



WOBURN SANDS
TOWN COUNCIL

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SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2020

www.woburnsands.org.uk
(see privacy policy)

LATEST FIGURES AS OF (DATE)

**513 confirmed cases
of coronavirus in
Milton Keynes with
only 3 so far in June.**

**Hospital deaths from
the virus: 103 with
none recorded in
June**

**These figures are
amongst the lowest
in the region...**

let's keep it that way.



Dear resident,

Once again in these uncertain times due to Covid 19, please be aware that some parts of this newsletter may be out of date by the time you read it, particularly with regards to social distancing. At the time of writing, that is still 2m. Although several aspects of normal life are now returning, please continue to take care and remember that there are people in our community who are still very vulnerable to Covid 19 so please follow all the guidelines for their sakes.

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A BIG THANK YOU

The mayor of Milton Keynes, Cllr Andrew Geary, visited Woburn Sands recently to talk to and thank those small independent shops and businesses that went the extra mile to serve our local community in the difficult times of recent months. Glen in Woburn Sands Convenience Store went to the cash and carry sometimes 2 and 3 times a day to stock up on those items people were finding impossible to get elsewhere....flour being one of them, and his newspaper deliveries continued throughout the crisis. Nonna's and Aubergines provided take aways, bespoke orders for food and other items, and delivered these when needed. Giovanni's, our Italian restaurant switched to become a superb take away/delivery service, a rare treat in the difficult times for many, and Pat kept our invaluable treasure of an ironmongers open throughout as he has for the past 37 years. The Station Tavern also switched to a takeaway service

Of course, this is not forgetting that we



also owe a huge debt of gratitude to the staff at the Pharmacy, the Post Office, the Co-op and Tesco's, and the garage for also remaining open to serve our local community during the Covid crisis. The Indian restaurants also continued their takeaway services.

Thank you, too, to all the volunteers who have helped the vulnerable in so many ways, to all those "good neighbours", to the NHS staff in our local community, to the MKC council workers and the Town Council staff, the postmen/postwomen who have all kept services going for us.

Last, but by no means least, a special congratulations to all those Mums and Dads who turned themselves into part time teachers to keep their kids going through the online resources provided by our excellent local schools.

Hopefully, by the time our Autumn newsletter comes along, a major item on Covid 19 will not be necessary!



CHANGES TO HIGH STREET LAYOUT



Maintaining a 2m distance from others is a particular challenge in our narrow pavement outside the shops in the High Street. The parking spaces which have been blocked off are to allow safe distance queuing outside the Post Office and the Pharmacy whilst at the same time allowing space for pedestrians going past. Queuing for the Co-op is probably best done down Vicarage Street whilst the wider pavement outside Tesco's allows space outside the shop. Once the cafes/restaurants/pubs are allowed to open, social distancing will be hard to maintain inside the premises and most do not have outside spaces, but we have said the Memorial Green can be used

by the cafes if needed and provided MKC give the necessary permission to them. We would encourage as many as possible in the local area to use the Shoppers Car Park rather than park on the High Street to allow more space for safe social distancing to be achieved on the High Street, given our narrow pavement.

Now, more than ever, as more of our shops reopen, it is vital that you support them as the costs of Covid and preparing for reopening safely have been near to bringing several into complete closure. As Joanna from Kings Road Fashions quoted in an article for the Federation of Small Businesses: "use it or lose it" is a sentiment that needs to prevail now. She also says she has been delighted at the positive reactions to reopening that she has received from customers.



LITTER LOUTS

Sorry for that heading, but there is really no other word for the people who leave their litter waiting for someone else to clear it up for them. These two photos are the rubbish collected up by one of our councillors from the copse opposite the old library next to Edgewick Farm fields. They were taken on 30 May and 13 June and clearly demonstrate that the area is being used by people who do not care about the local environment but are quite happy to use the woodland for their own enjoyment. If you have any idea who these people are, please let us know.



This photo is from the car park behind the Library: unbelievable!

Walk it home with the dog

Key workers are facing risks and pressure due to Covid-19. If public bins are full then please walk your rubbish home.

Support our key workers.

Don't leave your dog's mess behind, bag it and walk it home.



PLANNING MATTERS

These continue, despite Covid 19, and there are some which will affect many of you and which you should consider responding to if you are concerned.

- **Aspley Hill parking bays.** Central Beds have made an application to make what were trial bays permanent. We know many of you wrote to complain when these bays went in, but you must now write again to respond to the formal application. The application number is A00042 and must be quoted in all correspondence. Full details are on our website. If you wish to respond in writing, please address your comments to Mr Coiffait at Priory House, Chicksands, Shefford, SG17 5TQ or do so by email as per our website details. Deadline 10 July.

- **Consultation on changes to parking in Station Road.** This involves the extension of double yellow lines to stretches of Station Road which Milton Keynes Council is suggesting, largely as a result of a resident's request. It may not suit everyone! Details are on our website, and those particularly affected should have received letters from MKC.

- **Swan Hill Homes** have sent a letter to most residents about a proposal to build 130 homes off Newport Road on the field south of Frosts Garden Centre. If you didn't get the letter, it is on our website. The Town Council will be opposing this very strongly at every opportunity and keep you aware of the application once it comes in.

Residents will know that the area between Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill has

been designated for the development of about 3,000 houses in Plan MK (known as SEMK). It was recognised in the plan that this development would not be able to come forward until the route of the proposed expressway was determined. Following the Government's decision to pause the expressway in this area in order to allow thought to be given to upgrading specific pinch points in the existing road network, pressure has mounted to produce a Development Framework for SEMK (which is required before any planning applications can be considered). This cannot be produced until there is a long term strategic transport plan and MKC started on this process at the end of 2019. At around the same time responsibility for the Bedford-Bletchley railway was transferred from Network Rail to the new company previously established to develop the Bedford-Cambridge sector (East West Rail). They have started to investigate the future of the railway crossings at Woburn Sands and Bow Brickhill and MKC have joined forces with them to ensure compatibility between the road and rail infrastructure. It is understood that EWR hope to produce their recommendations on the crossings by September which will need wider discussion to enable consideration to be given to the overall transport structure. Only once this has been completed will substantive discussions on the Development Framework on SEMK be possible. In the meantime the Town Council is arguing strongly that no additional traffic should be allowed through Woburn Sands, and that there should be a significant buffer zone between the current boundary of the town and the new SEMK development.



DO YOU KNOW WHO YOUR CHILDREN ARE SPEAKING TO ONLINE?



During lockdown, many of us are turning online to stay in touch and this goes for children as well as adults. Sadly, some criminals are using these extraordinary circumstances as a way to exploit and target young people when they are online.

Thames Valley Police have seen an increase in reports of online sexual abuse involving children since movement restrictions were introduced and are urging parents to take this opportunity to have honest conversations about online safety with their

children and to review privacy settings on the apps and social networks that they are using.

To support parents during COVID-19, the National Crime Agency's Child Exploitation and Online Protection division are producing fortnightly activity packs to help discuss staying safe online with your children. These age-appropriate resources, containing two 15-minute activities for each age group, can be found at www.thinkuknow.co.uk

NEWS FROM ST MICHAEL'S

Our building may be closed, but St Michael's Church is alive and well. During lockdown we have been filming our services every Sunday whilst staying socially distanced and at home. For the last few weeks it has been possible for some of us to film in church. Our Youth Group, Fellowship and study groups are also still functioning, although we have had to adapt to the new circumstances.

All of our services are available through the link on our website www.stmichaelsws.org.uk or via St Michael's Facebook page. Or if you would like to be added to our email list to receive our weekly information do contact me (revdianay@gmail.com).



Now that we are allowed to do so we plan to reopen St Michael's church for private prayer from early July. This will need to be supervised to ensure safety and hygiene. Opening times will be posted on our website and Facebook page. At present we are still not able to hold services in St Michael's except for funerals.

The Food Bank deposit box in the church porch continues to be well used. We are very grateful for the amazing and continued generosity of all of those who regularly leave bags of groceries. We know they are very gratefully received by the Food Bank at this time of increased need.

Revd Diana Young, Vicar, St Michael's Church
07887296588 or 01908 584598



EDGEWICK FARM



While the lock-down has regrettably stopped play for the Edgewick Farm volunteers over these last few months, Nature shone in unprecedented glory there alongside the annual spring arrival of lambs, as if to cheer us through the ordeal. We are indeed most fortunate to have such an opportunity for ‘nature-bathing’ right on our doorstep, as I’m sure those of you who visited for your permitted exercise sessions must often have felt. And there will be yet more treats to come through the summer, including the patches of pretty mauve-

pink corn cockle flowers that we sowed last winter in the picnic area at the top end of Woodland Way, which are already beginning to flower among the other blooms there: look out for them.

The closing date for the position of Town Clerk was 30 June, but if you missed it, you can still submit an application as the Town Council will be considering all applications on **13 July**.

Full details are on our website

www.woburnsands.org.uk



SNIPPETS

Help keep our pathways clear so that social distancing can be maintained along our pavements. You can help by;

- Removing bins from outside your property as soon as possible after they have been emptied
- Cutting back bushes and hedges that overhang onto the pavement
- Park your vehicle on the road, not half on the pavement.

Please don't leave your car engine idling.....it does nothing to help cut back on co2 emissions.

Please support our next **Community Market** on **Saturday 11 July** in the High Street on and around the Memorial Green.

Work has restarted on our **Sports Hall** next to the Summerlin Centre but obviously the proposed opening in September will now be delayed.

Visits to **MKC household waste tips** at Bleak Hall and Newport Pagnell must be booked in advance by contacting MKC customer services on 01908 252811

Deep cleaning of all our Halls will be undertaken before reopening, once the Government gives the go ahead for them to be used again.

Greens Court Community Rooms on the ground floor of the former Greens Hotel are now equipped with 40 chairs and ten square tables plus two tressle tables. It does not have cooking facilities, but there is a fridge, urn, kettle and plenty of mugs. The rooms are ideal for pilates, yoga, small group meetings, whist drives, bridge, bingo and much more. Contact the Town Council for viewing and booking.

Small grants from the Town Council: the deadline date for application has now been extended to the end of September. Local groups are welcome to apply; full details are on our website.

The Bedford to Bletchley railway line remains closed for the time being owing to staff shortages, apparently, but a replacement bus service is in operation.

