



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2016

Dear Resident,

As this newsletter is written, the sun is still shining and we are enjoying the last of a pretty good summer, but Autumn is upon us and that means Christmas is just a couple of months away. So read about all that is going on in your local community over the next few months and some highlights of recent ones, and may we be the first to wish you all the very best for the Festive Season.

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- PG 2 PLANNING MATTERS
PG 3 FRIENDS OF PARKLANDS
PG 4,5 RECYCLING HELPS SAVE MONEY & THE PLANET
PG 6 EDGEWICK FARM
PG 7 LIBRARY NEWS
PG 8 SNIPPETS & DIARY



PLANNING MATTERS

It is a very worrying time for us all in terms of major development applications set to infill the existing green fields around Woburn Sands. Last month, Milton Keynes Council passed, reluctantly, the latest phase of the Parklands development. This involves the building of a further 81 properties with 42 of them flats, and with houses right up to the railway line. A few ground floor employment units with “affordable” flats above will be provided and one of the blocks of flats is 3 and 4 storeys in height. Woburn Sands Town Council objected to this high density of development, in particular the proportion of flats, but although members of the Development Control Committee expressed every sympathy with our objections, they felt powerless to refuse the application because they do not have a 5 year supply of land for housing. They could not risk the cost of

an Appeal in the light of this. One good result of the application is that we will have a small sports hall built adjacent to The Summerlin Centre. This will be big enough for 2 badminton courts, a junior 5-a-side football pitch and can obviously also have table tennis, junior tennis and whatever else we decide can fit into the floor area. There will be storage space, of course, and toilets. Nearer the time for completion we will let you know so that we can have a meeting to decide the marking up of the floor area and other details.

The failure to have an adequate supply of land for housing is compounded by developers who “land bank”. There are sites in Milton Keynes, including that of Frosts landscape division, where outline permission has been given for development, but the developers fail to commence building. This means



Milton Keynes Council cannot use these figures in their 5 year housing land supply.

In the coming months outline applications will be put forward for 200+ homes by Wavendon Properties (Deethe Farm to Wyevale area), and 150 more on the field opposite The Wavendon Arms. These along with the 3000 homes scheduled for the

SLA south of the A421 and straddling Newport Road (A5130) will mean continuous settlement from the Kingston roundabout to Woburn Sands on the east of the road. Do keep looking on our website for important dates in connection with these. We expect the Wavendon Properties to come before the Development Control in late October or in November.

FRIENDS OF PARKLANDS



Over 50 Parklands children participated in the 'Friends of Parklands' Run and Scoot event on Saturday 1st October. Fortunately the rain clouds parted and residents were treated to some bright sunshine - on top of the running, obstacle and scooter events, residents from Parklands enjoyed live music, real ale (from Hornes Brewery, Bow Brickhill) and delicious food from the Taco Shack. Greensands Vets

also came along and judged the 'best pet' competition, whilst the kids did Nerf target shooting. The event was arranged with generous support and financial assistance from Taylor Wimpey - its aim being to bring Parklands residents together, but also importantly to raise funds to support the local 'Mad About Harry' charity (www.madabouttharry.org) given Harry is a Parklands resident.



RECYCLING HELPS SAVE MONEY - AND THE PLANET!

With continuing population growth, declining thriftiness – especially in relation to food – and widespread over-packaging, virtual mountains of waste have accumulated around us. Well before the televisual lamentations over these from the likes of Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall, they had found literary expression even in Victorian times, most notably in Charles Dickens' 'Our Mutual Friend'. Since then, efforts have increased to hide waste by dumping it in large holes in the ground, usually disused quarries, as 'landfill'. But as reserves of such space have declined in recent decades (and grown correspondingly expensive), mere dumping of waste has become unsustainable: to avoid its harmful environmental impacts, such as methane emissions, risks to groundwater supply, unsightliness and sheer loss of otherwise potentially useful space, we need to make every effort to recycle it. In fact, the rural towns and parishes (such as ours) already show the best records for recycling within Milton Keynes (so well done everyone!) but we are sure we can improve on current rates – which may gain us a cash reward from Milton Keynes Council funded from a Government scheme to encourage recycling throughout the country.

In the Milton Keynes area we are fortunate to have one of the country's most advanced facilities for materials



recycling, achieving a current rate of 51.8%, compared with the UK average of 43.7%. And for good reason, as the Newton Longville land-fill site – an ex-brick clay quarry where forty to fifty thousand tonnes of our non-recycled 'black sack' rubbish goes each year, at a cost of £104.40 per tonne – has an estimated remaining lifetime of only 15-20 years. When that's full, any such waste would need to go further afield, at even greater cost. So, just from a purely monetary point of view, the more you can divert from that fate by re-cycling, the less Milton Keynes Council has to spend on dumping it, to the obvious benefit of other local services. Moreover, the saved and sorted material is baled and sold on for re-cycling elsewhere, bringing in further income. For example, aluminium, steel and glass can be melted down and re-moulded into new cans or bottles and jars; food and garden waste turned into compost; paper and cardboard pulped down,



dried out and rolled out for re-use in tissue paper, toilet rolls, egg boxes, etc; plastic bottles flaked and re-moulded into new bottles, traffic cones, wheelie bins and even fleece material for hats and scarves; plastic containers can likewise be re-cycled as new containers or turned into solid board as an industry replacement for chipboard; and even tetrapak cartons can be turned into plasterboard liner. So, do please keep up the effort to reduce the pressures on our environment as well as on the Council's budget by ensuring that you put:

- paper, cardboard (cut or folded to fit), aluminium and steel cans (including aerosol cans), aluminium foil, plastic bottles and food containers, and juice cartons in the pink sacks;
- glass bottles and jars in the blue box (but not broken wine glasses, pyrex bowls, light bulbs and mirrors, as they melt at different temperatures, so upset the re-cycling system);
- food and garden waste in the green bin;
- batteries in yellow bags (obtainable via the helpline – see below).
- All remaining, currently non-recyclable waste should go in black sacks.

One area that MK Recycling is



especially keen to improve on is that of food waste. Please note that all food waste should go in the green bins (wrap it up in old newspaper, if you want), not in the black sacks. At present, around 75% of food waste is still going in black sacks to landfill, where it generates methane – a powerful greenhouse gas – as it rots.

To find out further information on recycling, please go online to:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling

or telephone 01908 252570

Finally, we can report that Milton Keynes is now installing a 'Residual Waste Treatment Facility' to dispose of black sack waste in a sustainable and indeed productive manner by thermal treatment to produce combustible gas from which electricity can be generated. As a result, it is estimated that about 97% of black sack waste will eventually be diverted from ending up as landfill. Good news indeed!



EDGEWICK FARM

A lot has been happening at Edgewick Farm over the past few months.

Hard working volunteers from Friends of Edgewick Farm have completed the clearing of the path through the copse which is the wooded area opposite the old library on Mowbray Green. Using the footpath at the end of the houses on Hardwick Road you can now access the new path down the steps we erected some time ago and then continue through the copse and out into the lower field through a new gate the volunteers have installed. This route runs through the former garden of Hardwick House where the Mowbray sisters lived and which stood on Mowbray Green until it was demolished in 1960.



This should make it far more attractive to frogs toads and newts for spawning and a variety of other wildlife. The cost of this work was met by the Waitrose Community Fund.



Waitrose partners along with some of our volunteers have also given the barn a new coat of paint.



The Greensand Trust who have overall management of Edgewick Farm finally dredged the very overgrown pond between the middle and top field. These are before, during and after photos.

The apples from the orchard are being picked and you are welcome to help yourselves to the apples from the tables (also made by a volunteer) by the barn. Donations can be left in the box. We look forward to the return of the sheep soon, probably in the top field.





Community use of the library building is gradually increasing and we would be pleased to hear from anyone who thinks they have a suitable activity or event they would like to hold in the library. Details of what is happening in the library are available on our website, and include: an IT clinic, story-telling for pre-schoolers and for adults, two book clubs, an art class, Age UK information & advice service

and Senior Friends coffee and cake mornings.

During the summer holidays, the Town Council sponsored a number of craft sessions for children and we are planning a family craft session on **Saturday 19 November**

11 – 12pm

when you can make your own Christmas decorations. Details in the library.

GRANTS FOR LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

The Town Council award grants to local organisations each year. If you have an item of equipment required for your organisation, please contact the Clerk for an application form or download from our website to be returned by **30TH NOVEMBER.**

Road Resurfacing

Thanks to you all for your patience during all the road works during the school summer holidays. No doubt everyone is relieved to see the now smooth surface in Station Road which the contractors finished well ahead of schedule.



SNIPPETS & DATES



Remembrance Sunday. Please join hundreds of others in the High Street on **Sunday 13 November** for our traditional Service of Remembrance at the War Memorial on the Memorial Green. The parade from the Church should arrive in the High Street at about 10.45 and a short Service held on the green including the two-minute silence at 11.00.

Story Telling by candlelight in St Mary's Church Crypt in Woburn on **Friday 25 Nov. 7.30pm** Find out more about the life of Eleanor Longshanks, beloved wife of Edward 1st, and in whose memory Edward erected many crosses, one of which stood in Woburn. Tickets @£10 from suemac37@msn.com include a welcome drink.

The Christmas Fayre. Our big community event of the pre-Christmas period is our Christmas Fayre held in the High Street on the last Sunday in November and organised by a hard working group of local people along with some councillors. So put **Sunday 27 November** in your diary now for all the fun of the fair and much more during that afternoon. Extra volunteers are also required to put the large Christmas Tree up prior to 27th outside The Methodist Chapel (Contact us for more details.)

The Cryers our local group of madrigal singers who also performed at the Shakespeare evening are putting on a concert on **Sunday 4 December at 3pm** at St. Michaels Church, tickets on the door.

The Sands Singers our local community choir has a concert on **Friday 9 December** at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall, tickets on the door, all proceeds to local charities.



The Christmas Market will be on the morning of **Sunday 11 December**, also on the Memorial Green and around the library. The Summer market was very successful with lots of lovely food stalls, so come along and stock up on some real treats and presents for Christmas at our market.

The Woburn Sands Band. Drakeloe Series Concert will be held on **Saturday 10 December** at The Stables Theatre starting at an earlier time of 2pm. Tickets £12 and all under 16's £5. Tel: 07790454149 for tickets.



Christmas Eve Carols will once again take place on Mowbray Green from **7 to 8pm**, played for us by our wonderful Woburn Sands Band. Bring along your singing voices and a torch and join in this great family occasion....mince pies and mulled wine will be on hand!

A MUSIC FESTIVAL. We would very much like to see a Summer Music Festival in Woburn Sands as there is much musical talent around. The plan is for this to take on the best bits of the Folk Festival but enlarge the musical range. This would be an outdoor event, probably in **July next year**, and one of our Councillors, **Gill Bunker**, is keen to get this off the ground. She will, however, need to form a committee to organise the event, so please contact her on **07826 231035** or Town Council if you are interested and can help Gill with this project.

