



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2019

www.woburnsands.org.uk
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Dear resident,

Spring has put on a decidedly early show this year, in contrast to last year's patchy performance! Do come along to our Annual Meeting on April 29th (page2) and let us know what you think of the Town Council's efforts on your behalf. And there's plenty more in this newsletter that we hope will be of interest to you.



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You are invited to our

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

On Monday 29th April at 7.30pm
In The Memorial Hall

Council members will report on the work of the Council this year, including spending plans, reports from the Chairmen of the Halls and Planning committees, on landscape work at Edgewick Farm and elsewhere, and from Cllr Hopkins, as our Unitary Authority Councillor.

We hope a representative from the Police will also be present. This is your opportunity to comment and raise questions relating to the Town Council.

We look forward to seeing you there.

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Elections for town and parish councils in Milton Keynes come up every four years, in May, and this year it's our turn. Woburn Sands Town Council is constituted of nine elected or co-opted councillors. Those currently serving are described

below: if more than nine nominations are registered, an election will be held. Last date for registration of nominations is **Thursday 4 April, 4pm**: for further details, please contact the Clerk.



Clive Cowmeadow

has been a Town Councillor for over thirty years and Town Mayor on five occasions. He has chaired the Council's Finance Committee for over twenty years. Clive is keen to ensure that the Council maintains its prudent approach in financial matters whilst preparing for challenging times ahead. He is a Trustee of the George Wells educational charity and a Governor of Fulbrook School. He is currently a member of the Strategy Group promoting the widening of the age range at Fulbrook and is very keen to ensure that the school continues to be a central feature of Woburn Sands and the surrounding community.

Paul Farrant

has been a Town Councillor since 2010. He moved to Woburn Sands 12 years ago and lives on the Parklands development. He is also a Governor at Fulbrook School. As a councillor he directly supports the Community Market, and Christmas Fayre committees. He also serves on the Town Council Finance, Halls and Environment committees.

Mike Geddes

has lived in this area since 1968 and has been a Town Councillor since 2005. He has concentrated on strategic planning issues and has spoken on behalf of the Council at public inquiries such as the recent Plan:MK, and Network Rail inquiries. He was responsible for the conversion of the Institute to accommodate the Library and of the Summerlin Centre. He is the Councillor responsible for overseeing the halls including the Library and is currently involved in finalising the details of the new Sports Hall.

David Hopkins

is both on the Town Council and a Ward Member for Danesborough and Walton (which includes Woburn Sands) at Milton Keynes Council. He has represented the Danesborough area at MKC since 1990. A lifelong resident of Wavendon and Woburn Sands, David is a Board Member of the Greensand Country Landscape Partnership, a member of Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Fire Authority, a Board Member of Milton Keynes Museum and of the Milton Keynes Gallery. He represents the Town Council as a Trustee on the local Poor's Coal Charity. David served as Mayor of Woburn Sands in 2012/13 and also chairs Wavendon Parish Council, where he has served since 1979. In 2017/18 he was Mayor of Milton Keynes.

Jacqueline Jeffreys

has been a member of the Town Council for over 20 years. She has been Town Mayor three times, but in recent years has concentrated on her leading role on all local planning applications and contributing to broader planning matters which can affect Woburn Sands. The TC newsletters are edited and largely written by Jacky as is also the Council's monthly input to Hogsty End Handbook. She serves on the Environment Committee of the Town Council and frequently represents the TC at Milton Keynes Council meetings. Jacky was instrumental in setting up both the Sands Singers, a local choir for all, and the Friends of Woburn Sands Station, on which she still serves.

Jan Rae

was elected to the Town Council in 2015.



She is a member of both the Finance and Halls committees and has reported to the Council on issues from the Parishes Forum and contributed to the Danesborough Forum. As Chair of the Town Council's Communications Sub-Group she continues to strengthen how we communicate with residents and others, overseeing major improvements to the TC website and upgrading our town maps. In line with the TC's priorities she seeks to promote the town by encouraging the responsible use of social media. She took responsibility for, and received training to ensure that the Town Council made adequate provision for the new legislation with respect to Data Protection (GDPR).

Peter Skelton

joined the Town Council in 2016, with special responsibility for Edgewick Farm and with general interests in environmental and wildlife matters,

chairing the Environment Committee from 2018. He has contributed to several Town Council responses to planning applications, focusing on ecological, landscape and conservation aspects, and has worked with MK Council and the Friends of Edgewick Farm to enhance the condition of local footpaths, as well as with Taylor Wimpey and MKC to improve the landscaping of the Parklands development. Peter also assists with the production of the TC Newsletter and local planting of trees.

Keith Temple has been a Woburn Sands Councillor for 7 years and is proud to have been selected as Mayor for the past year. His main interest is the general environment and in working to maintain and improve Woburn Sands as the inevitable expansion unfolds around us. He is also a committee member of WS Christmas Fayre and WS Music Festival, with intentions to join Love Woburn Sands.



SPORTS HALL

Construction of the Sports hall, adjacent to the Summerlin Centre is imminent and will be owned and managed by the Town Council.

We will be holding a meeting at **5.00 on Wednesday 8th April in the Memorial Hall** to enable all potential users to comment on the final specification for the Hall.



SPEED REDUCTION PLAN

Please note that the website is now live and accepting applications for 20mph speed limits:
<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub/road-safety/introduction-of-20-mph-speed-limits-into-residential-areas>



PLANNING MATTERS

Plan:MK has been found 'sound' by a government Inspector. It will form the basis for how MKC determines how many homes and jobs, and what kind of infrastructure are needed to 2031. Already accepted by MK Council's Cabinet Plan:MK was put to the full Council on March 20th for adoption as part of MK's formal Development Plan, to shape the outcome of future planning applications. Plan:MK sets out important conditions for new development.

Further details and updates on Plan:MK can be found on the MKC website.

Within the scope of this plan, the South East Milton Keynes (SEMK) Strategic Urban Extension is a draft allocation of some 210 hectares of land encompassed by Tilbrook, Browns Wood and Wavendon to the North, Woburn Sands to the East, the Greensand Ridge to the south, and

Bow Brickhill to the west for around 3,000 homes, 7 gypsy and traveller pitches, and a range of social and green infrastructure.

Additionally, the South Caldecotte Development Framework sets out how the land to the south of Bow Brickhill station and Caldecotte Lake should be developed, but the site has not yet even been assessed as part of Plan:MK, so this proposal is in our view highly premature – and definitely unwanted.

Besides, no development in either SEMK or South Caldecotte can be considered until the exact route of the proposed Oxford-Cambridge Expressway is decided. cursory inspection of any local map shows that there is little realistic choice other than for it to pass through both these areas – and the decision on the Expressway route is not expected before next year.

NETWORK RAIL PUBLIC INQUIRY

The Public Inquiry into Network Rail's proposals to upgrade the East-West Rail Line opened in February; the Inspector is examining all the individual projects required by Network Rail to upgrade the line from Bedford to Oxford, including their proposals in respect of the pedestrian crossing in Woburn Sands ('School Crossing')

The Inspector expects to publish his findings in late summer.

...Stop Press! Network Rail have now submitted an application for a 'Stepped footbridge over railway and improvements. Its number is **19/00605/FUL**, and you can view it on our website under Council/Planning application.



SPRING AT ST MICHAEL'S

On Wednesday 10th April at 7.30 pm we're hosting the **Watoto Children's choir** from Uganda, in a free fundraising concert for Watoto orphanages. Later, local singing group 'The Cryers' are performing a concert of sacred music at 2.30 pm on Palm Sunday, 14th April. Entry is free but donations – for St Michael's and a local charity – will be well received.

We approach the Easter weekend by commemorating Jesus' last meal on **Maundy Thursday at 7.00 pm** (18th April) and his death on **Good Friday** (19th April) and the Procession of Witness begins at 10.30 am outside Aspley Court to be followed by a short Act of Witness

SPRING CLEAN!

Woburn Sands Spring Clean weekend will be on **27-28 April**. There are plenty of little jobs that residents can do to tidy up around their own homes during the weekend, such as sweeping back gravel that has spilled out onto the pavement from front gardens (which can be a nuisance for pedestrians), clearing litter from in front of houses and trimming back branches overhanging pavements (though try to avoid disturbing any nesting birds). It's a great way of getting a bit of fresh air and having a friendly chat with your neighbours!

On Sunday 28th morning we'll lead groups of pavement litter-pickers

at the War Memorial. Children and adults are welcome to join us for the procession.

On Easter Saturday from 2.00 to 4.00 pm we'll have a tent up on the Recreation Ground and children and their parents are invited to drop in and make Easter gardens including other activities. Families will be most welcome to our **Easter Sunday service at 9.45 am**, with an Easter egg hunt for children followed by an orange rolling competition.

On 18th May, the **Ladies No 1 Accordion Orchestra** will be performing in St Michaels at 7.30 pm.

around the town, starting from outside the Memorial Hall in the High Street at 10.30 am. We'll supply litter-picking sticks and bags, but please make sure you have appropriate footwear and rough (e.g., gardening) gloves.

We look forward to seeing you there on the day!



EDGWICK FARM AND LOCAL FOOTPATHS

Spring arrived remarkably early this year with the earliest frogs' spawn for at least a decade recorded from the pond at Edgewick Farm, on March 4th. Other early spring signals this year have included a glorious showing of crocuses (front cover). Let's hope it doesn't all end in tears with a late Arctic blast!



Meanwhile, arrivals in the 'picnic area' (on the left at the top of Woodland Way), include a splendid new picnic table, kindly donated last year by a local resident, and a couple of saplings from the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy tree donation scheme. This summer you will also find the meadow wildflowers there augmented by newly sown yellow rattle and corn cockle. Make sure you visit this delightful spot when the flowers are out in full glory around July. The Edgewick Farm volunteers have also been busy pruning the apple trees in the neighbouring orchard, in preparation for this autumn's apple crop.

Edgewick Farm continues to prove highly attractive to visitors. So, dog-walkers, please be considerate of others and ensure that you keep your dogs under control there at all times. When approached by a boisterous dog, some people may not share the owner's view of it being merely 'a bit playful'!

Lastly, there has been plenty of footpath improvement going on throughout our parish. Long-awaited S106 ('planning gain') funding from Milton Keynes Council for extension of the boardwalk along the muddy footpath on the southern margin of Edgewick Farm finally came through to the Town Council in March. So our volunteers now have a big installation job on their hands! Anyone willing to help with occasional portaging of materials would be very welcome: please give your contact details to the Town Clerk. Meanwhile, MKC have resurfaced the footpath along the western margin of Parklands and also completed the hard-surfacing of the path along the 'green buffer' zone on its southern side, so they now connect up to provide a pleasant, leafy walk around these two sides of the development.



Henceforward, the responsibility for maintaining these, and a number of other, smaller public footpaths, will fall largely upon the Town Council, as MKC's budget cuts have reduced the support they can provide. So please help us keep them clean by ensuring you deposit any litter – or dog poo bags! – in the appropriate bins around the area. Any hazardous materials, such as smashed glass, however, should be reported to the Town Clerk, who will arrange to have it cleared.



FULBROOK SCHOOL

Fulbrook's consultation on its proposal to become an extended secondary school, from 2020-21, closed earlier this term. The governors and senior leadership team have been overwhelmed by the positive response and evident support for the proposal. We thank everyone who engaged with the process and subsequently contacted local councillors and MPs to rally further support. The full business case has now been submitted to the Regional Schools' Commissioner.



WOBURN SANDS SUMMER FESTIVAL

This year the date for our popular summer festival, organised by Cllr. Gill Brookes and a team of helpers, is set for **Saturday 6th July**, so put the date in your diary now. Music will be supplied by various local artists and bands. There'll be a bar and fresh cooked foods. So come along, bring a picnic and enjoy this great community event. This year, we're supporting Willen Hospice and SportsTraider. More information: www.woburnsandsfestival.org, twitter @woburnsandsfes and on Facebook.

SNIPPETS AND DATES

First Tuesday of the month: Age UK Advice Service 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. This is funded by The Town Council.

18th May: Mowbray Green from 1.00 - 4.00 pm. St Michael's is holding a **Fayre** with food, cake, and vegetable stalls, burgers and hot dogs. Games and fun activities are planned. A section of the Woburn Sands Band and a Ceilidh Band will also be with us.

22nd June: Community Garden and Craft Competition, run by the Methodist Church, High Street Woburn Sands. Further news – programmes/entry forms will be available from 1st April at Woburn Sands Convenience Store, the Library, the Post Office, or claire.tobin123@gmail.com

27, 28, 29, 30 June: Fun Fair in the Recreation Ground

The very popular **over 60's monthly outings** will be going to Market Harborough on 17th April, Springfields on 15th May and Stratford upon Avon on 19th June. Tickets from the Town Council office.

