

COMMUNITY NEWS

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

ISSUE 07

AUTUMN 2023



Parish Council Report - October 2023

Hedge / shrub

Some concerns have been made by residents that there are a few areas in the village with overhanging hedges / shrubs that is making it difficult for them to use the pavements safely. Please be aware how this affects other people and any help to resolve any issues would be appreciated by all.

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 work on a proposal on this issue cannot commence until later in this budget year (2023/2024) as a new tender process for Highways Projects is being undertaken by the MKCC Highways Team with a large majority of their team diverted to this task. MKCC Highways advised that a scheme will be progressed for further consultation in early 2024/2025 budget year.

Highways Safely Issues

There are several issues that have been highlighted to the Parish Council and the Clerk will request a site visit by the MKCC Highways Safety Officer.

Lorry parking on Watling Street

Little Brickhill are seeking a No Overnight lorry parking ban being placed on Watling Street as the road leaves the village heading north towards the A5 (bypass).

MKCC (Highways Team) have agreed that although this would be very difficult to enforce, they have agreed to install two no lorry parking signs as soon as possible.

The Parish Clerk has been requested to write to MKCC to request that some no entrance signs for HGV's be installed as you enter the village near Watsons Field.

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 December 2023 • 5th February 2024 • 4th March 2024**

Bucks Unitary Council – Proving a Five Year land Supply

Our neighbouring authority, Buckinghamshire Unitary Council cannot prove a 5 year land supply thus placing sites at risk of development that would not previously have been considered.

The Planning Inspectorate takes the requirement for homes in the Aylesbury Vale part of the old county over the coming 5 years is 7,388 dwellings and the actual, provable supply is 6,577 dwellings showing a 5 year supply of 4.5 years. This is arrived at by dividing the requirement by 5 to create an annualised figure of 1,478. The 6,577 is then divided by the annualised requirement of 1,478 which gives the result of 4.5.

Where the housing supply is too low, national policy takes over

To address that, national policy says that when a council doesn't have a five year supply of housing land all of its policies for delivering housing are out-of-date. Instead of planning applications being decided based on what local policies say, national policies will instead take precedence. In essence, that means that if a site can be considered sustainable development then planning permission should be granted.

The consequence of not having a five year housing land supply is therefore that councils start to lose control over where new homes are built. If a developer submits an application to build homes on a site that is in a sustainable location, councils often have to approve that application even if it isn't a site they would have chosen. This can be difficult for councils to accept, so those applications are often decided at appeal.

What does this mean for Little Brickhill?

This means that, in some locations on the borders of Little Brickhill, it may be possible to secure planning permission for new homes on sites where it has not been possible in the past, or where there is no support from the Buckinghamshire council. I will keep you informed.

What next for Bletchley

I know that many of you use Bletchley as your local centre or commute from the town's railway station and many ask, what is being done to regenerate the town?

Milton Keynes City Council has prepared a Draft Development Brief for the Brunel Centre, Bletchley, <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/planning-and-building/urban-design/current-urban-design-consultations>

which will inform the future use and design for the site and is now out to consultation.

Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP) and Milton Keynes City Council, purchased the site earlier this year to form part of the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal project. The draft document sets out design principles for the site's redevelopment and potential uses that would help regenerate the town centre.

This consultation runs for six weeks, from Thursday 12 October 2023 until 5pm on Thursday 23 November 2023.

Please take this opportunity to share your thoughts on the proposed brief and promote where appropriate. Any feedback should be sent to: urban.design@milton-keynes.gov.uk.

The New City Plan

Milton Keynes City Council has started work on its next iteration of the new city plan. So just what is the New City Plan?

- A new Development Plan replacing Plan:MK, the Waste Development Plan and the Site Allocations Plan (2018).
- Provide strategic policies for neighbourhood plans
- Inform the future of infrastructure, housing, jobs, retail and waste in MK
- Sets development standards to aid decisions on new development taken by officers and member

New City Plan will set the overall strategy, contain medium to strategic size allocations, and have clear policies for CMK and potentially other key locations.

The plan goes through several stages between now and being adopted as policy in late 2025 or early in 2026. It is likely to contain ambitions for a further 65,000 dwellings to be located within the boundaries of Milton Keynes with talk of a new Development Corporation potentially directing this development between 2025 and 2050. The council's ambition is to see a Milton Keynes population of 410,000 by 2050 (or 500,000 in a so called greater Milton Keynes encompassing areas currently in old Buckinghamshire and Central Bedfordshire).

The council invites enquiries on the plan process and how residents can get more involved by contacting the Development Plans Team, Milton Keynes City Council by emailing ncp.engagement@milton-keynes.gov.uk with any questions.

Cllr David Hopkins
Autumn 2023



Little Brickhill CHRISTMAS FAYRE

In The Village Hall & Car Park

Sunday 26th November
12.00 – 3.00pm

Raffle & Tombola's
Barbecue
Cake Stall
Crafts & Gifts
Refreshments and much more...

**FREE
ADMISSION**



Coming up this Christmas in Little Brickhill

Christmas Fayre – Sunday 26th November - The Village Hall – 12-3pm
 Young at Heart Christmas Lunch(65 years young+) – Sunday 10th December – The George, – 12 noon
 Look out for Santa as he travels around the village - 14th December from 6pm
 Jenny Wheaton's Childrens Party – Saturday 16th December – The Village Hall – 1-3pm
 Carol Service – Sunday 17th December – St Mary Magdalene, Little Brickhill – 5pm
 100 Club bonus Christmas Draw – Friday 22nd December – The George – 7.30pm
 New Year Party, live music by Matt Bowen, Family Friendly – Sunday 31st December - The George – 6.30pm

On behalf of the Little Brickhill Resident's Association
 We Wish You All A Very Merry Christmas
 And hope you enjoy the events planned over this festive period...



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

PARISH CLERK

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 clerk@littlebrickhillparishcouncil.co.uk
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Mobile: 07783 939020

LITTLE BRICKHILL COUNCILLORS

CHAIRMAN
 Councillor Dave Lewis

VICE-CHAIRMAN
 Councillor Tim Wheaton
 Councillor Keith Morgan
 Councillor Emma Priestley

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

FINAL COPY DATE: 3rd February 2024
 - anything received after this date may not be accepted.



Hello, my name is Julia Campbell and I am Chair of the Little Brickhill Residents' Association Committee. I have lived in the village for 4 years with my husband Allan, our sons Sam and Jacob and our dog Ruby.

I wanted to tell you more about the Association and how you can get involved.

The Little Brickhill Residents' Association (LBRA) was set up in the late 1980's to protect and promote village interests with the development of the new A5 bypass. Its objectives remain the same today as we work together to organise events, activities, and projects that benefit our community. Our aims are to promote social cohesion, improve the environment, and represent the views of residents to local authorities and other organisations.

All villagers automatically belong to the LBRA. Our current Committee consists of 12 like-minded residents. We are a very friendly, approachable bunch; a range of ages, some long standing, and some newer residents such as myself.

We have most recently organised The Coronation Celebrations, Carnival Family Fun Day and a Litter Picking event to help tackle the on-going litter problem we have in the village. Planning is well underway

for the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Lunch and Jenny Wheaton Children's Christmas Party. The 100 Club monthly draw was also introduced this year as a fundraising initiative.

Although we have a focus on funds in order that we can continue to support the Senior Citizen's Christmas Lunch and Jenny Wheaton Children's Christmas Party, our main aim is to bring residents together to have fun and encourage a sense of community. We have received some heartwarming feedback for our efforts.

If you are interested in joining the Committee or supporting the Residents' Association in any way, we would love to hear from you. You can contact me by email juliacampbell@live.co.uk or through Facebook Messenger. You could also come along to a meeting; they are very informal and held on a semi regular basis (date and time are posted on Facebook in advance) in The George Pub.

Everyone is welcome. We always appreciate new ideas and suggestions, but what we really need is more people on the Committee. With more people we can make more of a difference to our community.

We hope you can help.

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.





The sun shone for the
Little Brickhill
Carnival Family Fun Day
19th August 2023



Little Brickhill Church

Once again, the generosity of the people of Little Brickhill was evident at our Harvest Festival service in September with the magnificent response to the appeal for the MK Food Bank. I was able to deliver 9 big bags of food to them, for which they were very grateful.

Christmas is the next big celebration and we do hope that included in your Christmas plans will be the various village events, a list of which is included elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Here are the ones which are church-linked:

Sunday 26th November 12.30 – 2pm Christmas Fayre in the Village Hall and its carpark in aid of the upkeep of the village church. We're so grateful to the great team who have taken on the organisation of this in recent years. It's a lovely occasion and a chance to catch up with friends and neighbours. Look out for posters and other publicity!

Sunday 17th December 5pm Village Carol Service in the church. As usual, the village children and young people will be making their special contribution to this. It's always great to see the church full and everyone enjoying a good sing of some Christmas favourites. Afterwards you're invited to stay for some Christmassy refreshments.

Christmas Day 9.30am Holy Communion

Sadly, however, the days of Christmas, Easter and Harvest services and events, let alone the regular Family Services and christenings, weddings and funerals in church may be numbered. Despite all our efforts over the past 18 months, we still don't have the team needed to ensure the life of the village church continues, and there is a real possibility that the church will have to close. I'm sure that no-one wants to see this happen and I make a final appeal before leaving the village, for people to get together to support the remaining 4 people on the PCC to keep the church going. This isn't a huge commitment, just an hour or so a month – if that. You don't need to be a regular church-goer to get involved. I know that there are many people in the village for whom the church has been an important part of their and their family's history and they would be very sad to see it close.

We have now agreed to appoint a commercial bookkeeper to carry out the day-to-day accounting tasks, but the PCC must have a Treasurer to advise on spending priorities. This wouldn't be a big task, just a 1½ hour meeting every 2 months and about an average of an hour's paperwork per fortnight.

You can still contact me on alison.packer@outlook.com to find out more, and I'll happily pass on any messages.

Contacts List

For a number of years I've managed a village contacts list to communicate messages about village and church events and news. In preparation for our departure Julia Campbell, who is the Chair of the Residents' Association, has now taken this over from me. If you're not already on this list and would like to receive these messages, do make contact with her at juliacampbell@live.co.uk

The church building continues to present challenges, as would be expected of any building of this age. A small group of people who have experience in building matters has formed to carry out the smaller routine tasks. However, larger projects, such as roof repairs, will need people to apply for permission for the work to be carried out and apply for grants for the necessary funds. David and I would be very happy to explain the process and do a full handover.

Friendship Group – every Thursday from 3pm at The George

This group is going strong. It offers a welcome chance to meet for a chat with friends and neighbours and make some new friends. Do come along for tea and cake, especially if you're new to the village – everyone is always made very welcome!

Do get in touch with me if you would like any further information on any of the above.

Alison Packer

alison.packer@outlook.com | 07747 441704





- Romania
- Moldova
- Ukraine
- Bulgaria

FAMILY & ELDERLY SHOEBOX APPEAL

JOIN US
HELP US, HELP THEM



Before the **5th November 2023**
www.linktohope.co.uk

Denise Bushell would like to thank all the people that helped her with an excellent response to this Family and Elderly SHOEBOX APPEAL this year. A total of 47 shoe boxes were sent to support this worthwhile appeal.

Again, thanks to all.



Save a Life

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) Training in the Village Hall

- *Would you know what to do if someone suffered a cardiac arrest?*
- *Could you confidently use a Defibrillator?*
- *Fact - Just 12% of people survive an out of hospital Cardiac Arrest*
- *However, CPR administered quickly increases the survival rate to over 30% and if a Defibrillation is administered within 5 minutes of arrest, survival rate increase to over 60%.*

We are holding a training session in the
VILLAGE HALL ON THURSDAY THE 25TH JANUARY 2024, AT 7.00 PM

Email: Graham Bushell at grahambushell@aol.com
 to reserve one of the limited places