



STANTONBURY
PARISH
COUNCIL

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Chairman's Report 2017-2018

Introduction:

The predominate thread that joins the work of the Parish Council throughout the year is that of change.

We have faced a number of challenges that have required a response in the form of changes both in the direction of the Parish Council and the structure of the Parish office.

It has been and still is, a period of uncertainty for the residents within the North Bradville regeneration areas. This major fact together with the feedback comments on the Neighbourhood Plan and the proposed devolution of Milton Keynes Council services have shaped the future of the Parish Council and its representation of the parishioners.

Set out below are notes related to these influences and other matters over that last year.

As ever we are keen for Parishioners to contact us regarding any matter within the Parish and contact information is appended for your use.

Changes to the Parish Office.

We introduced two new members of staff to the Parish office namely Mrs Helen Sharp who is the Office Manager and Mr Lee Shuttlewood the Parish Ranger.

This change in organisation structure was necessary because the demands on the Parish Clerk (Mrs Helen Mortimer) were such that it was becoming an almost impossible juggling act to manage her legal obligations as the Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and all the other activities of the Parish. We have previously focused on the role of Lee in the Parish magazine and to date his work is proving very valuable around and about the Parish. Hopefully you will continue to approach him regarding issues that we can address.

At the end of this report is the new Parish Council organisation chart showing the reporting lines within the Parish and the roles and responsibilities each of the Councillors have. Also included is a summary of both ward and Councillor participation in meetings.

Regrettably this year saw many Councillors with illness and it is a credit to all, that the enormous workloads this year has been successfully carried through.

Regrettably we accepted the resignation from our Vice Chair Richard Wilde which left us with two vacancies, one for Bancroft and the other for Oakridge Park.

After months of advertising we have finally co-opted two new Councillors. Marie Farmer is the new Councillor for Oakridge Park and Malcolm Millen is the new Councillor for Bancroft, we would like to welcome them both to the Council.

North Bradville Regeneration

The Parish Council have spoken throughout the year with many residents regarding “regeneration”. We understand the almost debilitating effect the uncertainty and the lack of information is having on the community. The Council have met with YourMK a number of times and latterly with the architects HTA with a view to working with them so that a common message is provided to all the affected residents. We have been assured that “regeneration” does not mean demolition and whatever the outcome of their consultation their proposals will be subject to a local referendum to accept or reject them. We have made clear to them, during our meetings, the dissatisfaction that many of you had with the “property survey” process, your suspicions and distrust in the process and Milton Keynes Council. That stated, it is clear from our meetings that no plans currently exist and resident input is their primary goal. Parish Council will continue to liaise with them throughout the process.

Commercial interests within the Parish.

Rowel Close

I’m pleased to report that the Parish Council has met with the freehold owner and land owner of Rowel Close. The maisonette freehold is owned by MK Nominees and the surrounding land (green space) by Taylor Wimpey. It is proposed, subject to agreement with the garage owners, to demolish the garages and replace them with a small housing development (not flats). To alleviate the parking problems along Ormond and Redbridge they propose a revised parking structure by introducing 160 formal parking bays. Our own surveys of parked cars suggest this number of bays should remove most if not all the current on street parking. This proposed development will of course be subject to formal planning application in the near future.

Ultra-high-speed broadband

The Milton Keynes Council initiative to work with City Fibre to install fibre optic cables to the all homes in Milton Keynes is currently being piloted in Bradville, Bancroft and Bancroft Park. Stantonbury will be the next estate within the estate. Phase one commenced in March and will spread across Milton Keynes. Other parts of the Parish will be included as time progresses. The cable from point of use to the city fibre network will be provided by Vodafone. The parish have met City Fibre and Vodafone and would welcome feedback from residents as this develops.

Aldi

In March we met with Aldi and the Griffin Trust (Stantonbury Campus). Subject to planning permission Aldi will take over the Stantonbury Shops complex which will be demolished and a new Aldi store constructed. The Parish Council supports this proposal. We have advised Aldi that the Gable wall mural which is of significantly important local interest and needs to be protected and re-erected elsewhere. Our understanding is that they will discuss with the Griffin Trust with a view to re-erecting this within the campus grounds. The store will be accessible by pedestrians and

provision of 100+ parking spaces will be available. It is hoped to open the store in 2019.

Electric vehicle charging points.

Most recently the Council met with The Milton Keynes ECV experience Centre with a view to taking up the government offer of electric charging stations at no cost to the Parish. We have therefore applied initially for points at Milton Keynes Council car parks adjacent to the Parish offices. Will be pursuing Resident and commercial premises on street charging points after consultation with those residents who identify a need.

Grants.

This year the Parish Council awarded grants to the following organisations for the sums noted. I believe these grants have helped develop community relations.

Bancroft Parent & Toddler Group	21.03.17	£150.00
Heron Lodge Sheltered Scheme	31.03.17	£600.00
Christ Church, Stantonbury Under 5's Group	03.04.17	£600.00
Roman Park Residents Over 50's Group	15.05.17	£250.00
MIKMA (Milton Keynes Malayalee Association)	06.09.17	£0.00
Roman Park Residents Club	07.09.17	£1,000.00
Bancroft Preschool	29.09.17	£469.98
Mountain Rangers	02.10.17	£1,000.00
Rainbow Children Centre	18.10.17	£250.00
Wood End School	23.10.17	£1,000.00
Stanton School	13.11.17	£0.00
Milton Keynes City Discovery Centre	14.11.17	£1,000.00
Squirrels Children's Centre	15.01.18	£1,000.00
Heron's Lodge Sheltered Housing Scheme	24.01.18	£400.00
MK Moles Bowls Club	01.02.18	£200.00
Bradville Bloomers	16.2.18	£259.40

I would like to focus on the work of the Citizens Advice Bureaux which is funded for the use of residents. This is our second year of funding and during this time 116 Parish residents have been provided with support at surgeries held once a week.

Dog Poo Bins.

Dog fouling continues to be a major blight on our community We have provided a further 2 dog poo bins bringing the total to 39 within the Parish. The cost of weekly emptying of the bins is now a significant budget figure. The Parish Ranger has liaised with Milton Keynes Council and the oncoming year will see a crackdown on dog owners who do not clear up after their dogs with on the spot fines.

Parish Council sponsored community events.

2017 saw the 50th Birthday Celebrations for Milton Keynes and accordingly we held a larger than normal Party in the Park event. This year all the children's rides and entertainment were free. We were pleased to see several hundred people at the event that was enjoyed by all those that came along.

In addition to the above we arranged for 5 coach trips for senior residents and families to

- 1 - Seniors Bury St Edmunds - June
- 1 – Summer Cotswold Wildlife Park - July
- 1- Summer Southend beach – August
- 1 – Autumn Barnsdale Gardens - September
- 1 – Christmas Nottingham -November

Again, several hundred people took up places on these trips which remain a popular feature of Parish work.

The Parish Council sponsored annual firework display was held at Loughton Valley Park on 5th November and again was very well attended.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Neighbourhood Plan has reach a significant mile stone in its development and when the public consultation ends a revised document will be submitted for Planning Inspectorate approval, leading to our referendum. Over 144 comments were received at the events held around the Parish and I would like to thank all those that came along and shared their views with us.

Speeding

Speeding, especially late in the evening or early hours is a persistent issue the Parish Council take very seriously. To counter this trend the Council have invested in a Speed Indicator Device which will be moved randomly around the Parish. Data collected from the device is provided to Thames Valley Police for further action.

Parking

By far the greatest complaint within the Parish is Parking. Our newsletters generally carry comment on this issue. We have met with Milton Keynes Council and options are available to improve the situation. Throughout the oncoming year residents will be invited for their views. We will address parking issues essentially on a road by road basis.

Devolved Services

Through the year the Council met with Milton Keynes Council to try and agree of transfer of services. The current proposed framework of transfer is not favourable to this Parish and we are waiting to see how this frame work will be changed and offered to Parish Councils. The increase in precept for this and last year to cover any transfer of service has been set aside in our accounts away from other expenditure and is used to fund the Parish Ranger who is undertaking low level maintenance around the Parish.

Public Participation at meetings.

Attending our council meetings is a good way to see how the council operates and the business that it discusses. Members of the public are always welcome to our meetings and can ask questions in relation to any item on the agenda.

With the new Council year upon us, we hope that this will be a good one, with new challenges, successes and achievements. As always, we will make it our priority to continue delivering our services to you in the most efficient and professional way possible and we will aim to accomplish the best for all communities in the Parish.

Signed



Dated 11.05.2018

Cllr Graham A Davison
Chairman for Stantonbury Parish Council