

LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE BRICKHILL ANNUAL PARISH / VILLAGE MEETING - HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THE 10th MAY 2016 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN LITTLE BRICKHILL.

Present:

Cllr G Bushell
Cllr D Lewis
Cllr T Wheaton

In attendance:

Alan Kemp (Parish Clerk)
Cllr D Hopkins (Ward Councillor)
Cllr V Hopkins (Ward Councillor)
PCSO R L Dabnor (TVP)
PCSO M Williams (TVP)
Mrs D Bushell (Resident)
Mr C Roberts (Resident)
Mrs A Packer (Resident)
Mr G Burke (Resident)
Mr P Simpson (Resident)
Mr M Lawless (Resident)
Mr P Bellingham (Resident)
Mr R Stoner (Resident)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr J Moseley & Ward Councillor A Bramall.

2. Election of Chairman.

Cllr. Bushell was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Moseley was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

4. Confirmation of Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr. D Lewis was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

5. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of 12th May 2015.

The minutes of the meeting of 12th May 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

6. To discuss any urgent Parish Council Business.

Three cheques were authorised to the value of £430.55 and details will be recorded in the minutes of the next scheduled Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.

Three planning applications were reviewed as below:

- **16/00651/FUL** - Re-development of land to the rear of a former petrol filling station, including the erection of 6 detached dwellings, access road, hardstanding, boundary treatments and soft landscaping at land to the Rear of Little Brickhill Service Station, Watling Street. Clerk was asked to invite MKC (Planning Officer) and the Agent to attend the next Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.
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- **16/01409/FUL** - Amendment to carports previously approved under application 14/01409/FUL at the former Old Green Man, Watling Street. Clerk handed out copies of the planning documentation and this will be reviewed at the Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.

The following issues were raised by local residents and these will be actioned and discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.

- Lights on the Pedestrian Crossing.
- Trees in Wyness Avenue.

7. To receive report from Thames Valley Police.

PCSO Dabnor and PCSO Williams attended on behalf of Thames Valley Police and presented the crime figures for Little Brickhill covering the period from the 1st April 2015 to the 28th April 2016. There were 18 reported incidents connected with the Village with the details reported below.

- 4 – Drug Offences.
- 2 - Burglary Non Dwelling.
- 12 - Car Crime.

8. To receive the Chairman's Report.

Cllr Bushell gave the following presentation.

There have been several challenges in the last 12 months, some resolved and some remain outstanding.

We were faced with the prospect of losing our village bus but thanks to a strong campaign from everyone involved and especially Cllr. Victoria Hopkins, the X31 will continue to serve the village for the foreseeable future. Indeed, we are also hopeful that MKC will allow an extra bus to serve the village in the future.

We also faced the likely loss of the school bus service to High Ash but once again, after much lobbying, common sense has prevailed and the service will continue.

Cllr. Tim Wheaton, Cllr. David Hopkins and I met with Ed Vaisey, the Minister of State for Culture, Media and Sport regarding High Speed Broadband for our village. He genuinely seemed sympathetic to our cause and we can only hope that the service will be provided sooner rather than later.

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I am pleased that the defibrillator has been installed and who knows, someone's life may just be saved as a result. Thank you to Ward Councillor Alice Bramall for her help in funding the equipment.

Regarding development within the village, the OGM site is well underway and we are waiting for the garage site to commence. We have also been approached by developers regarding the Watson's Oil site to the rear of the garage.

However, we are most concerned about the planning applications at both Eaton Leys and in Bow Brickhill. Either would change our lives for the worse since the local infrastructure simply cannot cope with the proposed increase in population and traffic.

And finally, speeding remains a persistent problem which we are soon to take delivery of a temporary Speed Indicator Device and assuming that the results are positive, the Parish Council will then fund permanent devices in the village.

The Chairman proposed a particular thank you to our Parish Clerk Alan Kemp who has been responsible for steering several successful applications for grants for the improvement of our village.

9. To receive report from Unitary Authority.

Cllr Hopkins gave the following presentation.

I want to cover off some of the recent issues on home to school transport and the X31 bus service, strategic planning (Plan:MK), the Future MK 2050 Commission, East West rail, Broadband and the planned east west highway linking Oxford and Cambridge via MK.

Let's start with the positives. Despite being threatened with losing the home to school transport provision to High Ash the MK Council eventually saw the folly of such a move and decided to retain the status quo. Likewise the threat to end the subsidy which would have seen the X31 not stopping in the village – once again, sense prevailed and my daughter, Cllr Victoria Hopkins is now talking with the operators about extending rather than cutting back bus services in the village.

Parish Chairman Cllr Graham Bushell, Cllr Tim Wheaton and I visited Westminster in April to talk to the Minister with responsibility for broadband, Ed Vaizey MP, about the early provision of superfast broadband to every home in the parish. The meeting was very positive and the Minister promised to lobby BT and the Superfast consortium on our behalf for an early start date to the delivery of this much needed 'utility' asap. We shall see. The picture below shows (from right to left, Iain Stewart our local MP, Cllr Tim Wheaton (LBPC), Ed Vaizey MP (Minister for Broadband), Phil Thomas (on behalf of Bow Brickhill Parish Council), Cllr Graham Bushell (Chair, LBPC) and Cllr David Hopkins.



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Again, on local issues. Yes ... I know about the pot holes and the Parish Clerk and I chase on a weekly basis to get them dealt with. The Borough is also populated with unreadable road signs many of which simply need cleaning and others that need to be replaced. After pressing for a replacement to a sign in Woburn Sands and being told 'sorry no budget', Cllr Victoria Hopkins responded to the highways team – I'll pay for it from my ward allowance. She did and it has been replaced!

Finally, can I offer my thanks to Parish Clerk, Alan Kemp and to your Parish Council members for their hard work and for their sage advice over the past year. Graham's experience and guidance has helped lead us through this challenging period in the village's history. There has been more planning activity in the past twelve months than in the past 12 years! Here's to the next 12 months.

10. To receive the Parish Council's provisional accounts for the Financial Year 2015-16.

Presented by Cllr D Lewis, [for details see appendix 1.](#)

11. To receive report from the Residents' Association.

Tim Wheaton presented the following report on behalf of the Residents Association.

On behalf of the Residents Association he thanked the Ward Councillors for all their hand work in successfully retaining the X31 bus service through the village for the foreseeable future.

The activities planned so far for the village to raise cash for lunches and campaigns are:

- 13th June 2016 – Party for the Queen's 90th Birthday.
- December 2016 - Jenny Wheaton Children's Christmas Party.
- December 2016 - Senior Citizens Lunch.

Following on from the successful Twinning Event held in July 2015 a visit to Italy is being planned later in 2016.

If anybody wants to get involved with the Residents Association, or has any ideas, or issues they think should be taken up - please contact Tim Wheaton on 01525 261000.

A reminder was given for a date when the welcome pack for any new people who move into the village, telling people what's going on, who to contact and when, with a brief history of the village will be completed.

Action: Tim Wheaton.

12. To receive report from the Community Centre Committee.

The report was presented by Denise Bushell on behalf of the Community Centre Committee.

Internal and external decorating together with other items was completed in August 2015 and this has already generated an increase in the number of bookings for the venue.

Grateful thanks were given again to Paul and Teresa Simpson for all their hand work in promoting the Community Centre.

Also all members of the Community Centre Committee were thanked for all their support during the past year.

13. To receive report from the Brickhill Wanderers.

Alison Packer gave the following brief presentation.

- 2015 was a very successful year with record numbers attending organised events.
- A full programme of events has been planned for 2016.
- There is a small charge but the intention is to breakeven.

14. To receive report from St. Mary Magdalene C of E Church / PCC.

Alison Packer presented the report on behalf of the Church.

Like many villages around the country we have, at the heart of our village, an ancient and valuable building. For 6 centuries the church has been cared for and maintained by the Little Brickhill community. The responsibility now falls to the current residents to preserve it for future generations. Whether or not we wish to attend services, the church belongs to all of us and we're sure that no-one would want to see it fall into disuse and decay.

The most recent 5 yearly inspection report detailed quite a number of important and urgent jobs which need to be attended to in and around the church. A major task is substantial repair work to the roof. This work is estimated to cost around £144,000, but we can't know the full extent of the work until the roof is removed and the wooden structure is exposed. We have applied for a grant of £97,000 from the Government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme, but have not as yet heard whether this bid has been successful. We shall be applying for other grants to help with the remaining amount, but a substantial amount will fall to us to be raised within the village. This is only one of a long list of repair and maintenance jobs to be done, let alone our wish to improve the services available in the church, such as running water and a toilet.

An opportunity for the church to receive a regular income of £5 - 6,000 for the next 20 years, was offered to the village when the telecommunications mast, currently at the garage, was to be re-sited. The option to site the mast within the church tower would have meant that it would have been invisible, as well as bringing considerable benefit

to the community in helping with the care of its church building. From our investigations, it is clear that it is inevitable that there will be a replacement mast somewhere around the top of the village. Following the original proposal, the PCC undertook a village-wide survey, asking people to indicate their views about this solution. Nearly 60 people contacted us to register their strong support. It is a matter of great sadness that the Parish Council chose to oppose this installation. To date, no planning permission for any alternative site has yet been applied for, so we remain hopeful that the church option isn't yet completely out of the question. Should this matter arise again, we strongly appeal to the PC to listen to the views of the people of the village and lend their support to this project.

We are, as ever, very grateful to the many people who work hard throughout the year to raise funds to help with the maintenance of the church. Special thanks go to:

- Denise, and everyone who kindly opened their gardens or helped in other ways to make last Summer's Open Gardens event a record breaking success;
- Jo Howard and all who helped to make the Christmas Fayre another great event;
- Denise and everyone who so generously hosts and supports the Coffee Mornings;
- Likewise, Julie and the hosts and supporters of the Ladies that Lunch;

We are extremely grateful to the members of the Friends of St Mary's, a small group of people who assist the PCC with practical support. This past Sunday a team of 19 volunteers came together, in the beautiful sunshine, with trowels, loppers and secateurs, to tidy the church yard. Immense amounts of ivy, nettles and brambles were removed and gravestones which had been lost for decades were once more revealed. Thanks to the organisation of Julie Mayson, we all worked very hard, enjoyed the company and were treated to a great ploughman's lunch as a reward! We're hoping that this might become an annual event.

Looking forward, as this summer isn't an Open Gardens year, we're planning a Little Brickhill Summer Fete on Saturday 15th July in the garden of The Stables, Woburn Road to raise funds for the church. We hope that lots of people will come and enjoy steam train rides, cream teas, stalls and games. Any offers of help or ideas for this, would be very welcome.

The Family Services continue to be popular with a number of the young families and we're always delighted to welcome new people to any of the services.

15. Any other business.

A reminder was made that we do have a Parish Council / Village Website and if anyone has any content to send it to either Paul Simson or Alan Kemp for input.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

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Chairman for Little Brickhill Parish Council

Receipts and payments for year ending 31st March 2016**UN - AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

<u>Payments</u>	2014/15	2015/16	<u>Receipts</u>	2014/15	2015/16
			Precept	£ 8,970.00	£ 9,310.00
Community Centre - Repairs	£ -	£12,480.00	Community Centre		£ 5,160.00
Community Centre - Alarm Service	£ 83.23	£ 83.23	Dividends	£ 20.40	£ 133.09
			MKC - Council Tax Reduction	£ 561.97	£ 341.44
			MKC - Parish Partnership Grant	£ 450.00	£ 5,490.00
Defibrillator Installation		£ 1,267.60	MKC - Grant for Defibrillator	£ 500.00	£ -
			W&WFC	£ -	£ 300.00
Clerk Salary (Including TAX)	£ 2,042.80	£ 2,124.00	Leighton Colts FC	£ 300.00	£ -
Administration	£ 70.48	£ 70.46	Mr Payne (re 1 High View)	£ 150.00	£ 150.00
Associations - BALC	£ 50.56	£ 49.76	WREN (Play Equipment)	£ 12,997.50	£ 11,397.50
Grass Cutting	£ 1,690.00	£ 1,665.00	Barclays Bank (Compensation)	£ 100.00	£ -
Tree Maintenance / Playing Field	£ 70.00	£ 180.00	Donation for use of Watsons Field		£ 40.00
Donation to Great Brickhill Young Clut	£ 250.00	£ -			
Insurance	£ 1,282.61	£ 1,282.69			
Playing Field - Pest Control	£ 240.00	£ 240.00			
Gate Repair - Watsons Field	£ -	£ 290.00			
Website (Hosting Charges - 2yrs)	£ -	£ 164.99			
New Play Equipment	£ 15,680.95	£ 12,997.50			
Internal Notice Board	£ -	£ 60.00			
Bench Repair	£ 500.00	£ -			
MKC - Dog Waste	£ 497.50	£ 406.53			
Audit Fees	£ 120.00	£ 220.00			
VAT	£ 2,771.40	£ 5,563.72	VAT Refund	£ 244.06	£ 5,370.90
Totals	£25,349.53	£39,145.48		£24,293.93	£ 37,692.93

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Tim Wheaton presented the following report on behalf of the Residents Association.

On behalf of the Residents Association he thanked the Ward Councillors for all their hand work in successfully retaining the X31 bus service through the village for the foreseeable future.

The activities planned so far for the village to raise cash for lunches and campaigns are:

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The report was presented by Denise Bushell on behalf of the Community Centre Committee.

Internal and external decorating together with other items was completed in August 2015 and this has already generated an increase in the number of bookings for the venue.

Grateful thanks were given again to Paul and Teresa Simpson for all their hand work in promoting the Community Centre.

Also all members of the Community Centre Committee were thanked for all their support during the past year.

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Alison Packer gave the following brief presentation.

- 2015 was a very successful year with record numbers attending organised events.
- A full programme of events has been planned for 2016.
- There is a small charge but the intention is to breakeven.

14. To receive report from St. Mary Magdalene C of E Church / PCC.

Alison Packer presented the report on behalf of the Church.

Like many villages around the country we have, at the heart of our village, an ancient and valuable building. For 6 centuries the church has been cared for and maintained by the Little Brickhill community. The responsibility now falls to the current residents to preserve it for future generations. Whether or not we wish to attend services, the church belongs to all of us and we're sure that no-one would want to see it fall into disuse and decay.

The most recent 5 yearly inspection report detailed quite a number of important and urgent jobs which need to be attended to in and around the church. A major task is substantial repair work to the roof. This work is estimated to cost around £144,000, but we can't know the full extent of the work until the roof is removed and the wooden structure is exposed. We have applied for a grant of £97,000 from the Government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme, but have not as yet heard whether this bid has been successful. We shall be applying for other grants to help with the remaining amount, but a substantial amount will fall to us to be raised within the village. This is only one of a long list of repair and maintenance jobs to be done, let alone our wish to improve the services available in the church, such as running water and a toilet.

An opportunity for the church to receive a regular income of £5 - 6,000 for the next 20 years, was offered to the village when the telecommunications mast, currently at the garage, was to be re-sited. The option to site the mast within the church tower would have meant that it would have been invisible, as well as bringing considerable benefit

to the community in helping with the care of its church building. From our investigations, it is clear that it is inevitable that there will be a replacement mast somewhere around the top of the village. Following the original proposal, the PCC undertook a village-wide survey, asking people to indicate their views about this solution. Nearly 60 people contacted us to register their strong support. It is a matter of great sadness that the Parish Council chose to oppose this installation. To date, no planning permission for any alternative site has yet been applied for, so we remain hopeful that the church option isn't yet completely out of the question. Should this matter arise again, we strongly appeal to the PC to listen to the views of the people of the village and lend their support to this project.

We are, as ever, very grateful to the many people who work hard throughout the year to raise funds to help with the maintenance of the church. Special thanks go to:

- Denise, and everyone who kindly opened their gardens or helped in other ways to make last Summer's Open Gardens event a record breaking success;
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Looking forward, as this summer isn't an Open Gardens year, we're planning a Little Brickhill Summer Fete on Saturday 15th July in the garden of The Stables, Woburn Road to raise funds for the church. We hope that lots of people will come and enjoy steam train rides, cream teas, stalls and games. Any offers of help or ideas for this, would be very welcome.

The Family Services continue to be popular with a number of the young families and we're always delighted to welcome new people to any of the services.

15. Any other business.

A reminder was made that we do have a Parish Council / Village Website and if anyone has any content to send it to either Paul Simson or Alan Kemp for input.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

.....
Chairman for Little Brickhill Parish Council

Receipts and payments for year ending 31st March 2016**UN - AUDITED ACCOUNTS**

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LITTLE BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LITTLE BRICKHILL ANNUAL PARISH / VILLAGE MEETING - HELD AT 7.30 PM ON THE 10th MAY 2016 IN THE COMMUNITY CENTRE IN LITTLE BRICKHILL.

Present:

Cllr G Bushell
Cllr D Lewis
Cllr T Wheaton

In attendance:

Alan Kemp (Parish Clerk)
Cllr D Hopkins (Ward Councillor)
Cllr V Hopkins (Ward Councillor)
PCSO R L Dabnor (TVP)
PCSO M Williams (TVP)
Mrs D Bushell (Resident)
Mr C Roberts (Resident)
Mrs A Packer (Resident)
Mr G Burke (Resident)
Mr P Simpson (Resident)
Mr M Lawless (Resident)
Mr P Bellingham (Resident)
Mr R Stoner (Resident)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr J Moseley & Ward Councillor A Bramall.

2. Election of Chairman.

Cllr. Bushell was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

3. Election of Vice-Chairman.

Cllr. Moseley was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

4. Confirmation of Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr. D Lewis was proposed, seconded and unanimously elected.

5. To approve the minutes of the last meeting of 12th May 2015.

The minutes of the meeting of 12th May 2015 were approved and signed as a true record.

6. To discuss any urgent Parish Council Business.

Three cheques were authorised to the value of £430.55 and details will be recorded in the minutes of the next scheduled Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.

Three planning applications were reviewed as below:

- **16/00651/FUL** - Re-development of land to the rear of a former petrol filling station, including the erection of 6 detached dwellings, access road, hardstanding, boundary treatments and soft landscaping at land to the Rear of Little Brickhill Service Station, Watling Street. Clerk was asked to invite MKC (Planning Officer) and the Agent to attend the next Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.
- **16/01055/FUL** - First floor extension over existing garage and two storey side extension including demolition of the front wall of the garage at 9 Brickhill Manor Court, Little Brickhill. Concerns were raised by a local resident and the Parish Chairman agreed to visit the site as soon as possible. Clerk was also asked to ascertain from MKC the latest date for comments to be made on this planning application.
- **16/01409/FUL** - Amendment to carports previously approved under application 14/01409/FUL at the former Old Green Man, Watling Street. Clerk handed out copies of the planning documentation and this will be reviewed at the Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.

The following issues were raised by local residents and these will be actioned and discussed at the next Parish Council meeting on the 6th June 2016.

- Lights on the Pedestrian Crossing.
- Trees in Wyness Avenue.

7. To receive report from Thames Valley Police.

PCSO Dabnor and PCSO Williams attended on behalf of Thames Valley Police and presented the crime figures for Little Brickhill covering the period from the 1st April 2015 to the 28th April 2016. There were 18 reported incidents connected with the Village with the details reported below.

- 4 – Drug Offences.
- 2 - Burglary Non Dwelling.
- 12 - Car Crime.

8. To receive the Chairman's Report.

Cllr Bushell gave the following presentation.

There have been several challenges in the last 12 months, some resolved and some remain outstanding.

We were faced with the prospect of losing our village bus but thanks to a strong campaign from everyone involved and especially Cllr. Victoria Hopkins, the X31 will continue to serve the village for the foreseeable future. Indeed, we are also hopeful that MKC will allow an extra bus to serve the village in the future.

We also faced the likely loss of the school bus service to High Ash but once again, after much lobbying, common sense has prevailed and the service will continue.

Cllr. Tim Wheaton, Cllr. David Hopkins and I met with Ed Vaisey, the Minister of State for Culture, Media and Sport regarding High Speed Broadband for our village. He genuinely seemed sympathetic to our cause and we can only hope that the service will be provided sooner rather than later.

We have continuing domestic issues like dog bins, hedge cutting etc. and our villagers may remain assured that we are on the case whilst we do appreciate that MKC is under severe financial pressures.

I am pleased that the defibrillator has been installed and who knows, someone's life may just be saved as a result. Thank you to Ward Councillor Alice Bramall for her help in funding the equipment.

Regarding development within the village, the OGM site is well underway and we are waiting for the garage site to commence. We have also been approached by developers regarding the Watson's Oil site to the rear of the garage.

However, we are most concerned about the planning applications at both Eaton Leys and in Bow Brickhill. Either would change our lives for the worse since the local infrastructure simply cannot cope with the proposed increase in population and traffic.

And finally, speeding remains a persistent problem which we are soon to take delivery of a temporary Speed Indicator Device and assuming that the results are positive, the Parish Council will then fund permanent devices in the village.

The Chairman proposed a particular thank you to our Parish Clerk Alan Kemp who has been responsible for steering several successful applications for grants for the improvement of our village.

9. To receive report from Unitary Authority.

Cllr Hopkins gave the following presentation.

I want to cover off some of the recent issues on home to school transport and the X31 bus service, strategic planning (Plan:MK), the Future MK 2050 Commission, East West rail, Broadband and the planned east west highway linking Oxford and Cambridge via MK.

Let's start with the positives. Despite being threatened with losing the home to school transport provision to High Ash the MK Council eventually saw the folly of such a move and decided to retain the status quo. Likewise the threat to end the subsidy which would have seen the X31 not stopping in the village – once again, sense prevailed and my daughter, Cllr Victoria Hopkins is now talking with the operators about extending rather than cutting back bus services in the village.

Parish Chairman Cllr Graham Bushell, Cllr Tim Wheaton and I visited Westminster in April to talk to the Minister with responsibility for broadband, Ed Vaizey MP, about the early provision of superfast broadband to every home in the parish. The meeting was very positive and the Minister promised to lobby BT and the Superfast consortium on our behalf for an early start date to the delivery of this much needed 'utility' asap. We shall see. The picture below shows (from right to left, Iain Stewart our local MP, Cllr Tim Wheaton (LBPC), Ed Vaizey MP (Minister for Broadband), Phil Thomas (on behalf of Bow Brickhill Parish Council), Cllr Graham Bushell (Chair, LBPC) and Cllr David Hopkins.



People often ask me how MK, one of the fastest growing parts of the UK with over 20,000 dwellings yet to be built but which enjoy outline, detailed or assumed planning permission, can still have fallen foul of a Planning Inspectors decision (the Frosts, Wain Close decision in Wavendon) that means that technically we fail to meet our 5 year land supply figures as defined by the governments National Planning Policy Framework criteria. It's all down to what the government define as deliverability of sites. Let me try to explain using a couple of examples.

The so called Strategic Land Allocation area in Wavendon has the potential to deliver around 3000 new homes and has planning permission. However, it was first defined in 2004 and yet here we are, 12 years later with not a single house built, road built or sewer pipe laid! However the exception is the most recent site given permission (the former Sibley Haulage site on Lower End Road in Wavendon) where the first or around 35 dwellings will be built and people will have moved in before the end of the year. In effect, deliverable and quoted in the annual figures. Likewise the Blind Pond Farm site in Bow Brickhill.

However, because MK Council has to depend upon actual house completions annually and the reports back from the developers, we are actually delivering around 1200 dwellings per year against a local plan target of 1750. Thus we are actually not delivering (according to the government's criteria) against our 5 year NPPF target and thus we compound the shortfall. Thus developers place speculative applications on the basis that they will be built out (delivered) within a certain time period and, at the moment that trumps local plan land designations and Neighbourhood Plans (where they are present).

To overcome this the Council has to complete a revised Site Allocations Process (a document that identifies sites that will meet any 5 year land supply shortfall) but that has to follow a process and will not be 'made' until July 2017. Thus there is a window of opportunity and MK Council planning department is dealing with a number of 30+ dwelling schemes on land that normally would not be agreed to but which (assuming basic sustainability criteria are met) it has little choice other than to recommend for approval.

Despite this I can report that work is now underway on the SLA's and I would hope to see infrastructure and homes coming through this year!

To compound all of this MK Council is also required to review its local plan (known as the Core Strategy), identify more sites for urban extensions of the city for beyond 2026 and develop Plan:MK . Four sets of options for growth were consulted upon earlier this year and a 'preferred option' will be published later in the year again for further consultation.... And all of this without being to even consider the planned homes in Salden Chase and Eaton Leys, most of which would be in Aylesbury Vale and thus which don't count towards the MK housing totals – although future occupiers will look to MK to provide the services!

A Future MK 2050 Commission has also been charged with looking into devising a Vision for MK to 2050. There is a meeting set for 25 May 2016 at the Pavilion in Bow Brickhill starting at 7pm and I would urge as many of you as possible to attend and contribute to what I am certain will be a lively debate. The commission is set to report in July and the outcome of the work will have some considerable bearing on the direction of growth and growth figures in the next stage of the aforementioned Plan:MK.

Now then, East West rail – a topic in my report to the villages every year since I was first elected as the Danesborough ward member in 1990!

You may recall that the anticipated start of the Bedford to Oxford link was put back from 2019 to (possibly) 2022 following a review of all its 27 national projects by Network Rail. Network Rail report that it anticipates submitting a formal planning application for the footbridge at the school crossing (probably in August or September) and that it is talking to MK Council about constructing a third lane over the road crossing to deal with traffic heading north and queuing to turn right into Cranfield Road to ease congestion. A route for the east west link east of Bedford (to Cambridge) has been selected so this remains very much a live project.

The government has also commissioned work looking at the construction of an expressway (a road expressway) linking Oxford and Cambridge via MK and Bedford. Some parts of this route exist (e.g. the A421 from J13 to The Black Cat Roundabout on the A1) but the consultants commissioned to undertake the review is due to come forward with a proposed route in or around MK later in the year.

Now to more parochial highways matters. The construction of the M1 / A5 link in Central Bedfordshire will be completed early in 2017 and will hopefully mean that a number of roads will be reclassified 'B class road' with a 7.5 tonne weight limit and a 30 MPH speed limit through all the built up areas. Details later in the year including agreements with Central Bedfordshire on the banning of HGV traffic on routes linking MK and the Central Beds Council area, including those through and around the village.

Again, on local issues. Yes ... I know about the pot holes and the Parish Clerk and I chase on a weekly basis to get them dealt with. The Borough is also populated with unreadable road signs many of which simply need cleaning and others that need to be replaced. After pressing for a replacement to a sign in Woburn Sands and being told 'sorry no budget', Cllr Victoria Hopkins responded to the highways team – I'll pay for it from my ward allowance. She did and it has been replaced!

Finally, can I offer my thanks to Parish Clerk, Alan Kemp and to your Parish Council members for their hard work and for their sage advice over the past year. Graham's experience and guidance has helped lead us through this challenging period in the village's history. There has been more planning activity in the past twelve months than in the past 12 years! Here's to the next 12 months.

10. To receive the Parish Council's provisional accounts for the Financial Year 2015-16.

Presented by Cllr D Lewis, [for details see appendix 1.](#)

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