

Unitary Councillor Report

(Snippets) Report from Cllr David Hopkins, Cllr Victoria Hopkins & Cllr Alice Jenkins – Representing Little Brickhill at MK Council

September 2019



Expressway - The anti-expressway

movement had gradually been spreading east from Oxford and environs, where they are already holding placards and blocking roads.

<https://www.noexpressway.org/> is the place to get the latest news but there is also <https://www.noexpresswayalliance.org/> and I'm not sure how the two are related.

Of recent note is the Heartlands group

<http://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/Pages/roads.aspx> (a cooperative effort by local council affected by the arc) Earlier this year their Programme Director addressed the necessity for the connection infrastructure: <http://www.englandseconomicheartland.com/latest-news/Pages/martin-tugwell-blog.aspx> and funding for it to be provided in what looks to me like a little poke at central government.

But of course last autumn the National Infrastructure Commission took a veiled pot-shot at local authorities' commitment - well that's how I read it - to the arc

<https://www.nic.org.uk/news/national-and-local-leadership-needed-to-meet-growth-arc-potential/>

My impression is that both sides, the LAs and the NIC, are putting some distance from the arc project in case it all crashes into an unfunded muddle (when someone realises that Crossrail and HS2 are bottomless money pits!) MKC has just taken a step backwards itself, and I'm sure there are very sound political reasons for doing so.

As soon as Highways England state the preferred route for the Expressway this autumn (if indeed they do and I wouldn't put money on it) I would expect the Winslow effect to hit the villages between there and here and Little Brickhill will once more be revolting! I think it is only the fact the people around here don't realise the enormity of the project and the horrendous damage it will do to our local environment and how it will redraw the map of North Bucks that they too don't have the placards out. But I suspect it's only a matter of time

PLANNING



Training - The Head of Planning at MKC is organising a Development Management “Demystifying Training” session to be held on 15th Oct for parish councillors

South Central Ambulance Service governor elections start in September.

Do you want to make a difference to your local emergency and non-emergency services?

We have vacancies for Public Governors across Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire.

We provide 999, NHS 111 and patient transport services in Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Hampshire and patient transport services in Surrey and Sussex.

Governors have lots of important responsibilities such as appointing and holding to account the chair and other non-executive directors, contributing to the development of the Trust’s strategy, and engaging with the members who elect them.

Governors need to be confident communicators and able to speak to our members and the public about healthcare matters. To be eligible to be a Governor you must be a member of the constituency you wish to stand for and be 16 or over.

Members have until the autumn to complete an application to become a Governor

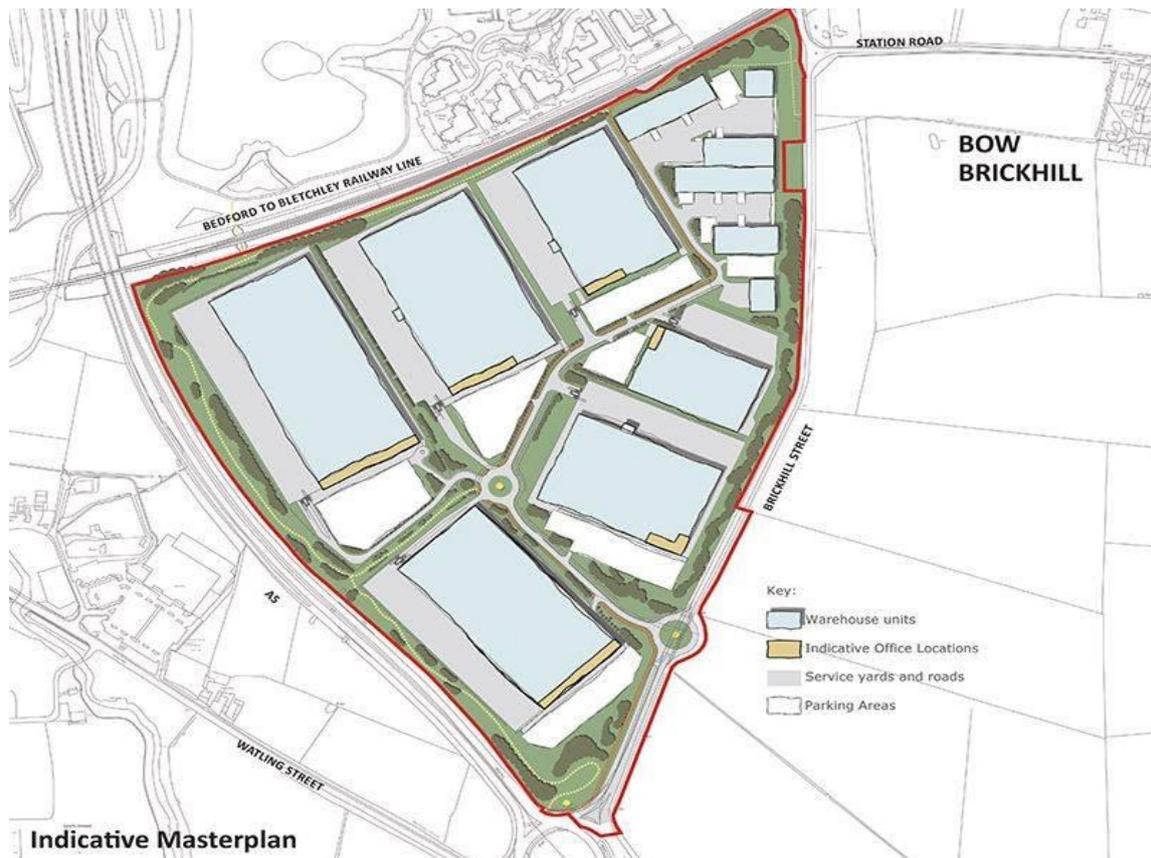
If you’ve got what it takes to join our team, go to our website <https://www.scas.nhs.uk/about-scas/council-of-governors/governors-election/> to sign up as a member and find out how to become a Governor.

Margaret Eaglestone - Foundation Trust Membership and Engagement Manager

South Central Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust
Northern House, Talisman Business Centre, Talisman Road, Bicester, Oxon OX26 6HR
Mobile: 07795 602907

Email: margaret.eaglestone@scas.nhs.uk

Web: www.southcentralambulance.nhs.uk



Caldecotte South Update - The Secretary of State is still considering whether it is EIA development, needing an Environmental Statement or not, which will have an impact on the time scales.

I will have a discussion with managers on likely outcomes/ timescale early next week (2 September) and try to give you a bit of a clearer update.

David Buckley - Senior Planning Officer (Development control)

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M: 07775110877

E: david.buckley@milton-keynes.gov.uk

W: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/>

Milton Keynes Council | Planning Service | Growth, Economy and Culture | Civic Offices | 1 Saxon Gate East | Milton Keynes | MK9 3EJ



Milton Keynes Council Development Review

Forum

Key Points

Overall Aims of Forum

- Streamline the planning application process by addressing stakeholder comments on design at the pre-application stage
- Improve quality of design elements within schemes
- Raise profile of design across MK
- Allow for greater input by local stakeholders on design issues with aim of reducing local objections

Purpose

- An opportunity for developers to present their scheme at pre-application to stakeholders and make any changes in light of comments received

What is in Scope

- Focus is on design (layout and building/s appearance but can include landscaping and highway related matters eg parking)
- A report of what was said at Forum will form part of case officers application report

What is out of scope

- Discussion on principle of development or developments impact on surrounding area eg road network

Timing / Sequencing of Forum in the Planning Application Process

- Application should ideally come to the Forum after initial review of scheme by officers as part of the pre-application process.

Status

- The Forum is voluntary although MKC initiated schemes will be submitted to the Forum

Logistics

- The Forum will take place every 2 months on Monday at MKC Civic Offices from 6pm -7.30pm
- Meetings will be informal
- A maximum of 2 applications will be presented and discussed at each Forum. The format for each application will be as follows:
 - o Presentation by the applicant/agent – 15 minutes
 - o Questions and views from stakeholders present – 15 minutes
 - o Response by applicant to questions/comments – 15 minutes

Cost

The Forum will form part of the pre-application process. The Forum is not open for applicants who do not enter into a pre-application or PPA agreement with the Local Planning Authority.

Chairing Arrangements

- The Forum will be chaired by someone from the Urban Design Team supported by the relevant case officers

**Appeal by Wavendon Properties Ltd**

Site Address: Land to the east of Newport Road and west and east of Cranfield Road, Woburn Sands, Buckinghamshire, MK17 8UH

Following a High Court challenge to the Secretary of State's decision on this appeal the Court has ordered that the appeal be re-determined. This does not necessarily mean that the Secretary of State will reach a different overall decision.

I am the Case Officer dealing with the appeal. If you have any questions, please contact me.

As confirmed in the Secretary of State's letter of 16 August 2019 the inquiry will be re-opened. This will be with a different Inspector. The Inspector/Secretary of State will consider any relevant evidence previously submitted, unless it is expressly superseded by its originator during this 'redetermination' process.

The Planning Inspectorate, on behalf of the Secretary of State, invites you to send further representations (including any statement of case and copies of any documents to which you intend to refer) relating to the following;

- the adoption of a new local plan (Plan:MK), with the associated identification of housing expansion areas
- the announcement by the Highways England, in September 2018, that corridor B (central option) had been selected as the preferred corridor for the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway
- Changes to national policy and planning guidance

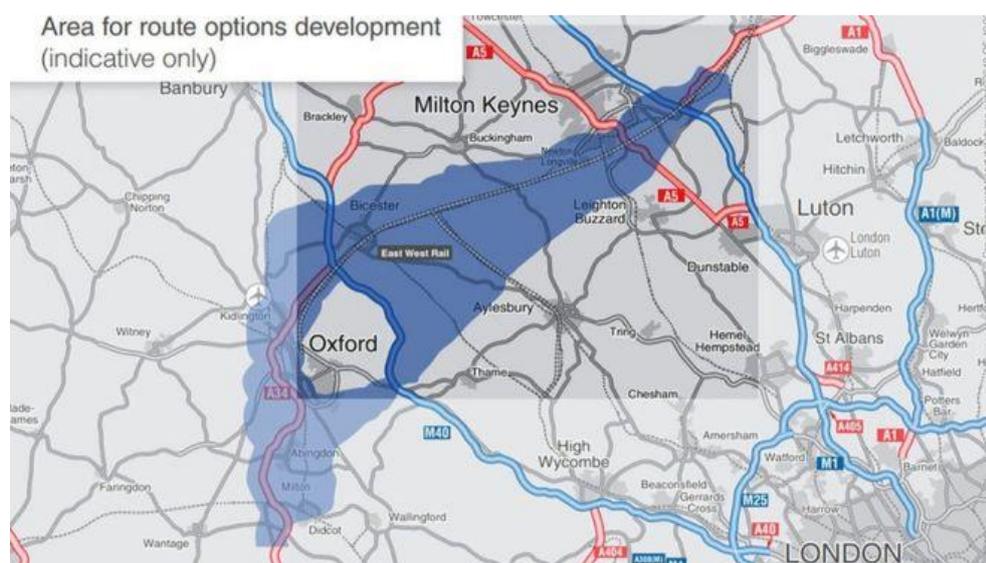
Alison Dyson | Major Casework Team
The Planning Inspectorate

3J, Kite Wing, Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6PN
 Alison.dyson@planninginspectorate.gov.uk | 0303 444 5304

<http://www.planningportal.gov.uk/planninginspectorate> | @PINSgov

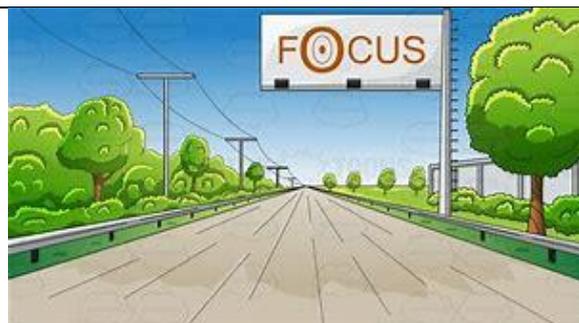
This communication does not constitute legal advice. Please view our Information Charter before sending information to the Planning Inspectorate.

Expressway Timeline



Date	Event
Autumn 2017	Commitment by the Chancellor for construction to commence on the missing link before the end of the Road Investment Strategy (RIS2) in 2025
2018	Corridor announcement
Autumn 2019	Public consultation on route options*
2020	Preferred route announcement*
2025	Construction starts*
2030	New link opens to the public

*Indicative timetable, subject to preferred route options

**East West Rail – Timeline****What is being proposed?**

East West Rail Western Section will re-establish a passenger and freight railway between Oxford, Bedford, Milton Keynes, and Aylesbury. Phase 2 involves improving and reconstructing underused and disused sections of the former railway and represents a significant piece of infrastructure investment.

Why do we need to build this?

This scheme will enhance the rail network, create more journey opportunities with reduced journey times and better connections to the Great Western, West Coast and Midland Main Line services, avoiding the need to travel via London. It will reconnect major centres including, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Bedford, Bicester, Oxford.

What are the main benefits?

The East West Rail scheme will support economic growth through residential and commercial development along the line of route, boosting business growth and attracting new business and inward investment. The upgrade of the route will provide additional network capacity to accommodate growth in freight and passenger markets by connecting the Oxford to Bedford railway with the Great Western, West Coast and Midland Main Lines.

Who pays for it?

The project is funded by the Department for Transport and by a £45m contribution from the East West Rail Consortium.

What is the new EWR Company? And what is their role in delivering the project?

The East West Railway Company has been formed by the Secretary of State for Transport to optimise the delivery of the East West Railway. This team reviewed the East West Rail proposals and led a value engineering and programme delivery review that identified how the value and benefits from this project can be realised as quickly as is possible. The new EWR Company will run Britain's first integrated rail operation for decades and be a separate organisation to Network Rail. The Company is looking at how the EWR route can be delivered and maintained.

How many EWR2 trains will run and to what destinations?

In addition to existing train services, there will be new services from:

Oxford and Milton Keynes; stopping at Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow and Bletchley. There will be two trains each way per hour.

Oxford and Bedford; stopping at Oxford Parkway, Bicester, Winslow, Bletchley, Woburn Sands and Ridgmont. There will be one train each way per hour.

Milton Keynes and Aylesbury with stops anticipated at Bletchley, Winslow, and Aylesbury Vale Parkway. There will be one train each way per hour.

When will construction start and trains begin to run?

Depending on funding, construction of the line between Bicester and Bletchley will start at the end of 2019 with trains operating from 2023.

**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>

**Clear Sacks**

The Council is confident with the changes in the delivery method for sacks that they are now on top of the requests that are coming through, if however you have properties that have experienced issues with receiving them prior to the changes last week then please let me know as I will be happy to arrange delivery of these myself.

Tony Brown - Waste Services Officer

Milton Keynes Council, Milton Keynes Waste Recovery Park, 9 Dickens Road, Old Wolverton, Milton Keynes, MK12 5QF

email: Tony.Brown@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Contacts

- For all Serco Landscape contract works enquiries, please contact Euan Darling or Mansour Moini - Please contact the helpline via the link below for new issues.
- For Tree (TPO TCA and Insurance related) enquiries contact Robert Widd.
- For Rights of Way, please contact Rosie Armstrong or James Walsh.
- For High Hedges enquiries and development related Tree issues please contact Stephen Narborough.
- For Planning, S106, Biodiversity and Ecology issues please contact Diane Evans or Phil Snell.
- For Flood Strategy please contact Ashish Patel.

To log a new issue or enquiry, go to: <https://my.milton-keynes.gov.uk/>



Roadworks - The new interactive service allows you to search for any planned works by area, road name, ward or parish, road type or reason. You can also see the current closures and those scheduled for the next two weeks.

Area	Road name	Start Date	Start Time	End Date	Finish Time	Type
Little Brickhill	Galley Lane	28th August 2019		9:30am	12:30pm	Pot Hole maintenance
Little Brickhill	FOOTPATH 16 LITTLE BRICKHILL	12 th August 2019		12/02/20		FOOTPATH CLOSURE (Public Right Of Way)

	FOOTPATH 17 LITTLE BRICKHILL	12 th August 2019	12/02/20	FOOTPATH CLOSURE (Public Right Of Way)
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This tool will help you check what is planned for a particular route or area so you can avoid any issues that may affect your journey. The information is updated every week. Some works may be subject to changes due to unforeseen circumstances such as a road traffic collision or incident, weather conditions or operational reasons. Check the Highways View as an

Alternatively you can view the information shown in the Highways Register through a Google map based system on www.roadworks.org

Steven Shearer - Network Support Officer (Highways Services)

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Visit Online : <http://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/streets-transport-and-parking>

David Hopkins / Victoria Hopkins / Alice Jenkins

MKC Senior Staff List Corporate Core - MKC Senior Team 2019

Chief Executive	Michael Bracey	01908 252200
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Contact Us www.milton-keynes.gov.uk	Email: <i>firstname.surname@milton-keynes.gov.uk</i>	Tel: 01908 691691
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Resources Corporate Director	Paul Simpson	01908 253374
Service Director: Legal and Democratic Services	Sharon Bridglalsingh	01908 252095
Service Director: Finance and Resources	Steve Richardson	01908 252756
Head of Revenues and Benefits	Robin Bates	07738 636820
Assistant Director: Audit & Risk Management	Duncan Wilkinson	01908 252089
Service Delivery Manager: ICT	Hazel Lewis	01908 254117
Capital Programme Director	Kamran Rashid	07792 540523
Head of HR	Musrat Zaman	01908 254278
Head of Customer Service, Digital and Transformation	Vacant from November 2017	
People Corporate Director	Michael Bracey	01908 258041
Director of Public Health (Shared with Bedford & Central Bedfordshire Councils)	Muriel Scott	01908 254241
Service Director: Children's Services	Mac Heath	01908 253121
Service Director: Adult Services	Victoria Collins	01908 253270

Assistant Director: Joint Commissioning	Mick Hancock	01908 252091
Place Corporate Director	Duncan Sharkey	01908 253411
Service Director: Housing & Regeneration	Michael Kelleher	01908 254167
Service Director: Public Realm Services	Tom Blackburne-Maze	01908 252213

Service Director: Planning, Culture and Infrastructure	Vacant from August 2017	
Head of Economy and Culture	Pam Gosal	01908 252192
Head of Placemaking	Neil Sainsbury	01908 252708
Head of Development Management	Brett Leahy	01908 252609
MKDP Chief Executive	Charles Macdonald charles.macdonald@mkdp.co.uk	01908 253899
Independent Chair	John Duggan john.duggan@mkdp.co.uk	01908 253405
Director of Strategy & Futures	Geoff Snelson	01908 252665

Acting Service Director: Policy, Insight & Communication s	Sarah Gonsalves	01908 252275
Head of Communications	Kellie Evans	01908 252413

CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

Our current three directorate model plus small 'corporate core' was put in place four years ago. While this has helped teams share some closer practices and standards, we're yet to achieve our ambition for fully joined up thinking and working across the whole organisation. This can be frustrating for us, for councillors and for service users.

A new senior management structure is being developed that will help us operate more effectively as one council. The proposals are:

A new Deputy Chief Executive role will lead our critical support services, as well as a number of other business areas.

Instead of the current structure of three Corporate Directors and ten Service Directors, services will be led by nine Directors, who would all be regarded as 'chief officers' and full members of our Corporate Leadership Team (CLT). As you may be aware Duncan Sharkey has left the Council and we will not be replacing either his former role (Corporate Director – Place) or the role of Corporate Director – People.

The corporate core would be replaced with a new Chief Executive's Office, led by an Assistant Chief Executive (replacing the current role of Service Director – Policy, Insight and Communications), whose focus will be on improving organisational effectiveness and performance. Public Health will move into the Chief Executive's Office.

Subject to political agreement, the new structure could be in place by early March. The CEO (Michael Bracey) will share full details then, including a detailed breakdown of who will be leading on specific areas.

Corporate Leadership Team - March 2019

Chief Executive - Michael Bracey, Head of Paid Service
Director - Health and Social Care Integration - Jill Wilkinson
Director - Finance and Resources - Steve Richardson
Director - Law and Governance - Sharon Bridglalsingh
Director – Environment and Property - Stuart Proffitt
Director - Growth, Economy and Culture - Tracy Darke
Director - Adult Services - Victoria Collins
Director - Children's Services - Mac Heath
Director - Housing and Regeneration - Michael Kelleher
Director - Strategy and Futures - Geoff Snelson
Director - Policy, Insight and Communications - Sarah Gonsalves
Director - Public Health - Muriel Scott

<p>Finance and Resources Professional finance Revenue and benefits HR ICT Customer services LGSS Audit and risk</p>
<p>Environment and Property Highways Waste and Recycling Transportation Property Facilities Management Regulatory services Health and Safety</p>
<p>Growth, Economy and Culture Place Making Planning Economic development Arts and Heritage Historic environment Leisure Sports development</p>
<p>Law and Governance Legal services Democratic services Elections Civic events and mayoralty Councillor support Governance</p>
<p>Policy, Insight and Communications Policy Partnerships Performance Communications Information Governance Emergency Planning Community safety</p>
<p>Housing and Regeneration Tenancy management Repairs and maintenance Tackling homelessness Strategic housing Regeneration and development Private sector housing Resident engagement and support</p>
<p>Children's Services Schools Early years Youth and community Special needs and disability Safeguarding Family support Children in care Care Leavers</p>
<p>Adult Services Mental health Learning disability Physical disability Older people's services Hospital discharge Adult safeguarding Commissioning</p>
<p>Public Health Health improvement Health protection Public health services Needs assessment Strategy and Futures</p>
<p>Strategy and Futures Delivery of MK2050 Strategy Regional Local Enterprise Partnership Oxford to Cambridge Arc</p>

Decision-making in a Pre-election Period

Executive Summary

1. Purdah applies only to ministerial government departments, and does not prevent local councils or other public authorities outside of central government from making decisions during the pre-election period.
2. However, there are other rules relating to the extent to which certain decisions or actions can be publicised during a pre-election period, or the manner in which any publicity should take place.

The Rules

"Purdah" is a political convention originating in Whitehall, which is not codified in law. Purdah is often unhelpfully used to describe the rules relating to local government publicity during a pre-election period (see below).

In principle it reflects some common sense propositions:

1. Avoiding active engagement on politically sensitive matters in pre-election periods.
2. Ensuring the governing party does not:
 - a. gain unfair electoral advantage, or
 - b. commit successors to significant decisions.
3. Maintaining the impartiality of Officers during a period of potential transition.

Local Government

All councillors have a normal, and legitimate, political predisposition, and there is no reason (without further evidence) for concluding that during a pre-election period this is more likely to lead to a closing of minds than would otherwise be the case (*R (Lewis) v Persimmon Homes Teesside Ltd* [2008] EWCA Civ 746).

Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 recognises the political realities. It states that a decision-maker is not to be taken to have had a closed mind, or been tainted by bias, in making a decision merely because they had previously indicated (directly or indirectly) a view on a matter relevant to that decision.

In essence it is business as usual but with the application of good judgement in controversial matters.

The pre-election Period and Publicity

Local authorities in England and Wales are under a duty to have regard at all times to the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity (the Code) (issued under sections 2 and 4 of the Local Government Act 1986). The latest version of the Code that applies to local authorities in England was published on 31 March 2011.

Paragraph 34 of the Code in England states that, during the period between the notice of an election and the election itself (Dates to be inserted) local authorities should not publish any publicity on controversial issues or report views or proposals in such a way that identifies them with any individual members or groups of members. Unless it is expressly authorised by statute, publicity relating to individuals involved directly in the election should not be published by local authorities during this period although it is permissible for them to publish factual information identifying the names, wards and parties of candidates at elections.