

## MILTON KEYNES PARISHES FORUM

Thursday 13 March 2014, 7.00-9.30pm

Council Chamber, Civic Offices, Milton Keynes

Item	Detail
<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies &amp; Substitutions</b>
	See Sheet 1
<b>2</b>	<b>Matters Arising from meeting of 12th September 2013</b>
2a	Minutes from 12th December 2013 were accepted and signed by the Chairman.
	<b>The chairman announced changes to the Agenda and that items on Street Signs and Sources of Funding would be taken first</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Street Signs Rachael Kingsley, Head of Highways</b>
3a	Programme is in reference to the direction signs. Following a survey of signs during the summer period 2013, noted that 150 signs were missing.
3b.	Programme devised to replace signs and the 1 <sup>st</sup> phase is complete. 64 signs have been replaced on H3 and its approaches. This covers the network to the south of the A5.
3c	Phase 2 will be completed following the signing of the new contract with Ringway. 74 signs to be replaced on A5 towards M1 and towards south of H3.
3d	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When will Phase 1 be completed? Answer – due to complete end of March 2014</li> <li>• 17 signs still missing from H3? Answer – Additional signs that have been wiped out will be added onto Phase 2</li> <li>• Are you talking about signs pointing into housing estates? Answer – At present concentrating on signs on the primary network. The Chairman requested that a plan of signs would be sent out to all parishes. If specific signs especially to housing estates missing, please report through the Helpdesk.</li> <li>• Pleased that signs are being repaired and replaced. Are signs going to be cleaned and if so is your department responsible for cleaning? Answer – The budget for sign cleaning was cut from the overall budget approximately 8 years ago. Sign cleaning is done as and when possible.</li> </ul>
<b>4</b>	<b>Sources of Funding Phil Snell</b>
4a	The issue of funding for projects has produced a broad level of expectation within the group. Not every aspect of programmes covered by funding. There are a few leaflets available covering funding which can be sent out electronically.
4b	Applications need to be considered very thoroughly before submitting. There are 2 areas, Revenue and Capital expenditure. It is not advisable to fit project to funding simply because money is available.
4c	The main signpost, Funding Central, will inform PC's of what is available. Sign up and then receive a bulletin every 2 weeks. Large numbers of funding applications received. MKC Officers are willing to give help, support and advice on applications.

4d	Please email either Phil Snell or Rob Ward for specific enquiries on funding.
5	<b>Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)</b> Jonathon Entwistle Paul van Geete
5a	CIL is a new way of Government delivery and works alongside S106 monies. It is a charge on developers at a flat rate per sq. metre. There is no charge on Affordable Housing as CIL reduces developer incentive.
5b	CIL avoids site by site negotiations. A proportion of funding is given directly to local areas.
5c	CIL uses the lowest common denominator and charge is set by an independent process which requires an external examination process. IL will yield significantly less funding on a borough wide basis.
5d	Monies raised by CIL can be used on items of infrastructure on list. Up to 25% of CIL raised by development could be given to Parish and Town Councils but only if a Neighbourhood Plan is in place or being progressed. If not then only 15% available to P&TC's.
5e	By pre-existing arrangement, 84% of the proposed new homes to be built by 2026 are already determined. 4627 units completed, 14,486 units have a S106 agreement in place and a further 4300 units are anticipated to have a S106 agreement by April 2015. This leaves approximately 4500 homes would have CIL applied, if introduced from April 2015...
5f	Examples were given in the presentation (see attached report) demonstrated that CIL will raise less income than S106. S 106 will continue but cannot spend CIL income on the same item as S106 monies. Need to work together for the best outcomes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MKC to inform Ward Councillors and local councils on all planning applications likely to require a S106 agreement.</li> <li>• Consult ward members and local councils on what a S106 agreement may need to address at the earliest opportunity.</li> <li>• MKC to report the views of ward members and local councils to the decision making body and feedback the outcome.</li> <li>• Provide a regular summary of the S106 agreements for each ward, town and parish council area.</li> <li>• MKC will offer to meet with each local council in the first year of the protocol to discuss the approach to planning obligations.</li> </ul>
5g	The proposed potential way forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• By June 2014, MKC Cabinet will have considered the options on CIL</li> <li>• By October 2014, MKC will undertake formal consultation and agree new 'protocol' to inform how S106 are negotiated and the funds allocated.</li> <li>• By December 2014, MKC will develop and consult on draft planning obligations supplementary planning document(s)</li> <li>• By April 2015 or earlier, MKC Cabinet will adopt above planning documents</li> <li>• Council Officers will continue to keep under review the CIL position with regard to medium and long term development proposals.</li> </ul>
5h	Questions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regard to the proposed consultation and with the proposed protocol in place. Comments from members of MKALC is that of frustration by the urban parishes, S106 raised but spent outside the area. CIL would be spent locally. Some of the parishes would work on behalf of MKALC to bring a protocol together if MKC felt this would be useful and helpful.</li> </ul> <p>Answer – CIL is more flexible on what monies are spent on, S106 is more</p>

	<p>service based. MKC is happy to develop the protocol and will make sure it is consistent with the Parish Protocol</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The protocol is welcomed but work need on good support evidence as still some areas that have S106 requirements. Is the costing a substitute for a developer supplying land for a playing field?</li> </ul> <p>Answer – Aware of the problems when S106 is redundant. Demonstrate that there are 3 areas to be proved. Will match developers and be transparent and supportable. Developer will give land for playing field but there will have to be contributions towards future upkeep. A % of monies for art based projects would be covered under residual S106 monies.</p> <p>When will the protocol be in place?</p> <p>Answer – The protocol will be in place before consultations take place.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Individual electoral Registration Pamela Loose, Election Officer</b>
6a	The way electoral registration takes place is changing to Individual electoral registration and goes live on 10 June 2014. All new applications have to be made on an individual basis, everyone needs to provide DOB and NI number which will be verified by DWP data. If DWP is unable to verify the information then it can be done locally using verified information such as housing benefits.
6b	The electoral Registration Officer has to contact individuals within 28 days of becoming aware of them, e.g., when moving into property with an invitation to register. Applications can be made on-line.
6c	<p>There is a rigorous process to be undergone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ERO send electoral data to the IER Digital Service for name and address matching by the DWP</li> <li>Electoral data returned to ERO with a match score RAG (red, amber, green) status for each elector.</li> </ul> <p>Red = not matched against national data, Amber = weak match against national data and Green = strong match against national data. Majority of electors will fall under the green category and will receive a letter to confirm this.</p>
6d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Amber categories are likely to arise when name is similar but expressed differently, i.e. Joe Smith/Joseph Smith.</li> <li>ERO's may (but are not required) to carry out matching against local data in order to confirm a proportion of red and amber status electors.</li> <li>If matched locally the ERO may assign a green RAG status to electors with red or amber status from national matching.</li> <li>ERO's will invite red or amber category elector to apply to register.</li> <li>Government has extra funding for additional work to be undertaken to target certain areas to increase registration e.g., private rented sector tenants, residential care homes, HMO's and poor response areas as it is likely to be high number of red RAG matches.</li> </ul>
6e	Would appreciate P/TC's inform residents by involving MKC electoral Service in local events, via Parish magazines/newsletters, websites etc.
6f	<p><b>Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What impact will this have on registration of residents, especially in residencies where one person completes all forms on behalf of others?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: In 2014, no-one is removed, as the register to be used in the Parliamentary Election in 2015 will be based on this register. In 2015, if do not get the forms back from individuals, they are not included on the register. National information is to be circulated and MKC will be doing promotional work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will the registration papers be produced in all the usual languages and not just English?</li> </ul>

	<p>Answer: Yes on request.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is it an offence not to complete individual forms? Is it still an annual form in September? Is there any obligation on Red and Amber groups to be referred elsewhere e.g. central Government</li> </ul> <p>Answer: The rules have been changed re offence not to register. ERO has a choice to issue enforcement notice but it is not obligatory. It is an annual form where not registered. Alterations to the present system – 2015 a pre-printed form with details of existing electors will be sent out but if alterations are made to this form, this is followed by individual registration forms. The system is run by government and ERO's are required to send a return showing number of forms not received back. There is to be a National campaign in July.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rental properties and short let tenancies, does the landlord get the renter to complete the form?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: We are working with Letting Agents and Housing Associations to send forms to these properties.. We will also be writing to Landlords of HMO's to encourage their tenants to complete forms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What measures are in place to prevent fraud?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: Prevention of fraud was one of the main reasons for the introduction of the new system. There is now a requirement for a NI number and DOB which can be verified. If still doubt there is other evidence that can be produced.</p>
<b>7</b>	<b>HS2 Impact on Milton Keynes Marcus Rogers, Peitho Partnerships, BCC and 51M group</b>
7a	The route of HS2 through Buckinghamshire will change the area forever. HS2 began under a Labour Government, July 2011, the initial route announced, 2013, draft proposals put forward for discussion, 2014, Hybrid bill undergoes reading in Houses of Parliament.
7b	There have been many changes since 2011, change of government, changes at HS2 Ltd (i.e. Chairman etc.), changes to the project now on version 5 with possibly version 6 due in May. There have been many consultations.
7c	The route has little direct impact on Milton Keynes as the City is some distance from the proposed route. Passes west of the area. Buckingham is more affected. There is no station in Buckinghamshire or Milton Keynes but there will be an impact on all major road systems with construction traffic bringing and taking materials. Impact for Milton Keynes will be from the use of junction on the M1 and M40
7d	Large construction vehicles and large number of movements (421 for MK area) is expected to lead to rat runs on other road networks. Movements will include the transportation of pre-cast concrete structures linked to bridges and the movement of a 100 tonne transformer at Quainton. Likely smaller roads will also be used by construction vehicles if following SAT NAV equipment.
7e	Movements may be reduced by removing spoil from the construction site and dumping in fields. First vehicles will involve the diversion of utilities to and from construction areas, followed by signals and bridges second. The rail track will be laid last. Will take ten years to construct.
7f	What can be done to lessen the impact? An environmental I Statement has been produced by BCC/51M and sent to government which describes the worst scenarios plus put in mitigation scenario. There is a Code of Construction pages which needs to be considered.
7g	MK Councillors could consider lobbying MPs before the bill receives its 2 <sup>nd</sup> reading in the House of Commons. P/TC's can petition Parliament on the

	problems that will occur in their areas but will not solve or change the route of HS2. Draft petitions of routes affected by construction vehicles etc. Petitions can be submitted for before and immediately after the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading (3 weeks in all).
7h	<p>Questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What will be the size of vehicles carrying the concrete sections?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: Depends on the length of the bridge that needs to be built to allow the passage of the train. Lorries may be up to 100 metres in length and carrying weights of up to 100 tonnes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What about the road conditions, already in poor state?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: Need to petition re the road condition now and possible condition after construction of routes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Residents of MK have lived with this type of traffic for years – how do you think we got MK here in the first place. We have lived on a construction site for 40 years. I am horrified by your negative attitude.</li> <li>• Confused by whether HS2 Alliance or BCC have stated that they are not opposing the scheme but are trying to mitigate the situation? As for the impact from construction vehicles on MK, simple just limit times they can be on the roads. Why is everything going by road, could there not be rail movements especially for spoil. BCC should insist spoil movements take place by rail.</li> </ul> <p>Answer: I was asked to attend re impact on MK. With regard to the mitigation report, BCC remains opposed to the project but are taking a twin track approach of opposition and mitigation. The wider impacts are on the roads in Buckinghamshire, rail has not been referenced in the report.</p>
<b>8</b>	<b>East – West Rail</b> <b>Patrick O’Sullivan, Senior Rail Consultant</b>
8a	The scope of scheme will re-open Clayden to Bletchley and operate the Reading to Oxford to MK. Scheme is in two phases plus electrification. The DfT want the line electrified.
8b	Phase 1 of scheme is Oxford to Bicester Town is under construction. Line will close for 18 months to upgrade to two tracks. Phase 2, Oxford to MK and Aylesbury will be electrified. Bletchley to Bedfordshire has numerous crossing areas
8c	Phase 1 funding agreed. Foundations for Bicester chord line installed. 25Km of new fencing installed and hibernaculae constructed plus badger setts stopped up and new setts constructed and bat survey completed satisfactorily. Carillion Buckingham JV is preferred bidder and contract worth £87.4m contract to be signed. Railway closed 14 February 2014 and will re-open August 2015. Target completion date 2017 but might possibly slip back. Consortium working in partnership with Network Rail
8d	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has the land approach to Bletchley sufficient space or will there be CPO on some land? What is the projected journey time?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: Answers are in the leaflets. The land as it stands is all that is required. There may be a need for temporary land use during construction phase.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The programme seems to be slowing down during the Bletchley to Bedford phase? Interested when the level crossing will be timetabled especially Woburn Sands and also freight traffic frequency. How often/how much/ how often the barriers will be closed? Level Crossing Strategy? If so will this be consulted on?</li> <li>• Shame that MK is in second phase but will be better for MK to Aylesbury line.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Different modes of traction cause problems with trains -therefore will the route be electrified to/from Marylebone.</li> <li>• E-W Rail, have heard nothing about extending to East Coast?</li> <li>• Concerned about planning powers, have spoken with MK and AVDC regarding ordinary planning application for railway.</li> </ul> <p>Answer: Yes, the Bletchley/Bedford line is drifting time wise. Ultimately it will be electrified as this is part of the government's electric spine. Line crossings are not an immediate problem but will be significant issue later on. Originally line was for diesel only trains but has now been opened up to freight and other operators. Calvert to Aylesbury will not be electrified or made double track in present phase. Actively working on line past Bedford for best solutions. Local Planning Authority can offer to help, not allowed enhancement of the line in perpetuity.</p>
<b>9</b>	<b>Regeneration Programme</b> Kathryn Eames, corporate Regeneration Manager
9a	MKC owns approximately 11,500 houses, many of which are in poor condition with escalating energy costs. These properties generate £57m in revenue budget. Projected capital expenditure over £500m over 30 years.
9b	16 estates in MK ranked in the bottom 25% in the country according to 2010 Multiple Deprivation index. 7 estates are ranked in the bottom 15% nationally. High local unemployment has resulted in increased occurrences of fuel poverty.
9c	The Regeneration Programme consists of three themes, People, Place and Prosperity. Commitment to engage and involve local residents. Focus on building local capacity, to reduce reliance on public sector and to create neighbourhoods that are sustainable. Improve local environment, have clear links to Neighbourhood Planning and seek to release funds for investment in stock and neighbourhoods for a long term solution. Want to support those with low income/no skills to increase access to employment via the Neighbourhood Employment Programme
9d	Regeneration MK has attracted just under £3m which has been used for 89 projects under the Parish Deprivation Fund with Community First Funding supporting approximately 40 projects. MK co-funds the Community mobiliser Service. The Lakes Phase 1 and 2 has and will continue in phase 2 purchasing/building properties leading to a saving in fuels bills. The Neighbourhood Employment Programme was introduced in 2011 and has had 2325 residents attend with 706 supported into employment.
9e	The Place strand has approval from Cabinet to proceed with procurement process. Appointment of specific adviser on Financial, Legal and Procurement processes.
9f	There will be extensive consultation with communities and aims to deliver bespoke solutions for each community. Solutions to meet existing and future needs. Open and green spaces will not be given over to development and communities will not be deliberately broken up. Outcomes for each community must be sustainable.
9g	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is there any indication of which community areas are being looked at present?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: Those on the highest EMD which are in the top 15% nationally. Woughton, Water Eaton etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the past have replaced spacious houses with smaller ones, will this be the same? Past 20 regeneration programmes have had millions poured into them – why is this programme different?</li> </ul> <p>Answer: There is new guidance and spatial strategy. Set of documents advising minimum size. It is the intention to build larger houses. Present programme has already made significant changes to lives, income. It is</p>

	<p>about the softer side. The Employment Programme has already supported 2000= residents and found 700 employment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assume that Regeneration MK is an inhouse plan. Is it the policy to provide new council owned housing that is not to the same standard and appearance as privately owned housing?</li> </ul> <p>Answer; To receive Government funding for council house building, need to provide rigorous plans of construction and materials etc. to be used. MK intention that houses will be built to the same standard; there will be no difference between private and public housing on either the outward or inside details.</p>
10	<p><b>Public Realm Service Group Update</b> <b>Rob Ward</b></p>
10a	<p>The Highways contract with Ringway starts on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014. Currently in the mobilisation period. Ringway have an office and operational base at Bleak Hall. Presently managing the TUPE process for staff and the integration of IT systems. Also setting the operation procedures and agreeing branding and communications strategy as well as the day-to-day and programme operations handover from MKC to Ringway.</p>
10b	<p>Ringway have promised improved quality, 'Right First Time' repairs an operations hub leading to greater knowledge and management information. Drive for Life – Lean the Load overcomes inefficiencies of weight on vehicles and material over ordering.</p>
10c	<p>Have pledged corporate responsibility by allowing staff 2 days per year to volunteer for activities in local communities, to match fund raising activities up to £300 per annum and to support festive lighting expenses.</p>
10d	<p>Plans for winter include a new gritter fleet; optimise gritter routes plus quad bikes. There will be local recruitment of staff and 4 apprenticeships will be offered within the first 2 years of the contract.</p>
10e	<p>The Landscape contract tender period closed on 10 March. Tenders being evaluated and the anticipated start date of contracts is November 2014. MK area broken into 8 lots for Landscape contract, Rural, Northern Area, Bletchley and Grid Roads, Central Milton Keynes and Rights of Way, South 7 Sports, Cemeteries, Adventure and lot 8 all of the former. 7 parishes have shown interest and contract's being negotiated at present.</p>
10f	<p>Questions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Will Ringway be involved with parishes, e.g. sweeping of leaves?</li> <li>Quad bikes on Red Ways, will this encourage youth to also ride on these roads?</li> </ul> <p>How long is the contract with Ringway?</p> <p>Answer: the contract is for 7 years plus a further 3 years. Final three years will be awarded after 5 years depending on Ringway performance. Ringway can be contacted through the helpdesk as normal. This is important for the Client side interface. Highways client within MKC manages the contract. If parishes require leaves to be swept, please report through the helpdesk and the reports will be passed to SERCO. Quad bikes will only be used in winter during icy times to ensure that roads can be treated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Please clarify if there will be some form of formal contact with Ringway?</li> <li>Are tree maintenance and control included in the Landscape contracts</li> <li>.</li> </ul> <p>Answer: Tree maintenance and inspection are not part of the transfer to Parishes and will remain the responsibility of MKC. The four Town and Parish Councils undertaking landscape work and shown to be starting in April/June or already managing work are in contract to MKC, other parishes are still negotiating having expressed an interest. On the subject of</p>

	Client/Contractor relationship, parishes should see a seamless handover. At present tickets from helpdesk are passed to SERCO for action. The same will still happen. Parishes will soon be able to report all Highway faults/issues through Public Access.
<b>11</b>	<b>Announcements</b>
11a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devolved Service to be on next agenda</li> <li>• Ringway to attend next Parish Forum</li> <li>• The Chairman announced that due to elections and change of councillors, he may not be present at the next Parish Forum.</li> </ul>
<b>11</b>	<b>Date &amp; Venue for Next Meeting</b>
11a	<b>Thursday 12 June 2014 – Council Chamber</b>

The meeting closed at 21.18 hours.

THE NOTES OF THIS MEETING WERE TAKEN BY BMKALC.