

Parishes Advisory Group (PAG)

The **Parishes Advisory Group (PAG)** was set approximately five years ago, originally to work alongside MKC officers and the Cabinet member with responsibility for Parish Partnerships, to ensure that the Parishes Forum agenda represented the needs and the requirements of the parishes themselves. The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Parish Partnerships (currently Councillor Emily Darlington) chairs the Parishes Forum. A vice chair is elected to serve for two years, by ballot at the Parishes Forum. This role is currently held by Cllr Sue Smith (Woughton Community Council). The chair and vice chair also hold the same roles on the **Parishes Advisory Group (PAG)**.

The role of the PAG has evolved over the last few years, and its Terms of Reference details its purpose is to:

- To advise the Cabinet Member on matters of mutual interest to MKC and the parishes and make any appropriate and relevant recommendations to MKC, or hold consultations with the parishes.
- To shape and agree approaches on key issues and pieces of work before wider circulation to parishes
 - Sub Working/Task Groups may be set up to focus on the identified areas of concern or progress. Working / Task Groups will be chaired by a PAG representative and opportunities to attend will be issued to all parish and town councils. This could be parish clerks, parish councillors or a combination of both.
- To determine way forward for the devolution agenda, and ensure that services and assets rest with the level of local government that can best maximise the opportunity of particular assets and services to work for the wider community.
- To consider agenda items for the Parishes Forum, and agree the final agenda for the Parish Forum each quarter.
- To foster close co-operation between other stakeholders and partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for the communities that we all work to serve.

We are keen that PAG members reflect the different types of parishes, ie small, medium, large, urban and rural, as well as ensuring members are representative of the diverse make up of Milton Keynes.

In addition to the Chair and Vice Chair, membership of the PAG consists of

- A ward councillor from each of the main political parties.
- A representative from the **Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (MKALC)**
- Six further parish councillors.

We currently have 3 parish councillor vacancies.

Current membership is

- Cllr Emily Darlington - Chair
- Sue Smith – Vice Chair (Woughton Community Council)
- Chris Williams – MKALC rep (Shenley Brook End and Tattenhoe Parish Council)
- David Pye – Simpson and Ashland Parish Council
- Donna Fuller – Woughton Community Council
- Veronica Belcher – West Bletchley Council
- Cllr Lauren Townsend (Labour)
- VACANT (Cons)
- Cllr Paul Alexander (Lib Dem)

If you are interested in knowing more about the PAG, or are interested in becoming a PAG member, please get in touch with Heather Baker - Partnership Officer – Parish and Town Councils) Heather.baker@milton-keynes.gov.uk