memory of Brian Frost who started the Garden centre was again of a high standard. You can see all the photos on our website.



Hanging Basket



Back Garden



Front Garden



Then in early September St Michaels held a flower festival as part of its 150th Anniversary celebrations with many local groups coming up with ingenious ways to depict their organisations in a floral display. Here are a few including our cover page from the Friends of Woburn Sands Station and a train hand made to scale by one of the members.

On 30 September, the Bishop of St Albans came to a service of thanksgiving for the 150 years that St Michaels has been the parish church of Aspley Heath and Woburn Sands. This ecclesiastical parish was created in 1867 as the population of Woburn Sands started to increase separating it from the parishes of Aspley Guise and Wavendon. St Michaels church was designed by Henry Sutton, who also designed St Marys in Woburn and the clock tower at Clivendon House, and was consecrated in 1868. The East end was extended in 1889 and further improvements made in the 1980's. Here is the Bishop with Revd Diana Young and Cllr Keith Temple cutting the celebratory Birthday cake.



SNIPPETS

Taylor Wimpey have at last completed the remedial works on roads, lighting and drainage in Phase 1 of Parklands (more than 10 years late!) and these should be adopted by the end of October. Most of phase 2 has also been done but Anglia Water have not yet adopted the surface water sewers and once the necessary works have been done, these too will be adopted hopefully by the end of the year.

We are delighted to announce that Woburn Sands and Aspley Heath War Memorial on the Memorial Green in the High Street has been granted Listed Building Status as a structure of special architectural or historic interest. We are adding a special Plaque to the Memorial to commemorate the Anniversary of the end of World War 1.

Central Beds is withdrawing its funding to The Greensand Trust for the management of the woods in its area. This was a joint undertaking with MKC who will make a decision shortly. It is likely to adversely affect the areas of cycleways mainly in the Central Beds area, but we are asked to draw your attention to the fact that dogs should be under control throughout the woods and should only be on the footpaths themselves as the woods are the private property of Bedford Estates.

Parking on the double yellow lines at the top of Downham Road, Vicarage Street and Russell Street is causing real problems for access into and out of these roads with vehicles unable to pass each other because of parked cars and making sight lines very difficult. We are seeking extra control on this, but please, please don't park there even for a minute or two.

DATES

Ghost Trains will run on the railway on **Fri 26 Oct** and Santa Specials in December. *Watch the website for details.*

Aspley Heath Parish Council will be holding a **WW1 exhibition** including the poems written by Fulbrook School pupils. Refreshments will be served including Trench Cake! In the Memorial Hall Saturday **10th November 10am**.

Remembrance Sunday 11th November. The Church Service will begin at 9.45 at St. Michaels, then the parade down to the War Memorial will be approx. 10.40 – 10.45 we hope that you all join us for this WW1 100th year anniversary in the High Street for a short service including wreath the laying.

Annual Christmas Fayre in the High Street opening at 1.30pm on **Sunday 25 Nov.**
The Christmas Community Market in the High Street will be on **Sat 8 Dec.**
Woburn Sands Band Concert Sat 8 Dec at 7.30pm at The Stables.....book now!
The Band will also play the usual **Christmas Eve festive music** and carols for everyone to join in on Mowbray Green at 7pm

