

COMMUNITY NEWS

The official source of Parish Council news and information to residents of Little Brickhill

ISSUE 04

AUTUMN 2022



The Chair's REPORT Graham Bushell

NEW COUNCILLOR

Your Parish Council is pleased to announce that Mr. Keith Morgan has agreed to join the Parish Councillor as our 5th member. I am sure that Keith will add much value to our team given his long association with our village.

LANDSCAPING

We are very disappointed at the unkempt state of the village. On the 5th October last year the Parish Council and David Hopkins met with two gentlemen from Milton Keynes landscaping department, who, by all accounts were quite appalled at the state of the village; the overgrown weeds and the impassable pavements. They did respond quickly and in a short time ensured that the issues were rectified along Watling Street although not adequately in Wyness Avenue for which we did ask for further support. They led us to believe that the problems would be monitored to ensure that the pavements and overgrown shrubbery would be maintained.

We are disappointed that they have not been as good as their word and once again we see the pavements overgrown with weeds which is destroying the surface and will cost a lot to rectify. The pavements leading to the north of the village are impassable and one has to cross the road several times to find a pathway.

We have raised the matter once again and I know that David Hopkins is taking the matter to the highest

level. How sad it is that we have to shout so loudly just to get the services that we both pay for and deserve; sometime I really do despair.

DOGS AND WATSON'S FIELD

We will shortly be placing further notices on the entrances to Watson Field explaining that dogs are not permitted on any part of the field. This is for the safety of our children so please act responsibly. There has been a recent incident where a child was playing in the field and emerged from the grass covered in dog mess.

PLANNING

There has been a further application to allow unlimited commercial Quad Biking at Great Firs in Great Brickhill Lane. Although this is in Great Brickhill, the noise impact is very much in Little Brickhill and we have of course objected to the application.

SPEED LIMIT AND ROAD SAFETY

You may have noticed that the Speed Indicator Device near the Village Hall is no longer there. This came as a surprise to us and initially we suspected that the device had been removed for servicing. Sadly however, the fact is that the device has been stolen, it seems that there is a value to the batteries it contains. I suspect that the actual device has been discarded and will not resurface. It will cost £3000 to replace but fortunately it is insured and Alan Kemp has started the claim process with our insurers.

Chair REPORT cont ...

We are still awaiting confirmation that we will have a speed limit of 20 mph through the village and it is frustrating that it takes so long.

KELLY'S ROUNDABOUT

Concerns were raised that there is a problem with the timing of the lights at this junction which is causing tailbacks in all directions as any regular travellers will know. David Hopkins has agreed to raise the matter with Milton Keynes

DOG BINS

We are placing another bin close to the old barns in Woburn Road. It is good to note that the vast majority of Village dog owners use the bins and that examples of dog poo on the pavements is a rare sight – thank you.

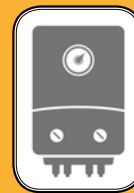
DIFFICULT TIMES AHEAD

We are obviously concerned about the impending cost increases which will affect all of us to a greater or lesser degree. The PC have are in the process of considering how we can coordinate help and assist to those most in need by looking for support from all the available agencies.



Most of us add cold water to our bath or shower. The cost of heating

our water to a temperature which is too hot to use just doesn't make sense – surely, we should only heat the water to a temperature where we don't need to add cold water. This will apparent save up to 25% on our **water heating cost!**



Check the flow rate on your boiler; that is the



If you have thermostats on your radiators, consider reducing the temperature of the rooms that you rarely use. If you don't have thermostats, they could be a money saving investment.

temperature at which hot water leaves the boiler to go round the heating system. Apparently, many systems are set to 75 degrees but it doesn't need to be any more than 55 degrees. This alone could **save up to 15% on heating bills.**



IN MEMORY OF KEN LEE

Little Brickhill Residents' Association
invite you to JOIN THE FUN at

Little Brickhill Village Hall
Saturday 22nd October 2022
7:30pm to 10:30pm



called by
Kevin Lovell

from the local
American Western Dance club

Tickets £15

Includes Fish & Chip Supper
Bring Your Own Drink

Tickets on sale from w/c 3rd October at
The George Little Brickhill
(CASH ONLY PLEASE)

Volunteer Open Days

Tuesday, 4 October
2 to 4PM

Sunday, 9 October
4 to 6PM



Interested in volunteering?

We'd love to meet you on one of our Volunteer Open Days, when you can find out more about the opportunities we have available at Milton Keynes Museum.

For more info and to RSVP email
volunteer@mkmuseum.org.uk or
call 01908316222.



MEETING DATES

LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

The parish council meets in **Little Brickhill Community Centre** on **Watling Street** at **7:45 PM** every month on the **1st Monday of each month** except in January, May (when the annual parish and village meeting is held) and August when there is no Meeting, unless business dictates.

Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings but whilst members of the public cannot participate a short period of time is given over for members for the public to air their views on matters directly related to the parish council.

Dates for the next three meetings are:

3rd October 2022 7 November 2022 5 December 2022

LITTLE BRICKHILL COUNCILLORS

CHAIRMAN

Councillor Graham Bushell

Councillor Tim Wheaton

One Vacancy

VICE-CHAIRMAN

Councillor Dave Lewis

Councillor Martin Goddard

For enquiries about advertising in the newsletter contact Alan Kemp - Parish Clerk.

PARISH CLERK

Alan Kemp

clerk@littlebrickhillparishcouncil.co.uk
57 West End, Long Whatton,
Loughborough, Leicestershire, LE12 5DW.

Tel: 01509 844241

Mobile: 07783 939020

For contributions to the
**LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL
COMMUNITY NEWS**
contact the Clerk

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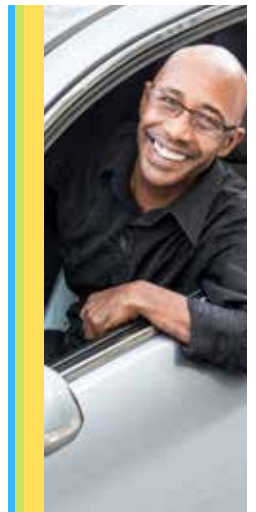
Our newsletters are printed on paper made from responsibly sourced wood fibre that earns the FSC label

SEEKING VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

BucksVision volunteers organise social activities for people with sight loss living in and around Milton Keynes, who can be very lonely without our help.

We need car drivers to join our friendly team, to drive people to and from our weekday activities. If you have a full driving licence and can offer a few hours, fortnightly or monthly, please get in touch.

No experience needed, full training and expenses paid. It's rewarding and fulfilling, and an ideal opportunity to make a real difference and new friends!



Call 01296 487 556

volunteering@bucksvision.co.uk

If you would like to support the cost of future editions of the newsletter by making a small donation please contact Alan Kemp - Parish Clerk.

There is one service every house in the city uses every week – it is the collection from the bins and recycling.

The Boroughs current waste collection contract ends next year. This provides MK Council with an opportunity to do things differently and to support the new roll out of wheeled bins for residents.

The new waste collection service goes live in Autumn 2023. Production of the new bins started this summer 2022, with over 300,000 bins being delivered to households across the city during summer 2023. MK Council is tackling the climate change emergency. Currently the Council collects 8.5 million recycling sacks and 21 million black sacks of rubbish each year. Clearly, this is not good for the environment.

Wheeled bins should make a positive difference;

- **Cleaner** – less spillage from sacks on streets
- **Greener** – more recycling and better quality with the separation of waste
- **Safer** – less injuries for residents and staff

Each property that is suitable to have wheeled bins will receive:

- **Dark grey bin** – weekly collection for rubbish that cannot be recycled.
- **Green bin** – weekly collection for food and garden waste.
- **Red lidded bin** – for paper and card collected fortnightly.
- **Blue lidded bin** – for glass, plastic, aerosols and cans collected fortnightly.

MK Council has been running a pilot on the use of wheeled bins across almost 3,000 properties since 2020. Evidence from these areas shows us that streets do remain cleaner. This is because rubbish is contained within bins. A multi-national public services provider reported that 45% of on-street litter was found to be caused by recycling boxes and sacks. There is a positive impact on areas that may have a pest problem. Food sources are removed because it is contained within the wheeled bin.



MK Council know that having wheeled bins has led to higher rates of recycling for residents.

There have been no reported injuries to the waste collection crew in the pilot area since moving to bins. MK has committed to being cleaner, greener and safer. Moving to wheeled bins, helps to fulfil these aims.

How to find out more – MK Council will soon be publicising details of local events where we will be taking ‘Bins on Tour’. You will have the opportunity to see the bins and talk to waste experts to answer any questions you may have. Details of these sessions will be shared on the Council website and publicised locally.

Wheeled bin walkabouts

If there are areas within the parish where you have concerns (i.e. if wheeled bins are suitable) – MK council will organise a date where it’s representatives can come together and meet on site.

The first part of the session sets the scene, shares some practical information and answers questions. The second part – going on a drive or walkabout to the areas of interest as highlighted by the parish or by me, your ward councillor. This allows for discussion, feedback on what’s included and if necessary might lead to an action plan, which is shared with all involved.

The aim is to use local knowledge and problem solve together where needed before the change to the service takes place.

Bookings are being taken until October 31 2022 and will be repeated for a short period from March 2023. The walkabouts do take some planning, so please get in touch early to avoid disappointment. The walkabouts that have taken place so far have proved very useful for everyone involved.

MK Council already know that for most residents receiving new bins will be a straightforward process, but they recognise there are some areas where we will need to do more to help, perhaps because there are structural or community issues.

If you think this may apply to parts of Little Brickhill please get in touch and we can organise a planned walkabout with myself and parish councillors, representatives from waste and housing if needed.

Location checker

If you don't think you need the walkabout, but there are a few specific areas you would like to know more about, MK Council offer a location checker service, please send details into the waste team at yourwaste@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

The Council website is being regularly updated and includes a helpful FAQ section -

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/wheeled-bins>

Some information displays will be set up in libraries for you to find more information.

Email – customerservices@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Customer Services – Telephone: **01908 252570**



DAVID HOPKINS

Ward Councillor



The annual canvass is in progress!

The Electoral Commission



The 2022 Annual Canvass

The Annual Canvass of the electoral register commenced in July. MK council will be sending out forms to households from the end of July.

Please ensure you check the forms and respond where required as soon as you can. Canvassers may telephone or call at your property where no response has been received if required from September till October.

What is the Annual Canvass of the Electoral Register?

Emails and canvass forms are sent to every household giving details of what information is currently held on the Electoral Register at that property. Occupiers are required to check the information and confirm that it is correct or make any changes that are necessary so that a revised register can be published on 1 December. Different forms are sent to all residential properties during the canvass, please check the form carefully and respond as soon as you can only if it requires you to do so.

When Responding

If the information is correct, please confirm this by:

- Visiting www.householdresponse.com/miltonkeynes OR
- Call **0800 197 9871** OR
- Text **80212**

And entering part 1 and part 2 of the security code which is on the form.

If the information is wrong and you need to make changes (including adding and deleting people) you can also visit www.householdresponse.com/miltonkeynes and enter parts 1 and 2 of the security code. Each new person will also have to register individually at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote

Please respond as soon as possible so your details can be updated.

Help with energy bills

As the cost of living rises, many people are struggling to find the extra money for essentials like energy bills. **Help is available.** It's best to ask for help early before you get far into debt.

Talk to your energy supplier

Many energy companies offer help schemes and some are open to anyone – you don't need to be a customer.

Ask about being put on your suppliers' Priority Services Register, a free energy support service if you are vulnerable.

Other resources

www.ofgem.gov.uk/information-consumers/energy-advice-households has a list of help schemes, and energy saving tips

charisgrants.com and turn2us.org.uk list fuel grants you can apply for.

The Citizens Advice Energy Help Unit will raise issues with energy suppliers. ehu.org.uk or **0808 223 1133** (dial **18001** first to use textphone).

www.moneyhelper.org.uk has free debt advice.

mkfoodbank.org.uk can provide food parcels.

www.simpleenergyadvice.org.uk has energy saving advice on home insulation, boiler upgrades and green energy.

Government schemes

Visit www.gov.uk for information on:

- **Winter Fuel Payment** up to £300 for people born on or before 26 September 1955.
- **Cold Weather Payment** – £25 payment for every week of very cold weather between November and March.
- **Warm Home Discount** – £140 discount for some people who get Pension Credit or are on a low-income.

Help is there
if you're
struggling



Support from your council

Ongoing help

Visit www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/benefits to check if you're eligible for ongoing Housing Benefits or for a reduction in your Council Tax.

Emergency extra help

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/cost-living-support has information and you can apply online for:

- Emergency funds for essential living costs eg food, repairs, school uniform (apply under **Household Support Fund**)
- Essential household goods, crisis food vouchers and fuel (apply under **Local Welfare Provision**)
- £150 council tax rebate to help towards energy bills (apply under **Energy Bill Rebate**)
- Extra help if you're on Housing Benefit and behind on your rent (apply under **Discretionary Housing Payments**)

Little Brickhill Resident's Association



At the start of 2022 the Residents Association opened its doors to many new comers to Little Brickhill who all willingly donated their time to the success of the **Queens Platinum Jubilee**, despite the downpour. A welcome 'get together' which everyone appreciated after the isolation of Covid.

The LBRA held a **meeting** on the **20th September** as Tim Wheaton will be standing down from the position of Chair as will David Lewis, as Treasurer. During their time with us they have made a valuable contribution to the LBRA (twinning with Colle Sanita in Italy, William and Kates wedding celebration, the Village Fun Day on Watsons Field, the History event in the Church, to name but a few) and we thank them and wish them well.



In addition, the meeting will be to discuss future events for Little Brickhill villagers to enjoy. One of which is the **Barn Dance** (see poster) on the 22nd October in the village hall. Numbers for this will be limited to between 30 and 40 so tickets will be available (at The George pub TBC) closer to the time on a first come first served basis. So please look out for the flyer that will be delivered at the beginning of October.



We will also be holding our usual **Christmas events**: The **Jenny Wheaton Children's Party** on the **17th December 2022**, The **Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch** on the **11th December 2022** and the **Carol Singing date TBC**. All monies/donations will go towards future LBRA events for the Village.

More Little Brickhill News



THE FUTURE OF EAST WEST RAIL

Former Transport Secretary Grant Shapps cast doubt on the second and third phases of East West Rail, saying that cutting them "would save £3-5 billion straightaway".

Grant Shapps was talking to LBC presenter Iain Dale in July, the day before withdrawing from the contest to replace Boris Johnson as Conservative leader. In the interview, Grant Shapps proposed a "fiscal star chamber" that would consider all proposed government spending as a potential route to saving money and gave the Bletchley-Bedford and Bedford-Cambridge sections of EWR as examples of where cuts could be made. That would leave EWR with just the Oxford-Bletchley/Milton Keynes services being delivered as part of the first stage.

In addition, readers might like to know that the Government's Infrastructure and Projects Authority has recently released its latest Annual Report. The IPA has classified Stages 2 (Bedford – MK) and 3 (Bedford-Cambridge) as Red on its "traffic light" system. A Red categorisation suggests that the project is unachievable.

The Report states "There are major issues with project definition, schedule, budget, quality and/or benefits, which do not appear to be manageable or resolvable" EWR have commented "Developing the project is an iterative process and we will continue to keep the business case and delivery programme under review"

FREE HANDYMAN SERVICE

MK Council has commissioned Age UK Milton Keynes to run a free handyperson service across Milton Keynes for the next six months as a pilot.



The service is for vulnerable council tenants to help out with small household repairs that they can't do themselves, helping them to remain independent in their own home and reduce worries about DIY.

Tenants can request up to three visits free of charge, for jobs that should take no more than a couple of hours to do.

To enquire, email;

mkc.handypersonageukmiltonkeynes.org.uk
or contact **Age MK** on **01908 557877**.

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

Following representations from village residents, I made contact with the Leader of Buckinghamshire Council (Cllr Martin Tett) regarding concerns relating to school transport costs from Little Brickhill in Milton Keynes Borough to The Cottesloe School in Buckinghamshire.

Unfortunately, the situation is not straight forward. Buckinghamshire Council runs school buses for Buckinghamshire children who are eligible for free school transport. The eligibility criteria are set out in its Home to School Transport Policy <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-transport/free-school-transport/>

Students living in Great Brickhill, Stoke Hammond and Newton Leys who are eligible for free school transport live within Buckinghamshire and The Cottesloe School is the nearest suitable Buckinghamshire school for those pupils.

There may be a small number of paid-for seats on

some of the Bucks routes that are spare, which families who are not eligible for free transport can apply to purchase under Bucks Council's Spare Seats Scheme. <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools-index/school-transport/paid-school-transport/spare-seats-on-school-transport-buses/>

As I know residents are aware, funding for home to school transport is under immense pressure. Buckinghamshire Council spends over £5 million on Council run school buses per year, because providing free school transport for eligible students living in Buckinghamshire is a Council-funded statutory duty. Whilst it does sell spare seats where available, the fees paid do not cover the full cost of the seat. Unfortunately, it is just not financially viable for Bucks Council to run additional buses for non-eligible students, nor to waive fees for paid-for seats.

As Little Brickhill is in Milton Keynes, it is covered by Milton Keynes Borough Council's Home to School Transport Policy. The guide also states that children living in Little Brickhill are eligible for free home to school travel if they meet the low-income criteria.



In conclusion, should any Milton Keynes resident apply for a Milton Keynes school, then the Milton Keynes Home to School Transport policy will apply. If they are applying to a Buckinghamshire school, then the Bucks Council policy applies. Given the already high cost of this service Bucks Council reports that it regretfully cannot add additional costs for pupils from a different authority.