

# WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

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Dear Resident

It's been a busy summer but hopefully one where you have all been able to enjoy the good weather of most of the past months. Read about what's been happening and what will be happening over the next three months and don't forget to let us know if there is anything you may like included in the next newsletter. For month by month news from us, check your Hogsty End Handbook.

**Autumn Newsletter 2014**

## What A Success!

The very first local produce market in Woburn Sands was very successful judging by many comments received. A couple of stall holders completely underestimated demand and sold out very quickly, but assure us they will come with much more stock next time. It started small in terms of numbers of stalls (there were 10 this time) but the hopes are that it will grow and interest has been expressed by some additional stall holders for the next one and all those at the first want to come back again. It was big, however, on numbers of people who came....thank you all of you who supported this venture.

*The next one will be on Sunday 14 December* and then quarterly unless demand suggests bi monthly or even monthly would be justified.

Well done the committee who are organising this whose members come from the Business Association and the Town Council.



## Library News

We are delighted to announce another new venture for the Library in the High Street. It is called “When the Book Speaks” and is a story telling evening from 8pm-9.30pm, the first one being on Thurs 16 October. There will be two narrators of four different stories, myths or folk tales following the theme “New Beginnings” .... quite appropriate! The entry cost of £5 for adults and £3 for students under 16 and OAPs includes tea, coffee and cake in a short interval. The plan is for this to become a monthly storytelling circle with regular tellers and some guests too...and there may be open floor sessions for you to have a go too! So, if you miss the first one, watch our entries in Hogsty End Handbook for details of the next sessions.

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## Network Rail Developments

Can we stress, please, that although talks are proceeding about the upgrade of the service on our railway line, nothing has been decided at this point, apart from the fact that as from April 2019 there will be a doubling of trains on the line with two each way every hour as against the present one each way. Following the Government’s aspirational announcement, there is talk of additional freight services, upgrading of the line though electrification, alterations to crossing points including footpath crossings, but no funding is in place for any of this. Network Rail, as part of their study, and at our request, will at some stage carry out detailed surveys to ascertain where the traffic that passes through Woburn Sands comes from and is going to. As soon as there are any specific options on the table, we will let you know and full public consultation will take place, but this is all probably a long way in the future....much like HS2!

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**The next Town Council meetings will be on**

**Mon 13 Oct, Mon 10 Nov and Mon 8 Dec all**

**at 7.30pm**

and in Town Council rooms to rear of Memorial a Hall.

***Public welcome!***

## Planning Matters

Unfortunately these are dominating our work at present and we are constantly having to object to and counter proposals in order to maintain the character and environment of Woburn Sands. Within our town details of the applications for both Greens Hotel and the Bowls club land and those of Sandy Mount are causes for concern. In the former we are trying hard to argue for a reasonable footpath access through the site for local people and for the new residents of the development with the minimum of locked gates to be negotiated and some decent landscaping particularly round the edges. No further work will take place at the Greens site until these and a number of other issues concerning use of the communal rooms, parking bays and technical matters have been resolved. The Sandy Mount developer wants to render the old brick wall on Station Road frontage and install electronically controlled gates: we feel this is all very contrary to our character and the Conservation Area status.

The housing on Phase 3 of the Parklands development is now finished and work has begun on Phase 4 and the site office and show home duly moved to the north of the lake. The unwelcome completion of Phase 1 will involve more flats going up on what was the sales office car park, but we can do nothing to stop this as it was passed way back in 2006. We are, however, unhappy with the quality and several details of the landscaping being carried out in the park area north of the lake and its continuation to the western edge of the site and, together with some residents of Parklands, we are attempting to get some alterations and improvements made by Taylor Wimpey before Milton Keynes Council adopt this area.

The application of Frosts Landscape Division to construct 54 houses north of Bell Way in Wavendon, was refused by Milton Keynes Council but an Appeal has been lodged and the provisional dates for the public inquiry into this are 16-18 December....just what we want in the run up to Christmas! The Town Council's main concerns are the further addition of traffic to the Newport Road and the pressure on services and parking in Woburn Sands which such a development would bring, especially when added to the 3000 homes scheduled for the area to the north of Wavendon and south of the A421, the Strategic Land Allocation sites. Outline applications for parts of this SLA continue to be heard and the two largest have been passed, and here we are now fighting against a further set of traffic lights proposed at the junction of Lower End Road with Newport Road, in addition

to the set at the crossroads a little further north. This would mean two potential holdups at lights for north bound traffic on the Newport Road, (A5130), before reaching the Kingston Roundabout. However, Wavendon Parish Council think the extra lights will be good for them.

Finally, two consultations from Milton Keynes on the future of the city require our and probably your attention! First there is the Site Allocations Plan which is looking at small to medium sized sites for housing in addition to those already in the pipeline, and which can be developed in the next 5-7 years. If MKC cannot demonstrate that there is a 5 year supply of new sites to meet government targets, we are at risk from Appeals which may well grant permissions. Some of these sites are around us here and our three main objections to the development of any of them will be

- (i) our adopted Neighbourhood Plan states no development beyond the existing built up area
- (ii) Woburn Sands, via Parklands, Sandy Mount and Greens has already contributed its fair share of housing within the rural areas, and it is time for other rural areas to provide the necessary sites
- (iii) The infrastructure (roads, schools, surgeries, parking space) of Woburn Sands cannot cope with yet more housing.

You can read the full document on line at [www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy](http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-policy) or in person at the Civic offices and in all our libraries, and responses needed by 5 November. Our own response is or will shortly be on our website and you are welcome to use this in your response if you wish.

Secondly, there is Plan: MK, a more worrying document! It will eventually replace the Core Strategy which was only recently adopted after extensive consultations, and with which we were quite happy. Now, however, the idea is for Milton Keynes to grow much bigger, requiring more housing, more employment, more highways, more social infrastructure whilst still protecting the environment, quality of life, open spaces and making the development sustainable, even going beyond the current boundaries of Milton Keynes. Responses to this are needed by 3 December and the documents are available as in the previous paragraph. Again our own response will appear on our website in good time for you to crib what you wish, if you are so inclined, and we do hope you are...PLEASE.

## Snippets

### *Do you play bridge but not sure if you are good enough to join a club?*



The Woburn Sands Bridge Club is a very friendly one and the Monday afternoon sessions are an ideal starting point for you to give it a try. Alternatively you can just watch at a table to see if you think it's for you. The Monday afternoon bridge sessions start at 1pm in the hall by St Mary's Catholic Church which has ample car parking space.

### *How about table tennis?*



If you have played table tennis in the past and wouldn't mind giving it another go, pop along on Thursday mornings to the Methodist Chapel in the High Street at 10am. This again is a friendly session with the first one enjoyed by several people who really hadn't played the game since doing so on the dining room table as a child! Even in the first session, skills were coming back and people were improving.

***H9 (Grovelay) closure.*** Unfortunately this road will remain closed by the Kingston roundabout until early next year. This is in order to allow the installation of a new underpass in co-ordination with working with a large number of utilities under the H9. It is all part of the Kingston roundabout improvements which includes slip roads and traffic lights.

***300 Bus stop*** in Central Milton Keynes will again return to its position near M&S opposite The Point entrance from 3 November, instead of its recent position down near Debenhams.

***The Old Fire Station***, at the northern end of the Recreation Ground, was owned by a Trust set up to organise activities for young people and where a youth club ran for several years. That Trust has now decided to pass the property on to the Town Council. The after school club which currently uses the building will continue but we are looking for any ideas you may have for other uses of the building, bearing in mind that it is quite small and the after school activity still operates. Let the Town Clerk know if you have any thoughts on this.

## Love Woburn Sands

The new community worker funded by Churches Together is introducing some new initiatives. One of these is a Youth Choir which has its first session on **Sat 11 October** in St Michaels starting at 10.30am. If you didn't hear about this before but would still like to join, you will be most welcome any Saturday morning. The choir is booked to perform at Waitrose in both Ampt Hill and Oakgrove in December: Waitrose is sponsoring some of Love WS activities. Another initiative is a Community Cinema with plans to be confirmed over the next few weeks, so watch out for further information on this. The IT courses designed for older people to master their computer or tablet are still running, so contact *Stef* on 07511 156209 or at [lovewoburnsands@gmail.com](mailto:lovewoburnsands@gmail.com) if you would like to put your name down for one of these.



## Dates For Your Diary

**New Youth Choir** for young people aged 10-18 will run on **Saturday mornings** from 11 October at St Michaels Church...give it a try!

The launch of the **new story telling evenings** in the library called “When the Books Speak” is on **Thurs 16 October** at 8pm.

Our popular **coach trips** from Wavendon, Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill continue with a **visit to Banbury** on **Wed 22 October**, (contact the Town Council for tickets), and the last one of the year will be to Market Harborough and on to Rockingham Castle for Christmas afternoon tea on **Wed 9 Dec**, but this is already fully booked. However, you could ring to go on the reserve list!

**The 54th Concert in the Drakeloe Series** will be presented at The Stables on **Sat 25 Oct** from 7.30pm. Tickets, £12 ( under 16 £10), can be reserved via The Stables box office 01908 280800, or from the Band Secretary on 007790 454149. The concert will feature soloists from the Band and some toe-tapping items to ensure “something for everyone” in the programme.



Pop in for a **coffee to Memorial Hall** on **Sat 1 Nov** run by Women's Royal British Legion.

**Tues 4 Nov and Tues 2 Dec** are further opportunities to drop in to the library and chat over your questions and concerns with one of your Town Councillors, 6-7pm.



**Remembrance Day** is on **Sunday 9 November** this year and as usual there will be a service in St Michaels in Church Road starting at 9.30am followed by a parade down the road to the Memorial on the High Street and then a short service at the Memorial Green starting at about 10.45am. This will include wreath laying, the two minutes silence and a reading of the names of those who gave their lives in the two World Wars and who came from Woburn Sands.

Also on **Sun 9 Nov** at 3pm there will be a **production of The Armed Man** (Mass for Peace) by Karl Jenkins sung by the Linsdale Singers in St Michaels with all proceeds going to armed forces-related charities. Tickets at £6, or £5 for concessions, include refreshments. Please support this worthwhile cause whilst appreciating the music.

The next **Woburn Sands Market** starts at 10am on **Sunday 14 December**. Get there early so as not to miss something!

**The traditional Woburn Sands Christmas Fayre** takes place on **Sunday 30 November** from 1pm in the High Street and features the popular funfair, stalls, games, food, fabulous entertainment and Grand Raffle. Father Christmas and activities for children will be situated in the library and a fire engine will be parked in the High Street. The Fayre committee, a group of local community volunteers along with a couple of Councillors, is pleased to announce all new lighting on the lamp posts in Station Road funded from former proceeds and as usual the Christmas Tree which the Methodist Chapel kindly agree to have in their frontage. Volunteers are urgently needed on the day of the Fayre itself for road stewarding duties (an hour of your time) and for tree dressing on the morning of the previous Sunday. If you can help, please contact [woburnsandschristmasfayre@gmail.com](mailto:woburnsandschristmasfayre@gmail.com) or the Town Council.

And finally this year on **Wed 24 December** 7p.m. – 8p.m, there will be the now also traditional **Christmas Eve on Mowbray Green** with the Woburn Sands Band playing some Christmas music and carols for all to join in. Refreshments will be available. Bring a torch and wrap up warm, enjoy this great family/community event and we wish you all a very happy Christmas.