



Minutes of the meeting of the PARISHES ASSEMBLY held on THURSDAY
2 DECEMBER 2004 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillor I Wilson (Chair)	-	Milton Keynes Council
	Councillor I Fraser	-	Milton Keynes Council/Campbell Park Parish Council
	Councillor D Hopkins	-	Milton Keynes Council/Wavendon Parish Council/Woburn Sands Town Council
	Councillor S Coventry (substitute for Councillor K Wilson)	-	Milton Keynes Council/Woughton Parish Council
	Councillor Crooks	-	Milton Keynes Council
	Councillor C Loak	-	Bow Brickhill Parish Council
	Councillor D Evans	-	Calverton Parish Meeting
	Councillor T Armstrong	-	Campbell Park Parish Council
	Councillor T Fraser	-	Campbell Park Parish Council
	Councillor M Dudhill	-	Campbell Park Parish Council
	Councillor M Strang	-	Campbell Park Parish Council
	Councillor B Tapp	-	Castlethorpe Parish Council
	Councillor P Buckle	-	Clifton Reynes and Newton Blossomville Joint Parish Council
	Councillor C Allum	-	Great Linford Parish Council
	Councillor J Geary	-	Hanslope Parish Council
	G Stimpson	-	Haversham cum Little Linford Parish Council
	Councillor A Francis	-	New Bradwell Parish Council
	Councillor S Hassett	-	Shenley Church End Parish Council
	Councillor J Buxton	-	Stantonbury Parish Council
	Councillor R Griffiths	-	Stantonbury Parish Council
	Councillor A Dnes	-	Stony Stratford Town Council
	Councillor	-	Wavendon Parish Council
	Councillor E Thomas	-	West Bletchley Council
	Councillor G McKenzie	-	Milton Keynes Council/West Bletchley Council
	Councillor A Vaidyanathan	-	West Bletchley Council
	Councillor N Long	-	Milton Keynes Council / West Bletchley Council

Officers: C Godfrey (Parish Liaison Manager), R Townend (Parish Projects Officer), M Bowley (Area Planning Officer), R Cooper (Senior Environmental Health Officer), H Baker (Parish Services Officer), R Vitiello (Partnership Inspector), D Webber (Planning Officer - Development Plans Team), S Naylor (Play Services Development Officer) and S Parker (Senior Committee Manager)

Apologies: Councillor K Wilson (Milton Keynes Council), H Atkins (Clerk to Bradwell Parish Council), Councillor D Stabler (Great Linford Parish Council), Councillor R Garrett (Simpson Parish Council), Councillor M Fagan (Haversham cum Little Linford Parish Council), Moulsoe

Parish Council representatives, M Small (Parish and Locality Services Manager) and R Solly (Community Safety Manager)

47.0 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Parishes Assembly held on 2 September 2004, be agreed as a correct record.

48.0 OUTLINE COMMUNITY SAFETY STRATEGY 2005/08

The Assembly received a presentation from R Vitiello (Partnership Inspector) on the Outline Community Safety Strategy 2005/08.

The Assembly noted that, to progress and develop the next Community Safety Strategy, an audit of the current Strategy for 2001/04 was being conducted.

The Assembly noted that the Community Safety Audit 2004 was a detailed analysis of crime trends in Milton Keynes over the last three years, which took account of the public perception of crime, anti-social behaviour and safety in the Borough.

The Assembly noted that the main findings of the report related to the following:

- national crime recording guidelines;
- domestic burglary;
- vehicle crime;
- domestic violence; and
- anti-social behaviour.

The Assembly also noted that, following the audit of the Council's consultation with the public, the following objectives for 2005/08 were suggested:

- reducing crimes of violence;
- tackling anti-social behaviour;
- work with persistent offenders;
- local priorities - targeting crime hot spots, improving fire and redways safety and community safety problems; and
- public engagement.

Members of the Assembly had concerns regarding the following areas:

- the need for action by Milton Keynes Council to improve community safety on the redways, for example, improve lighting. Information on numbers of the public using redways would be useful;

Action: Obtain figures if possible

- the need to address the risks to the public caused by skateboarders using redways/underpasses as a skateboard rink, for example, by visiting local schools to discuss the issue;
- the need for more Police is fundamental;
- the need for the Strategy to address crime problems in rural as well as urban areas, as rural areas have differing needs;
- the need for feedback from the Police following the reporting of a crime; and
- problems caused by regionalisation of call centres, for example, lack of understanding of operators of terminology peculiar to Milton Keynes, e.g. grid roads and redways.

The following was noted:

- Correspondence from Councillor S Coventry on redway safety / budget issues detailed at the meeting, to be provided to Councillor I Wilson.

Action: For Councillor S Coventry

- Feedback on the Outline Community Safety Strategy to be returned by 14 January 2005.

49.0 POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSO'S)

The Assembly noted the work being carried out with the Police on Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's).

Following a request from Councillor S Coventry, it was agreed that accommodation issues relating to PCSO's would be looked at and Councillor S Coventry was asked to provide information on Milton Keynes Council accommodation that he had identified could be of use.

Action: For Councillor S Coventry

50.0 MILTON KEYNES PLAY ASSOCIATION - OPEN ACCESS

The Assembly received a presentation from S Naylor (Play Services Development Officer) on open access play schemes, in addition to a film on current activities.

The Assembly noted that currently around 200 sessions were provided each year, which would increase next year, with an increase in staff.

Councillor B Tapp pointed out the needs of rural areas in the provision of open access play schemes.

S Naylor was thanked for his presentation and for the work that his team had carried out.

S Naylor stated that he was happy to talk to Parishes regarding schemes and he could be contacted on 01908 263033.

51.0

HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION (HIMOs)

The Assembly received a presentation from R Cooper (Senior Environmental Health Officer) and M Bowley (Area Planning Officer) on HIMOs.

The Assembly received an update on the introduction of the HIMOs registration scheme and the pilot scheme taking place in the Fishermead area.

The Assembly noted that the Housing Act 2004 would make three-storey houses or above with more than five people living on the premises, subject to a National Licensing Scheme.

The Assembly noted that a register of HIMOs would be available for public inspection.

Members of the Assembly expressed concern about the following issues relating to HIMOs:

- overcrowding;
- lack of registration;
- the need for Council officers to act faster to take enforcement action on issues relating to HIMOs;
- the Council was failing in its 'duty of care' allowing the huge number of HIMOs, with HIMOs creating ghettos;
- absent HIMO landlords;
- modifying garages into bedrooms creates increased problems of rubbish being left on the streets; and
- problems of overcrowding in houses in Bletchley unrelated to HIMOs.

I Fraser (Campbell Park Parish Council) invited R Cooper and M Bowley to view the HIMOs identified in Fishermead. The invitation was accepted.

The Assembly considered a request from Councillor Bartlett (one of the three Milton Keynes Council representatives on the Assembly) that it support his request "for all HIMO applications to be put before the Development Control Committee rather than go through on delegated powers".

The Parishes Assembly agreed to support Councillor Bartlett's request.

52.0

DRAFT PROPOSALS FOR THE WESTERN EXPANSION AREA

The Assembly received a presentation from D Webber (Planning Officer - Development Plans Team) on the Western Expansion Area (WEA), which had recently been discussed in depth at the recent Local Plan Inquiry. The Assembly noted the public consultation which was underway on a draft Development Framework for the WEA.

The Assembly noted that the WEA was one of the three expansion areas in the Milton Keynes Local Plan.

The Assembly was circulated with the latest public consultation newsletter on the WEA.

The Assembly noted exhibitions taking place throughout December 2004 on the WEA.

Issues raised by the Assembly on the Development Framework included the following:

- lack of consultation;
- administration area D;
- balancing lakes;
- implications for Calverton;
- need for social housing;
- problems of High Density Housing;
- distinct housing densities could result in class distinction;
- implications for the Wealds;
- the need for the active involvement of the Police architect;
- the need for a manageable and managed Framework; and
- involvement of the Partnership Committee with infrastructure.

D Webber informed the Assembly that the Parishes would be consulted on the proposals and they would be invited to comment in writing on broad issues, such as the broad pattern of land uses and the design principles used in drawing up the Development Framework.

53.0

STREETCARE

The Assembly received an oral update from Caroline Godfrey (Parish Liaison Manager) regarding Streetcare.

The Assembly noted that, as part of the continuing development of Streetcare, pilot schemes had been in operation in Stony Stratford and Woburn Sands. The Assembly noted that the Pilot Schemes took the form of drop-in 'surgeries' and had been highly successful and the opportunity to roll out more surgeries was continually being sought.

Although Streetcare Maintenance Teams had been invited to several Parish Offices, the Assembly noted that anyone who wished to invite the Maintenance Teams should advise the Parish Liaison Team accordingly.

The update also acknowledged that Streetcare was on each Area Forum agenda and the Maintenance Teams would visit each Area Forum.

The Assembly also noted that Streetcare had worked with Gilesbrook School assisting in the development of an understanding of the environment, letter writing and the council function. The event engaged school children into the process of reporting Streetcare related issues and was extremely well received.

54.0 PROPOSALS FOR DISTRIBUTION OF COUNCIL TAX LEAFLETS

The Assembly discussed proposals for the distribution of Council Tax leaflets by Parish Councils with the Council Tax bills for 2005, following the scheme's introduction in 2004.

The notion of providing examples of Parish Council leaflets was discussed. It was agreed that, following the conclusion of this years scheme, an article be included in the Parish and Town Council Newsletter requesting permission from Parish and Town Councils to provide their leaflets as examples.

55.0 DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING

The Assembly noted the date of the next Parishes Assembly as 3 March 2005.

The Assembly noted that the meeting would start at 7.00 pm and be held in the Council Chamber at the Civic Offices.

Please note the deadline for including Announcements on 3 March Agenda is Friday 11 February 2005.

The deadline for Parishes Assembly item requests is Thursday 27 January 2005.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 9.48 PM