

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

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N e w s l e t t e r

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You are warmly invited to
Woburn Sands Annual Town Meeting
in the Memorial Hall, High Street
on Wednesday 1 May 2013 at 7.30pm

This meeting is open to everyone, and as well as reporting on the council's work over the past year, there will be specific reports on planning, finances and the halls and a police report with a Q and A session after each report. The Financial Report will explain the unintended small increase in your annual precept which is the result of confusion over changes in the way government is funding local authorities this year. The precept is the money within your Council Tax which we as your local parish council ask for in order to undertake the council's work. About one third of the precept goes to salaries for our paid employees, the clerk, her assistant and the halls caretaker, all the councillors are unpaid. Another third goes on the upkeep of the open spaces in the town and you may like to know that after 26 years of looking after the bulk of these for us, the owner of Rycroft has decided to retire. The new contract for the maintenance of our open spaces and gardens has gone to JBL Landscapes whose vans you may well see about the place from now on. Our halls are largely self supporting.

WOBURN SANDS NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Our Neighbourhood Plan has now been fully discussed with neighbouring parishes and other interested parties and amended accordingly, and is now with Milton Keynes Council. They will advertise it more widely and invite further comments, an Inspector will be appointed to test its validity, and if all goes well, the plan will be put to local residents in a referendum, hopefully this Autumn. If agreed by more than 50% of the voters, it becomes an official planning document which has to be considered by anyone making an application for planning consent in Woburn Sands. Importantly, it restricts any further building development to within the current built up area of the town. Copies of the plan should be on our new website and hard copy in the library.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS

A number of planning applications are in the pending file! Discussions are still taking place between Taylor Wimpey, ourselves and Milton Keynes Council to find a compromise which we can all accept on the latest plans for the development of the rest of the Parklands site. Thank you to those who wrote to express your concerns about the plans. We are hopeful that an amended scheme will be put to Development Control, possibly on 13 June. The

application for 6 new homes in the grounds of Sandy Mount is currently under consideration and we are awaiting the result of the Appeal by Tesco to have a Tesco Express in the former Woburn Zens. (Many of you may be sad to hear of the sudden death recently of Eric Pang who used to manage that popular restaurant.) Also still in the pipeline is the take away application for Pete Lowe's butchers premises. We are also waiting to hear of some possible new ideas from Mr Menday for Greens Hotel and land. Any updates on all of these will be given at the Annual Town Meeting.

IMPROVING OUR COMMUNICATIONS....HOPEFULLY!

You will, of course, realise that this is a new format for our quarterly newsletter, and one we hope you will appreciate. We are paying for the somewhat more professional presentation and the delivery of this and would like to most sincerely thank all those who have given many hours over many years to delivering our "home" produced newsletters. We will continue our monthly input in the Hogsty End Handbook, but sometimes important issues arise which fall outside the print dates of these two publications. The most effective way to let you know of any such items is via our entirely secure e-mail alert. To be on this, simply contact the town clerk with your e-mail address. We are also in the process of setting up a new dedicated website, more details to follow, we have notice boards by the Library, at the Summerlin Centre and in Club Lane by the car park. So, hopefully, you can always find out what's going on!

SNIPPETS and DATES

Dr Nott's retirement. James Nott was delighted to see so many of you in the Library as he finished his long service with Asplands Medical Centre. He will be using the collections made for him for some new garden furniture which he hopes to be able to make good use of as he enjoys the newfound time in his life.

Change to number 17 bus in June. This will become an extended number 18 route which we understand will provide links every 2 hours with Bletchley and the hospital. Refer to timetables for further info or google Zand S bus services.

10th Birthday Party of Edgewick Farm on Sat 15th June. See separate article on the farm.

The Annual Folk Festival is on Saturday 13 July this year and events will take place in Edgewick Farm and various locations about the town.

SuperFast Broadband is now available in many parts of Woburn Sands following the replacement of all the old copper wires with fibre optic cables. To find out more, look on www.superfast-openreach.co.uk/where-and-when, and contact your internet provider for what to do next.

Coach Trips. Our very popular coach trips for residents which we offer at subsidised rates continue with a visit to Stratford upon Avon in 15th May, Marlow 19th June, Bury St. Edmunds 17th July and Summer outing to Lincoln 14th August. See notice boards & contact the clerk if you would like to go on one of these friendly day trips.

Welcome to Candise Olds our new librarian and our thanks to Charlotte White for having been such an excellent librarian for our first year in our new library. We wish her well in her new role with MKC Library service. Opening hours are slightly extended now at our Library to include lunch hours and the main Library in CMK is now open on Sundays from 11am to 2pm.

Refuse Collections: as usual after both Bank Holidays in May, our collections will be on Thursday rather than the normal Wednesday. The free collection of large items has now ended but for £10 you can have up to 5 large items taken away, ie items you would probably take when moving house. You need to book this service either via environmentalservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk or on 01908 252570.

Jubilee donations and Jubilee spinney

Last year the volunteers started work on the spinney, between Hardwick Road and the bottom field of Edgewick Farm. This area used to be part of the kitchen garden of Hardwick House, which stood on the site of Mowbray Green, and was home to the Mowbray sisters. The house was demolished in 1977 to create a park for the Jubilee.

We are hoping to clear some of the undergrowth and expose the general layout of the garden. Thanks to a donation from the Jubilee Committee following the very successful Jubilee celebration last year we shall be purchasing a bench for the area.

The Jubilee Committee also funded the new sign, which you may have noticed in the bottom field.



Volunteers clearing the spinney

Ten year celebrations

On June 15th it will be 10 years since the ‘keys’ of Edgewick Farm were handed over by Milton Keynes Council to the Woburn Sands Town Council and the Friends of Edgewick Farm had raised more than £10,000 towards the cost of facilitating public access. To celebrate the occasion we shall be holding an afternoon of events for youngsters, a Scruffs dog show and drinks and nibbles. Families will be welcome to bring a picnic. More details nearer the time.

Grazing

The fields are being grazed in rotation to encourage the growth of wildflowers. This means that through March to November one of the fields will be closed to allow the Dexter cattle to do their work. Unfortunately we no longer have sheep grazing. These give a closer crop to the grass. Sheep are hardy animals and are used to being left out in all weathers. This was not appreciated by all residents, and because the farmer was regularly being hassled, he has chosen to move the sheep elsewhere

Dog walkers

More dog walkers are using the fields than ever, so it is essential that owners clear up after their dogs. There are plenty of bins in the area for bags – please DO NOT leave them lying in the fields or hedges.



A responsible dog walker



A problem shared is a problem solved

Local charity Age UK Milton Keynes is delighted to be working in partnership with Woburn Sands Town Council to run a drop-in advice and information service at Woburn Sands Library in the High Street.

Starting Thursday 2nd May, the free, confidential and independent service aims to do more than just halve a problem; an adviser will be able to help with enquiries about any aspect of later life affecting you or your family:

An experienced adviser can help with:

- money matters
- housing
- filling in forms
- social care and health matters
- pensions and state benefits
- consumer queries

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
10.00am to 12.30pm

No appointment necessary.

www.ageukmiltonkeynes.org.uk

Registered charity 1079773