

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

ISSUE 08

SPRING 2024



Parish Council Report - March 2024

The Parish Council have obtained the following update from Milton Keynes City Council on the tragic incident on the A5 slip road on the 16 November 2023

- The Coroner took the unusual step of issuing a Regulation 28 letter asking the relevant authorities to consider immediate action to address identified safety concerns – and we think this was at the behest of Thames Valley Police.
- MKCC has replied to the Coroner factually, indicating the Council's limited responsibilities for signage in the area, and that the signs highlighted in the Coroner's report are the responsibility of National Highways. The Council's response was provided to the Coroner in mid-January 2024, but I understand that National Highways have only just submitted their response – which I have not yet seen.
- In advance of the actual hearing, which is due in early March 2024, I don't think there's a lot else we can say, other than we will fully co-operate with any actions on the Council arising from the recommendations from the inquest, although I suspect these actions will fall upon National Highways to implement.

Progress on the introduction of 20 MPH Zones for Watling Street and Great Brickhill Lane

- Milton Keynes City Council have advised the Parish Council that they will be working on a design proposal for the scheme in the coming months and looking to consult on the scheme in Summer 2024.

Home to School Transport

- Not the news we wanted. We started a year ago regarding MKCC subsidising or providing transport to schools other than Sir Herbert Leon Academy. This meant meetings, phone calls, letters and email after email.
- We had support from Iain Stewart MP, the support of David Hopkins Ward Councillor, both of whom agreed with the fact that MKCC, Bucks CC and the schools and academies had not followed the Statutory guidelines from the government.
- The advice from the MP's office was to raise it with the Ombudsman as they are the final arbiters on matters such as these.
- Unfortunately, the Ombudsman didn't agree and would not take up our case.
- Cllr T Wheaton stated that this should be the end, but he does not like losing (especially when we're right). He will send an email to Gillian Keegan MP who is the Secretary of State for Education.
- Other options are to try the press and the news. When schools offer children places at schools, he thinks it's important every parent/guardian should ask the school - will you be able to get my children to your school?

Roundacre Field - Following suggestions from residents the Parish Council submitted a grant application to the National Lottery for the facility to be used by the Community and Dog Walkers. This included a new fence / gate as you enter the field from Great Brickhill Lane, commemorative benches, shrub clearance and tree pruning.

The Parish Council have received the following disappointing response.

Your application for funding

- We cannot take your application any further. We'd like to help you understand why.

Why we cannot fund your project

- We have received a large number of applications and cannot fund them all within our available budget. Such is the demand for our funding that we are unable to fund your project, as it does not address our funding priorities as strongly as other applications. While we understand the benefits of your idea, other applications have more strongly demonstrated how their project would help people to address the challenges they experience.

Advice moving forward.

- The National Lottery team have provided advice on how we could improve the chances of obtaining a grant in the future. We will try again.

Grateful thanks to Cllr Tim Wheaton for all the hard work undertaken on this topic.

Ex Playground on Wyness Avenue

- The Parish Council have ordered, and had delivered a seat, carved with memories of Doreen Adcock MBE. Thanks to Cllr Emma Priestley for leading on this initiative and family for arranging its installation.



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: **4th March 2024** • **8th April 2024** • **May 2024 TBA**

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

PARISH CLERK

Alan Kemp

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LITTLE BRICKHILL COUNCILLORS

CHAIRMAN - Councillor Dave Lewis

VICE-CHAIRMAN - Councillor Tim Wheaton

Councillor Keith Morgan

Councillor Emma Priestley

Councillor Lee Walker

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

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

FINAL COPY DATE: 12th May 2024
- anything received after this date may not be accepted.

MK 2050 Local Plan

Milton Keynes Council has published a list of potential next stage development sites for further expansion in its proposed MK 2050 local plan. This even before a single brick has been laid in the so-called Southeast Milton Keynes urban expansion area!

Growth Option 'name'	Estimated Capacity (homes)	Development type	Early considerations
SEMK southern extensions	580	Residential led	Piecemeal separated additions to a comprehensively planned site – integration with SEMK via vis buffers and lower density in SEMK Landscape likely to be sensitive (Landscape work still to report)
Land south of Bow Brickhill	1,850-2,500	Residential led	Landscape likely to be sensitive (Landscape work still to report) Impact of EWR?
Levante Gate, land south of A5 McDonalds Roundabout	450-600	Residential led. Employment allocation	Landscape likely to be sensitive (Landscape work still to report) Impact of EWR?
Land south of Bow Brickhill & Levante Gate, land south of A5 McDonalds Roundabout COMBINED	2,300-3,100	Residential led. Employment allocation	Landscape likely to be sensitive (Landscape work still to report) Impact of EWR?
Rural Village - Little Brickhill	85-265 @ 30 dwellings ph	Residential	

The long list of sites is outlined below and there will be a formal consultation held in the summer and I will keep you informed as to how you can respond when details appear.

I have received agreement from MKCC that 'In Greensand Country' signs can be added to Little Brickhill entrance signs, and they will be installed as soon as possible.

An update as well on the tragic accident on the A5 Slip Road. Milton Keynes City Council has responded to the Regulation 28 Report (Report to prevent future deaths) on 21 December 2023 with a deadline set of 14 February 2024.

MKCC maintains that the slip road, its junction with the local road, and the signage and road markings at the end of the slip road are part of the National Highways asset and they are therefore the responsible highway authority.

In due course, copies of the letter that has been sent by MK City Council, along with the response from Highways England will be published in full by MKCC. I expect that might happen towards the end of March, but I cannot be certain.

<https://www.judiciary.uk/prevention-of-future-death-reports/amal-ahmed-prevention-of-future-deaths-report/>

Following my successful intervention last year to replace the play area on Wyness Avenue I have now persuade MK City Council to undertake much need pollarding works on the tree at that location, taking about 30% of the weight out of the tree and ensuring its safety. MK City Council has installed no Overnight HGV parking signs on parts of Watling Street, and it has agreed to my request for a Grit Bin to be located (later in the next financial year) at Eversden Close. They are also examining a request for a 7.5 tonne weight limit in the village.



Cllr David Hopkins

Representing Little Brickhill at MKCC

An introduction to Greensand Country

Greensand Country is defined by the Greensand Ridge, a band of higher ground stretching from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, which rises out of the surrounding vales to create a locally unique environment. The area contains rare heathland and grassland habitats, ancient woodland and 29 historic parklands.

The Greensand Country Landscape Partnership (GCLP) supports initiatives to protect, preserve and promote our local landscape and its unique heritage, wildlife and culture. With our partners, including the Greensand Trust, Milton Keynes Council, the RSPB, Wildlife Trust and the Shuttleworth Trust, we aim to make it even easier for all members of our local communities to experience and enjoy Greensand Country.

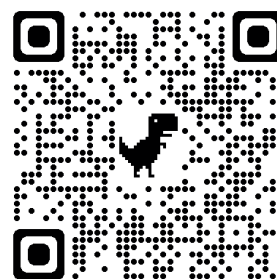
We run projects to improve local communities' interaction with the countryside, boosting their physical and wellbeing as well as their understanding and appreciation of their local environment. This has included a pilot project to add QR code markers to public footpaths along fields, giving information on what is growing and what is being done to promote biodiversity.

We also community history research and recording projects and support local businesses with a free marketing and promotion scheme.

A drone film and leaflet with information on how to explore the habitats and heritage of Greensand Country can be found at www.greensandcountry.com, with an interactive map of walking, cycling and riding routes, and local events, activities and attractions.

The Greensand Country Festival is taking place throughout May! Take a look at our online event diary for walks, talks, and activities taking place near you.

Scan the QR code to watch our drone film.



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For more information please contact

Steve on 07308 300793
eatonbraydairy@gmail.com
www.eatonbraydairy.co.uk

Village Litter Pick

Litter continues to be an issue for us in Little Brickhill. Dennis & Josie and Steve are regularly seen out and about with their litter pickers and bin bags helping to keep on top of it.

The LBRA organised a group Litter Pick to target some of the problem areas identified by Dennis & Josie. Thank you to all the volunteers who turned out to help on a Saturday morning.



Protection for the Greensand Ridge around Little Brickhill

I have been calling for a reinstatement of the protective status Area of Attractive Landscape (AAL) for the Greensand Ridge areas and its surrounds on and adjoining Bow Brickhill, Little Brickhill and Woburn Sands.

I would hope that a return to this status, or an even stronger set of powers, can be agreed as part of the current review of the New City Local Plan, which will dictate planning in and around Milton Keynes until 2050.

Historically, Milton Keynes enjoyed the relative protection for the environment provided by two Areas of Attractive Landscape one for the Brickhill's and one for the Ouse Valley but the last AAL designation for both areas appeared in the 2005 Local Plan (the Local Plan to 2015). The current Local Plan, Plan:MK 2050, has no designated AAL's as MKCC moved into a criteria-based approach for landscape protection in its most recent and current Plan: MK. Within the current Local Plan (Plan:MK) , the AAL area does not apply to the countryside in and around Little Brickhill and the neighbouring areas in Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands nor to areas within the Ouse Valley. Settlements such as the villages of Bow and Little Brickhill village and the town of Woburn Sands are not currently included with any form of landscape protection – clearly unacceptable. Thus, I have been lobbying to see a return to, and an extension of, the 2005 policy to protect the integrity and visual importance of the ridge together with land that immediately surrounds it. I am seeking to strengthen such a designation under a review and renewal of what is known as Policy S11 by

returning to and extending the scope of the protection via changes currently being discussed to the new Plan for MK.

MK City Council has rather quietly commissioned a study which is currently being carried out into the New City Plan (NCP) by Land Use Consultants. This study will be considering refreshing landscape designations in the new plan and will report back on the opportunities to consider designating new or refined AALs, having first considered the Landscape Character Types identified in the MKCC commissioned Landscape Character Study of 2022.

I have requested an extension of the planned series of workshops to involve the local community at large in this debate and to provide detail to the background and aims of the study as well as to provide guidance to local residents and environmental groups as to just how to submit views regarding the protection of much loved naturally landscape areas, including the Greensand Ridge as it passes through MK. I have asked for information on just what people need to do to ensure areas such as the Brickhill's are seriously considered for this highest level of designation.

In addition, I have requested that consideration be given as to whether the designation could be strengthened to a SANGs (Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace) to provide more resilience and commitment to the natural environment, or might it be even better to go for Special Area of Conservation (SAC) status? Such a designation protects, for example, Ashridge and area that shares many similarities and characteristics with the village.

Cllr David Hopkins

Representing Little Brickhill at MKCC

LBRA 100 CLUB

A huge thank you to all those residents who signed up and supported us last year.

The 100 Club raised just under £3000 with over £800 being given out in prize money.

Peter Kerr got a lovely Christmas present when he won our £100 Bonus Ball prize.

The Residents' Association has been able to put these funds towards the village's various social events such as the Carnival Fun day, the Young at Heart Christmas Lunch, the Jenny Wheaton Children's Christmas party and some will have seen some new lovely Christmas decorations in the village hall. Even more events are being planned for this year, so keep a look out for the notices.

May is the last draw for this first year of the 100 Club and will be inviting our existing members to renew and support us again. We do have some spare numbers so if any new residents or existing villagers would like to join, please contact Diane Priestley on 01525 261016 or Anne Motson on 01525 643580.





Little Brickhill



Residents' Association Christmas 2023

The Little Brickhill Residents' Association would like to thank you for the continued support over the Christmas season, we had a very busy month with lots of events raising money for our lovely village and future events.



The first event to kick off our festive season was the Christmas Fayre raising much needed funds for our beautiful church, we had a wonderful turn out despite the miserable weather.

We then had a sellout on the popular wreath making evening. Jeanette Flowers from Newport Pagnell, came to the village hall and taught us all how to make the perfect Christmas wreath for our front doors.





The Young at Heart Christmas lunch, hosted at The George was a huge success bringing people together, everyone enjoyed home made Crackers, a raffle and one of Jack's famous quizzes.



We had a lovely visit from Santa and his naughty elf, spreading the festive cheer on the evening of the 14th December. Although not in his normal mode of transport, it was lovely seeing so many people come out and support the evening. A big thank you to all who volunteered on the night! The amazing sum of £316 was raised for future village events.



"The Jenny Wheaton Children's Party is my favourite Party of the year. We had a great time doing dance moves with Louise including limbo.

Every child received a Christmas lunch box with lots of goodies and then we went into the grotto to see Santa, where he gave us all a early Christmas present for being good."

Logan aged 8



We hope that you all enjoyed the Festive events as much as we, 'The Little Brickhill Resident's Association' did. We look forward to seeing you all again soon at future events that will be planned for 2024.

Alison & David Packer Leaving Party

On Saturday afternoon, 6th January 2024, many of the villagers of Little Brickhill joined David and Alison Packer at the Village Hall for an afternoon tea party where their close friends organised a wonderful send off before they move away to new beginnings in Hampshire.

One of their friends also secretly organised the Grand Union Community Choir to come and perform some songs to make the afternoon extra special. They have been part of this choir for the last fifteen years, so it was especially heartfelt to be able to join in with their performance. They were also presented with a wonderful leaving gift of a painting of our parish church, St Mary Magdalene.

The gathering of friends and neighbours reminded us that Alison and David have been part of our village for nearly twenty years and have brought so much to our close-knit community. A short while after they moved in, they both joined the Residents' Association as they hadn't lived in a village before and they thought it would be a good way of meeting new people. It wasn't long before Alison was then Chairing the RA and following that she joined the Parish Council where she subsequently became Chair for about three years.



She then followed on from this position to Church Warden until the present time. She has achieved all this whilst still being on the Board of Governors at a local school.

David has always been her support in all her duties and has been involved in all the village events, putting up marquees and generally being the backbone of the community. He also was the Chair of the Gardeners' Club which had an Annual Show for many years and was a very popular event. One of David's most memorable achievements is the amazing railway he took three years planning and constructing in their garden. As a Railway Engineer he had the perfect credentials! They will always cherish the memories of giving train rides to the village children and visitors at Open Gardens weekends.

They will shortly be moving away to Hampshire where they will begin a new project on their next home but I'm sure we will all look forward to welcoming them back when they come to visit!



Little Brickhill Church

Christmas

The Christmas season in the village offered, as ever, some lovely opportunities to meet friends and neighbours and enjoy the celebrations together. The Fayre was another great success, and the weather wasn't too wet! The great Residents' Association team did a super job, raising just over £1,400 for the church.

The Carol Service was well attended, with the church very nearly full. Our children and young people, along with their parents' support, did a lovely job of presenting the Nativity. Having organised the Carol Service for the last 14 years, this was a particularly poignant service for us. We've always ensured that the children played a major role in the Carol Services, and we hope that some of the parents will pick this up in future years.

Church management and maintenance

With our departure from the village, several of the key roles in church management were vacated at the beginning of 2024. Despite many months of appealing to the village, we still have no Church Warden or Treasurer. However, we now have a strong PCC who, working together as a team, are well placed to run the church. They will need all the support the village can give them.

We have appointed a qualified and experienced bookkeeper to handle the church's day-to-day accounting systems, but the PCC must have a Treasurer to keep an overview and advise the PCC on its financial affairs. Please do get in touch with the PCC members at littlebrickhillpcc@gmail.com if you feel you could help in any way.

Little Brickhill Book Club

After the original village Book Club having to come to a pause during Covid, I thought as a new resident to the village, that it was a good time to try and re-start another group. I had already joined the Residents' Association but decided it would also be another way to meet people of all ages in the village. We had our first meeting last March, 2023. As we had such a large interest in the Club, it was suggested that we could split the meetings into two groups, an evening and an afternoon group. We have been very lucky that The George have looked after us very well; in fact, in the summer, we took full advantage of sitting outside under the conservatory canopy which was very civilised!

The Priestley Family has now taken over the general maintenance of the church and churchyard. Colin is a recently retired builder and their son, Dean, is the Site Agent at High Ash, so they have a wealth of experience and useful contacts behind them. In due course they will, no doubt, be asking for help with tasks around the church and we do hope that they'll get lots of support. In particular, the annual Weed and Feed day, when people are invited to form a working party to tidy the churchyard - this makes a huge difference to the churchyard and is an enjoyable way to meet up with friends and neighbours. Do look out for more information on this!

We are now feeling much more confident about leaving the church and are happy that it'll be in good hands.

The Secretary of the Residents' Association, Debbie Bowden, has now taken over the village email Contacts List. Her email address is dbowden1506@gmail.com. If you're not already on this list and would like to receive information about village events, do get in touch with Debbie.

Thankyou!

We have been enormously touched by the lovely 'Farewell' we have been given - the wonderful party in the Village Hall and all the warm messages from so many people. The beautiful painting of the church which we were given, will be especially treasured as a reminder of the 19 happy years we've spent in this lovely village. Thankyou to everyone!

We wish the village and the many friends we have made, all our very best wishes for the future.

Alison and David Packer

alison.packer@outlook.com | 07747 441704

The evening group is a Wednesday at 7.30pm and the afternoon session meets prior to the Friendship Group coffee the following day on Thursday afternoon at 2pm. We meet approximately every six weeks but there is no pressure to attend every meeting or read every book! We have covered a number of titles, all of which have had mixed reviews, but the most rewarding aspect is that we all get to read a variety of books we wouldn't automatically choose for ourselves and discuss them with a lively group of people of all ages. Anyone else wishing to join our groups, please feel free to message me on amandatyrwhitt@live.co.uk. We communicate through a What's App group and also email.

Amanda Tyrwhitt-Walker, Birch House, Watling Street, Little Brickhill.

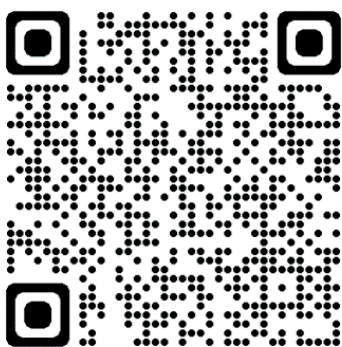


GREENSAND CHAMPIONS

Do you know someone who should be a Greensand Champion?

We are looking for Greensand Champions: **groups or individual young people who are doing something amazing for the environment.**

We want to hear what young people are doing and give them the recognition they deserve.



Scan this to nominate a Greensand Champion



Everyone that enters is a Greensand Champion. One winner will receive **£250** towards their environmental work!



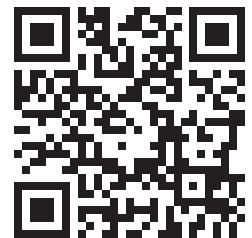
Experience Greensand Country



**Greensand
Country
Festival 2024**
Throughout May

The Greensand Country Festival will take place across the landscape, from Leighton Buzzard to Gamlingay, throughout May 2024.

The festival showcases a diverse programme of events and activities, with something to suit every age and interest. Scan the QR code to find out more.



Get involved: greensandcountry.com   

