

Bow Brickhill Parish Council

Chair's Report for Meeting to be held at 7:30 pm on 8 March 2018

Drainage and Highway Issues

As part of a survey of blocked gullies (road drains) in the Danesborough and Walton Ward, Councillor David Hopkins and Carl Devereux from the MKC Highways team took a walk around Bow Brickhill on 9 February 2018.

The purpose of this walk was to identify blocked gullies in the village requiring attention and to arrive at a suitable schedule for unblocking/cleaning them as part of the wider Milton Keynes gully cleaning programme which began in June 2017.

As far as I'm aware, we haven't yet been given any firm dates, or any indication that our "turn" can be brought forward, but from the published schedule, it would appear this will not take place until April 2019. Further information can be found at: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/highways-and-transport-hub

Although I was not involved in the walk round, I was asked to explain to Carl the hazards and congestion issues at the bottom of Station Road, particularly at those times when the railway crossing barriers are closed. This was in response to the request I made last year for a site visit to look into safety improvements to this dangerous junction.

On 18 February, Councillor Hopkins sent a synopsis of the issues and suggested actions arising from the walk round. The comments relevant to Bow Brickhill are as follows:

- Improvements to roundabout and road layout at junction of Station Road and Brickhill Street at BB Railway Station	Liaise with departments to devise scheme to improve traffic flow at this dangerous junction in advance of any East West Rail upgrade
- Various drainage problems at same junction and on Church Road (the hill leading up to the Brickhill Woods)	Blocked drains caused by sand and debris flowing into the village from the woodland. Increase the number of inspections and cleans in Bow Brickhill?

The lights in the immediate vicinity of the mini roundabout at the railway crossing end of Station Road have now been upgraded to much brighter and more efficient LED lamps.

Delegated Decisions: Caldecotte South SPD, Caldecotte C and Consultation

On 17 February, Sue Malleson drew our attention to MK Councillor Liz Gifford's intention to make Delegated Decisions on two significant planning issues of great relevance to Bow Brickhill.

The Delegated Decisions Meeting took place at MKC's offices on 20 February, with Councillor David Hopkins, Sue, Alan Frances and myself among those in attendance.

The decisions to be taken were presented to Councillor Gifford in two reports written by David Blandamer, Urban Designer for MKC as follows:

- **SOUTH CALDECOTTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT**

Plan:MK allocates land on the south-eastern edge of Milton Keynes for a strategic employment site. The Draft South Caldecotte Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) has been prepared to ensure that the land allocation is brought forward in a strategic and comprehensive manner.

This report seeks authority to undertake formal consultation on the Draft Development Framework during March-April 2018.

- **DRAFT CALDECOTTE SITE C DEVELOPMENT BRIEF**

This report seeks authority to undertake formal consultation on the Draft Caldecotte Site C Development Brief for a 6 week period during March/April 2018.

The full reports and supporting documents can be found under items 6 and 7 respectively at:

<http://milton-keynes.cmis.uk.com/milton-keynes/Calendar/tabid/70/ctl/ViewMeetingPublic/mid/397/Meeting/5710/Committee/1174/SelectedTab/Documents/Default.aspx>

As you will recall, I expressed our concerns as a Parish Council in a lengthy, detailed letter, sent by e-mail to Councillor Gifford on 19 February and copied to Bow Brickhill Parish Council Members, Councillors David Hopkins, Victoria Hopkins and Alice Jenkins and Iain Stewart MP. The letter was broadly based upon a letter we sent to Councillor Gifford ahead of the MKC Full Council Meeting of 18th October 2017 at which the Draft Plan: MK was approved, and upon our Response to the Proposed Submission Plan MK October 2017 as submitted to MKC on 18 December 2017.

At the Delegated Decisions Meeting, Councillor Gifford confirmed that she had read the letter and "taken on board" the concerns detailed therein.

Following detailed, persuasive verbal submissions from Councillor David Hopkins, Sue Malleson and Alan Frances, Councillor Gifford agreed to revise the decisions as follows:

- **SOUTH CALDECOTTE DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT CONSULTATION**

Decision:

That the Draft South Caldecotte Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document be subject to a local and wider consultation for 8 weeks following which a revised Supplementary Planning Document be submitted for further consultation.

- **DRAFT CALDECOTTE SITE C DEVELOPMENT BRIEF**

Decision:

That the Draft Development Brief be subject to a local and wider consultation for 8 weeks following which a revised Development Brief be submitted for further consultation.

At least this is progress, after a fashion. We now need to mobilise village residents and lead them to actively engage in the consultation process as a matter of urgency.

- Details of these consultations can be found in the Unitary Councillors Report but, for ease of reference, both run from **Monday, 5 March until 5pm Friday, 27 April 2018.**
- Both sets of documents can be viewed on the MKC website at consultations. Copies of the development framework can also be viewed at Central Library, Woburn Sands Library and the Civic Offices.

SEMK DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STAKEHOLDER MEETING

Straight after the Delegated Decisions Meeting, Councillor Hopkins, Sue Malleson and I attended the first SEMK Development Framework Stakeholder Meeting. At this meeting, MKC Planning Officers set out the principles by which statutory housing delivery targets will be met in this area over the next few years as set out in the Draft Plan:MK.

As this was an early stage meeting, based on a Plan that has yet to go through the Planning Inspector examination stage, never mind further consultation, adoption and implementation, what I personally took away from this meeting was that it served principally to identify yet more flaws in the thinking behind Plan:MK in general.

It certainly illustrated the difficulty in making long term plans for large scale housing development between Bow Brickhill and Woburn Sands without first establishing the route of the Expressway.

On a more positive note, it was acknowledged that MKC planners recognise need to work far more closely with affected communities than has historically been the case: they should plan with us and not against us. To this end, further SEMK Stakeholder Meetings will be held on dates yet to be advised.

Rebecca O'Rourke

7 March 2018