



# WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

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



Dear resident.

Spring is, hopefully, here by the time you read this. Please try to come along to our Annual Meeting this month (page2) so that we can have some idea of what you think of the Town Council. Lots of other information in this newsletter: we hope you will find of some interest.

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You are invited to our  
**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**  
on **Monday 16 April** at 7.30pm  
in The Memorial Hall

This is your opportunity to hear what your parish council has been doing over the past year and any future plans. It explains how we use the money you pay in your Council Tax charge towards the upkeep of the parish. This “precept” is about 5% of the total bill. You will see that your Council Tax bill covers money for Milton Keynes Council itself, Adult and Social Care, the Police and the Fire service as well as the local parish precept. All of these have increased by about 3% this year with the exception of the Police who have asked for a 7% increase. There will be opportunities for you to question the council and the police.

## WOBURN SANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL

Time is getting closer, so put the date in your diary: **Saturday 7 July** from 1pm until 9.15pm in the Recreation Ground, for our Summer Festival organised by Cllr Gill Brooke and a team of helpers. There will be two stages with 16 bands, mostly local, a full bar, real ale tent, Prosecco stand (tbc), caterers, ice cream, bouncy castle, face painting and loads more.

So come along, bring a picnic if you wish and enjoy this great community event. Last year’s festival raised £500 for Willen Hospice and £200 for local cause “Mad about Harry”. Let’s make this year’s festival even better with your enthusiastic help! Check out the website and find us on social media [www.woburnsandsfestival.org](http://www.woburnsandsfestival.org), twitter @woburnsandsfes and on facebook.



## PLANNING MATTERS

Two planning applications of relevance to many of you: Land off Asplands Close, and the South Caldecote Development framework. The Town Council's response to both applications can be viewed on our website and you can send in your own views to Milton Keynes Council, even if the official deadline for responses has passed (as is the case for the Asplands Close development).

The land off Asplands Close plan is for a block of 13 flats. The site already has permission for 5 large chalet bungalows and this is simply an alternative way of

developing the land. It has the merit of retaining many of the existing tall, mature trees surrounding the site which the earlier application would mostly remove. The footprint of the flats is also smaller than that of the individual bungalows. The South Caldecote Development Framework is a document setting out how the land on this site south of Bow Brickhill station and Caldecote Lake should be developed, but the site at present has not even been assessed as part of PLAN:MK, so is in our view, highly premature and definitely unwanted.

## WOBURN SANDS STATION

We are involved in meetings, along with the Friends of Woburn Sands Station, in trying to get improvements on our station. The new franchise of West Midlands Trains has now taken over the running of the Bletchley-Bedford line and as well as new rolling stock are looking to introduce ticket vending machines on all their stations. We have made further suggestions to improve the whole station environment and you have hopefully noticed the flower tubs and troughs the Friends have recently installed. These will need watering each week soon, and daily in hotter spells, and if you are willing to go on a rota, please contact, Rob, the chairman of the Friends at [robballan1301@gmail.com](mailto:robballan1301@gmail.com). The mural which was done by Fulbrook school is in need of renovation so Genesis, a group of young people based at St Michaels, is currently working on a new one which it is hoped will be in place June-July time.



### FUN FOOTBALL SESSIONS FOR LOCAL YOUNGSTERS

#### **Woburn & Wavendon FC**

are delighted to announce  
the launch of their

#### **"Goalability Football Sessions"**

aimed at girls and boys of all ages  
and types of disability. They will be the  
first community-based disability football  
sessions in the area, every Sunday at  
Fulbrook Middle School.

**Further details email:**

[gjt1@live.com](mailto:gjt1@live.com)

There's also a great opportunity for  
local girls aged 5-9 to experience all  
the fun and excitement of girls football.

#### **The Lionesses SSE Wildcat Girls**

Football Centre

**Sunday 8th April to August**

**More details email:**

[joinus@ww-fc.co.uk](mailto:joinus@ww-fc.co.uk)



We've had plenty to fuel our national pastime of talking about the weather since the start of this year, with its chaotic to-ing and fro-ing of the seasons. No sooner had the 'Beast from the East' departed in early March, than the first frogs' spawn was laid – by the 14th of the month. Earlier dredging of the pond by the Edgewick Farm Volunteers, with help from the Greensand Trust, has been aimed at conserving its capacity to host such spawning, while the wet flush created by the bund of dredged material dumped nearby should provide a suitable habitat for specialist wetland plants, such as the locally rare ivy-leaved crowfoot.



Looking forward, we've initiated a grazing plan to foster the growth of wildflowers in the top (south-western) field in future years. Regular walkers will already have noticed the return of sheep to that field in March, with their new lambs. The flock will be moved out of the top field by the end of March and it will be left un-grazed through the spring and early summer. Cutting the hay around mid-July will then help to 'impoverish' the soil (i.e., reduce its nutrient content), to favour the growth of diverse wildflowers.

Meanwhile, a further enhancement is coming to the small patch of woodland opposite Mowbray Green, in which the Edgewick Farm Volunteers installed a wooden seat last year, beside the new path there. In March, members of the Woburn Sands and District Rotary club will plant native hedging saplings along the roadside, intended eventually to form a screen. On the topic of volunteer activity, mention should also be made of the sterling efforts of some thirty new employees of Premier Inn CMK, who came for a couple of team-building days at Edgewick Farm last summer, to help cut back brambles and clear undergrowth, armed with secateurs that were kindly donated by Wyevale garden centre, Woburn Sands. Sadly, an anti-social minority is disinclined to respect such efforts





to make this an attractive area to walk through, as the contrasting pair of pictures of the bench illustrate!



A related problem is that of randomly discarded bags of dog poo: there is no excuse for this disgusting behaviour – again by an anti-social minority – as

there are ample bins provided for it around the area. Nevertheless, a ‘poo bag’ dispenser is now installed in the bottom field, which – we hope – might discourage at least some of the problem.

Last, but by no means the least of our current projects, the EF Volunteers, assisted by Gary Peach from the Greensand Trust, were able to add a further significant extension to the board walk over the seasonally boggy old path that runs along the far southern flank of Edgewick Farm (parallel with the county boundary), thanks to a most generous donation by local resident Digby Anderson. And – further good news – just recently we have secured the support of Milton Keynes Council to complete the boardwalk down to the end of the path, together with surfacing work on the footpaths along the western and southern flanks of Parklands, using ‘Section 106’ funding derived from local developments. This work is currently scheduled for the early summer (May-June), when ground conditions are drier.



# SOME REQUESTS TO MAKE WOBURN SANDS AN EVEN BETTER PLACE

- We have had several complaints of dogs threatening other dogs when they are in the Recreation Ground where dogs should be controlled and on leads. You may know your dog is just trying to be friendly, but not all other dog owners or young children know that.
- Dog mess is still a problem although we appreciate the vast majority of you do make use of the dog bins, thank you! Edgewick Farm and the Recreation Ground are areas where children are likely to be running free and should not have to run into dog pooh.
- Pavements are for people to walk on, not to be an extension of your garden, so if your bushes, shrubs etc are overhanging the footway, please ensure you keep them well clipped back.
- Gravel spilling out from drives across the pavement is another problem for those walking over them, so please keep gravel regularly swept back onto your own drive.

## ARTICLE FROM REV DIANA YOUNG, VICAR OF OUR PARISH CHURCH, ST MICHAEL'S.



*I'm writing this as the snow is falling, in early March, just when I might have expected my first winter in Woburn Sands to be moving into Spring. However, I wouldn't like to give the impression that my experience of Woburn Sands so far has been bleak. Far from it, I've discovered a warm and friendly community with lots going on, and I'm delighted that people often greet me in the street.*

*It has been a great pleasure arriving as the new Vicar of St Michael's and beginning to settle in to the community in Woburn Sands. Some of the highlights so far have been - Churches Together in Woburn Sands Holiday Club - Woburn Sands Band playing on a wonderful hot August Bank Holiday - and then again on Christmas Eve; Remembrance Sunday; joining in*

*with Love Woburn Sands activities; discovering most of Woburn Sands' pubs and coffee shops; the Christmas Fayre; my first Christmas at St Michael's Church with the church decorated and packed with families and children.*

*Technically, of course, both St Michael's Church and the Vicarage are in Aspley Heath, but the Parish includes Aspley Heath and Woburn Sands. St Michael's has remained busy, and we are certainly benefitting from the increased space in the churchyard for burials and the greater openness of view since the removal of trees and shrubs. Recently we have been using the remaining Section 106 Monies from Milton Keynes Council (Taylor Wimpey Development) to carry out much-needed repairs to the stone walls of the churchyard, making sure that repairs are in keeping with the*



*original in this conservation area.*

*This year St Michael's celebrates its 150th birthday in September. We are marking this in a number of ways, with a series of concerts in the Spring and Summer and a flower festival planned for the weekend of 7 – 9 September. We are also having the inside of the church repainted during May/June. Our*

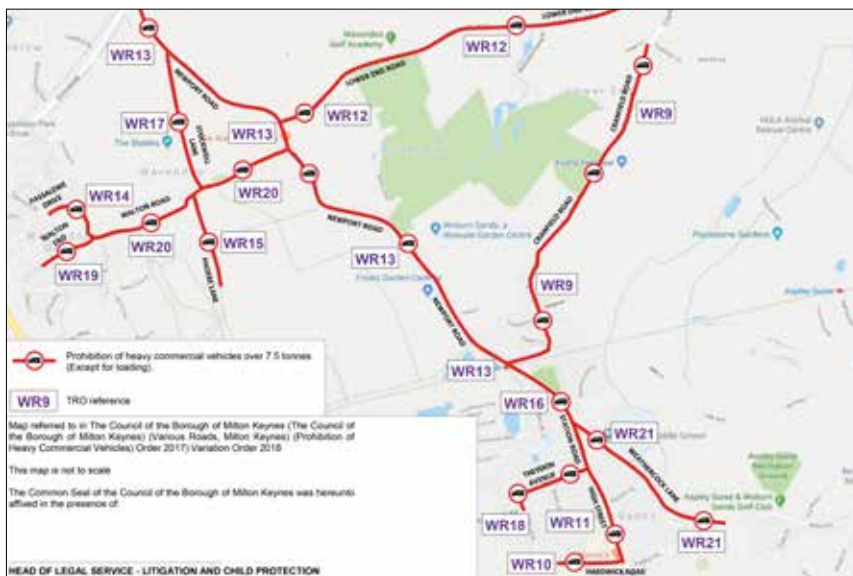
*celebrations will culminate in a special service on Sunday 30th September, followed by a Reception. Everyone is welcome to join us.*

*Please see our website [www.stmichaelsws.org.uk](http://www.stmichaelsws.org.uk) for more details about what's on.*

## TRAFFIC AND SPEED

Milton Keynes Council are currently consulting on a 7.5t HGV ban for many surrounding roads. If this goes through the A5130 will be de-classified. Of course, we very much hope that this will considerably reduce the number of bigger vehicles which go through Woburn Sands, although those accessing Woburn Sands properties will still be allowed. Penalties can, however, only be issued by the police. You could become involved in reducing the speed of traffic through our town if you are willing to be part of Community

Speedwatch. You would be trained to assist in setting up the speedwatch devices and logging vehicles exceeding the 30mph limit. Offenders would then be written to by Thames Valley Police. If we have enough volunteers, we could set up a meeting to launch the scheme here in Woburn Sands. We would borrow the equipment for a week at a time to use at various locations as we see fit. If you are interested in becoming part of this initiative, please contact the Town Clerk.



## SNIPPETS & DATES

**The Age UK Advice service**, funded by The Town Council, will now be in the library on the **first Tuesday morning of each month**. Advice, free to all ages, can be given on a range of matters including benefits and housing issues. You can book an appointment on 01908585774 or just drop into the library.

The next concert from **Woburn Sands Band** is on **Sat 21 April** at The Stables 7.30pm featuring Music from the Cinema. Tickets £12, 16 and under £5 for tickets call 07790 454 149 or 07784 576 076.



The next **Community coach trip** is to Springfields, retail park near Spalding, on **Wed 18 April**, followed by one to Windsor on **16 May**, Leamington Spa on **20 June** and Marlow on **18 July**. All of these are subsidised by the Town Council and you can book tickets from the Lynne or Pauline at the Town Council office.

On the morning of **Sunday 29 April**, Fulbrook School is holding a **car boot sale** in the playground 9am – 12. Cars £7.50, Vans £10. To book download form at [www.fulbrookmiddleschool.org.uk/fulbrookarbootsale](http://www.fulbrookmiddleschool.org.uk/fulbrookarbootsale). Buyers entry fee 50p.



The **Christmas Fayre Committee** is urgently seeking some new blood as many existing members who have served for a very long time, need and deserve to relinquish their duties. We are particularly grateful to Glen Gurney from Woburn Sands Convenience Store for his tremendous contributions in organising the annual raffle. If you and your family enjoyed the Fayre last year, please consider getting involved. Contact the Town Clerk to offer your help.

The **solar panels** on the Summerlin Centre are performing well and we are on target to recoup all cost of installation within 6 years.

Finally, find us on facebook @**Woburn Sands Town Council**

