

WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

Memorial Hall, 4 High Street, Woburn Sands, Milton Keynes, MK17 8RH

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Dear Resident,

This is the end of the four year term of office for your Town Councillors, most of whom are standing for re-election. Read the details inside and come to our Town Meeting on Mon 20 April to meet us all.



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Spring Newsletter 2015

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
OF WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

IN THE MEMORIAL HALL,
AT 7.30PM ON MONDAY 20 APRIL

This meeting is your opportunity to hear from Town Councillors of the work undertaken during the past year and some future planning and to account for the money raised from your Council Tax as the parish precept. You may have noticed from your Council Tax statements that we have increased this by just 0.8% for this next financial year. This increase for running your parish council amounts to just 76p per year for a Band E property, which we trust you feel is not bad value. You can ask questions on this and any other matters for which we are responsible at the Town Meeting.

Election Day 7 May and your Parish Council

The elections on May 7 could include an election for your Parish Council since it is 4 years since the last Parish Council election...except there wasn't one because only the existing councillors stood for re-election at the time. We are sorry, however, to say that Councillor Meg Bates has decided not to stand for re-election this May so there will definitely be a vacancy on the Council in May. Meg has been on our Parish Council since 1991, has been mayor on 5 occasions, and has been an invaluable member. Her particular interests have been in the buildings and environment of the town and her historical knowledge of the area vital on many occasions. She will be greatly missed and we wish her well as she enjoys her "retirement". Meg was also a Lib Dem Ward Councillor for several years 1987-1999 when we had two Ward Councillors. (See photo here.)



All the other parish councillors, apart from Meg, are standing for re-election and we feel we work well as a team, complementing each other with our varied interests and skills. We would like to think you will be pleased to give us all your vote on 7 May. Of course, there will only be an election of the Parish Council if

more than one other person stands for nomination. We mentioned this in the April edition of Hogsty End Handbook as nomination papers have to be in to MKC by 9 April. The Annual Town meeting will be a further opportunity for you to see us all and hear what we do in the Council, but as a quick reminder, here is a bit on each of us and our roles:

PAULINE BYRNE: responsible for much of the work in establishing the quarterly local produce market in Woburn Sands and serves on the committee running it. Also interested in the town's environment and very much a supporting role for many other aspects of the Council's work.

CLIVE COWMEADOW: a vital member of the team whose main role is as Chair of the Finance Committee. Also for many years on Fulbrook School Governing Board and still remains as an Associate Governor. He was also a founder member of the Folk Festival committee on which he still serves.

PAUL FARRANT: takes a keen interest in planning matters, serves on both the Christmas Fayre and the Market committees and is actively involved in the running of both. As a Parklands resident he is also vital in ensuring that Parklands becomes an integral part of Woburn Sands. Also a Governor at Fulbrook School.

MIKE GEDDES: masterminded the tortuous route to the completion of our Neighbourhood Plan. Chair of the Halls committee whose responsibilities seem to increase every year as we now own and run The Memorial Hall, the Summerlin Centre, The Institute for the Library, and the Old Fire Station, the focus of next year's improvements.

DAVID HOPKINS: probably better known as our Conservative Ward Councillor and provides a very useful direct link to officers in Milton Keynes Council and as such can support our own work with MKC.

JACKY JEFFREYS: takes the lead role in all planning applications both in Woburn Sands and those affecting us but beyond the parish boundaries. Writes the entries in both the Hogsty End Handbook and this newsletter, is involved in several cross parish committees, and is on the Friends of Edgewick Farm committee.

IAN MACLEOD: the most recent addition to the Council who has proved invaluable for his knowledge of the construction industry thereby advising on many matters concerning structural work on our halls, and is keen to support the

work on planning matters. He serves on the Business and Community Association committee and the Local Market committee.

KEITH TEMPLE: Chairs the Environment sub-committee, liaises with Thames Valley Police, serves on the Christmas Fayre and Folk Festival committees and takes a broad interest in most of our work.

Those are our parish councillors, but, of course, much of the day to day running of the whole council is down to three paid officers: our Town Clerk of now vast experience, Lynne Stapleton, her assistant Pauline Biggs, whose particular duties are hall and coach trip bookings, and Mike Smith, our very busy and very efficient caretaker of halls. We take this opportunity to thank them all for their hard work.

Roads and Railway News

Most residents will have been inconvenienced by the traffic light system in place at the end of last month while essential work was carried out on replacing old gas mains. Woburn Sands Town Council had no prior warning about these works from MKC and failures of



communication between Arriva, their drivers and MKC caused chaos on the 300 route for several days. We did our best to sort all this out as quickly as possible. Unfortunately there will be further disruption at some point in the future as the work continues down the High Street and Station Road, but it is not scheduled into the timetable yet. At least there won't be a 6 road traffic control system next time!

The proposed major road traffic survey which was due to take place in March was postponed until at least May because of the gas main work. The survey will attempt to ascertain exactly where traffic is coming from and going to that uses the level crossings in the area and is a joint venture involving Network Rail, Milton Keynes Council and the Police. The information collated will be invaluable when considering the future of the railway level crossing (see below) and will inform any decisions on possible controls on traffic using Station Road.

Network Rail has also planned a series of presentations for their current ideas on the various footpath and road crossings in the area. The one to be held to show the proposals within our parish will be on **Fri 26 June 4-8pm in The Summerlin**

Centre. The crossings concerned are those at Woodleys Farm, the Fisherman's crossing (on the western edge of Parklands), the level crossing on the A5130 in Station Road, and the School Crossing linking Cranfield Road and the Rec. This is your first chance to comment and hopefully thereby influence the plans before they are more set.

Library News

We have no further information at the time of writing about the effect of cutbacks to library expenditure on us here, but the volunteers are doing great work for us in extending the library opening hours for two hours from 6pm on Tuesday evenings now BST is in operation. There is every likelihood that a bigger pool of volunteers may be needed in the future, so if you are interested in getting involved, please contact the Town Clerk.

Age UK continues to give valuable advice on a great range of issues to residents in the library on Tuesday mornings 10am-noon. You do not have to be "Aged" to use this service: it is open to all.

We continue fund raising to support children's activities in the library in some school holidays. The drinks available in there on market days help in this and we are holding an evening which we hope will be of interest to many of you on **Thursday 25 June at 7.30pm**. Several who saw the display and heard Paul Cox's talk on the history of the pubs of Woburn Sands at the Spring market commented on how interesting this was, so this evening will give more of you the opportunity to hear Paul on a similar theme. It will be combined with a talk on the geological background to many of the features in the local area given by Peter Skelton. We will provide wine and refreshments half way through the evening, so we look forward to seeing many of you there in the Library. Tickets for the evening, available on the door will be £5. Please put the date in your diary now!

Investigations continue into the causes of the damp problem in the library and we hope to be able to start work on rectifying it soon once agreement reached between Milton Keynes Council who undertook the renovation work when the library moved into the Institute and ourselves. We have recently replaced the doors of the library entrance which suffered greatly in being open in all weathers since the library moved there. Work was done at the same time on the doors and porch of the Memorial Hall.

Woburn Sands Angling Club

A new Angling Club has been proposed to manage and improve the fishing on the lake in the Parklands housing estate. Its aims are to provide a safe and friendly environment for anglers of all ages and the protection and conservation of the fish stocks and wildlife around the lake. This lake has a long fishing history since Plysu times and boasts good stocks of quality roach, rudd, perch, bream, crucian carp and mirror/common carp. A number of improvements have been suggested to make the habitat and facilities better and include building new swims (correct term for fishing platforms!) and establishing some new aquatic plants.

Membership will be available to all residents of Woburn Sands with proposed costs of £10 per annum, with day tickets also available on site. If you have any questions, ideas, or would like to be involved in the club's establishment, please e-mail info@wsanglingclub.co.uk.

In brief:

GREENS HOTEL SITE. Work is now progressing on the redevelopment of the former hotel and its conversion into 9 apartments. Some of the gates which had been proposed on the site have been removed, notably those into parking areas and proposals agreed for decisions on the use and management of the Community Rooms in the former hotel. Building work on the construction of the 6 houses will follow and when the Bowls Club moves to its new home adjacent to Aspley Guise Common in April, the building of the 20 flats on the former Bowls Green can also start. The whole site construction will take at least a year.

HEDGES AND GRAVEL. In several places in Woburn Sands, the pavements are quite narrow and two people side by side eg adult and child may have difficulty passing if hedges and shrubs are hanging over the pavement. Double buggies and wheelchairs have an even greater problem. We do ask, therefore, that you keep all vegetation cut back to your property boundary so as not to restrict on any way passage along the pavements. Many homes also have gravel driveways and particularly where these are on a slope down towards the pavement, the gravel spills on to the pavement, again causing a possible problem for pedestrians who may not be as steady on their feet as they once were. So we would appreciate it if you could ensure gravel is kept swept back onto your drive.

CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS. If you have a photo taken on Edgewick Farm, why not enter the competition for your picture to be featured in next year's Edgewick Farm Calendar. Please forward entries to calendar@edgewickfarm.org.

ANNUAL GARDEN COMPETITION, sponsored by Frosts exclusively for Woburn Sands, will again take place so plan your front and back gardens over the next few weeks so that you can submit your garden for consideration. Judging will take place towards the end of July and further details will be in later editions of Hogsty End Handbook and on our website.

70th ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY. The Government is encouraging communities to mark this event in the traditional way by observing the 3 min silence at 3 pm on Fri 8 May and perhaps holding family picnics or street parties (in quiet residential roads) over the weekend. More details later on our website.

CAN YOU HELP? The Edgewick Farm volunteers will be constructing steps down into the old Mowbray House garden path now largely cleared in the copse opposite Mowbray Green and extending the boardwalk alongside the wet flush over the next few months. Meet at the farm on the first Sunday of each month at 10am.

WOBURN SANDS FOLK FESTIVAL

Regretfully the Folk Festival Committee has decided not to hold an Folk Day festival this year. There is no shortage of musicians willing to perform, but a severe lack of committee members to organise the event and there is still money to repay on the stolen generators from a couple of years ago. The Ceilidhs will continue to raise money and the plan is a revamped festival in 2016 which will be more a Family event.

LOVE WOBURN SANDS

This project continues to progress and the great interest in the Community IT sessions means it is now held every Monday 10am-12pm in Mamma Concettas in the High Street. Tablets are available for you to try and Mark, the computer guru, will help you out.

Nordic walking is also now a weekly event, meeting on Saturday mornings at 9.30am on Aspley Heath.

Check the website www.lovewoburnsands.com for more info or contact **Stef on 07511 156209.**



Dates for your diary

Our next coach trip will be to **Leicester on Wed 15 April** an opportunity to see Richard 111 tomb. Tickets as usual available from Town Clerk's office. Likely future destinations are Guildford, Stratford upon-Avon, and Winchester.

Annual Town Meeting at 7.30pm in The Memorial Hall on Monday 20 April.

Woburn Sands Band's next concert will be held at The Venue, a superb theatre which is part of Walton High School. It is on **Saturday 25 April at 7.30pm** and tickets can be obtained from 07790454149



Election Day is May 7 and may include an election for Woburn Sands Town Council.

Fri 8 May is 70th Anniversary of VE Day. See website for details

Sunday 14 June at 2.30pm in St Michaels Church is the **Sands Singers summer concert**. Tickets at just £5 with all proceeds to local charities. You are in for a real treat: don't miss it!

Local history and geology talk in the Library on **Thurs 25 June at 7.30pm**

Network Rail exhibition on proposals for railway crossing points in The Summerlin Centre 4-8pm on **Fri 26 June**

Next Town Council meetings are at **7.30pm in Town Council offices on 13 April, 11 May, 8 June and 13 July**. Members of the public are welcome to raise a point/question or simply observe.