



# **HANSLOPE PARK CONSULTATIVE AREA FORUM**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2014**

**7.30pm**

**Castlethorpe Village Hall  
Castlethorpe**

**MINUTES**

**Attendees:**

Cllr Andrew Geary	Ward Councillor Hanslope Park
Cllr Phil Ayles	Castlethorpe Parish Council
Cllr John Keane	Castlethorpe Parish Council
Cllr Gavin Lancaster	Hanslope Parish Council
Cllr Jeannette Green	Hanslope Parish Council
Cllr Don Cook	Hanslope Parish Council
Mike Morris	Haversham Parish Council

**Also in Attendance:**

David Hill	MKC Chief Executive
Rob Ward	MKC Business & Liaison Manager
Heather Baker	MKC Business & Liaison Officer

**Actions**

**1. Apologies**

Cllr Geraldine Sweetland	Castlethorpe Parish Council
Cllr Sheila Mobley	Hanslope Parish Council
Cllr Pam Furniss	Haversham Parish Council

**2. Minutes of the last Meeting (previously Circulated)**

Minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> January 2014 were agreed as a correct record

**3. Matters Arising**

Castlethorpe reported that the NS2 streetlight was now working after 6 months of reporting it.

RW is pushing to get a User's Forum for the Public Access. They are keen to get feedback. Public Access has been much improved and now has Highways (e.g. pothole reporting) added to it.

If the Sustrans path is not a public highway how is it maintained? Same as other leisure routes where there is not a specific budget for maintenance, we are working to bring these into scope. Could it be included in the cycling improvement programme

Could some of the Highways capital money that MKC has allocated be used? This is for adopted highway so this path would not be covered by this.

The forum would like to like to get into the bidding process for future years. Would this fit into the parameter of the emerging cycling strategy? RW to speak to R Duffill.

**Post meeting note**

***This route has no legal standing therefore there is no allocated maintenance budget. The lower part by Haversham was upgraded because of the flooding issues and Network Rail has upgraded part before Castlethorpe bridge because of access issues.***

**4. Continuing Improved Dialogue with Parishes**

Cllr PA introduced David Hill and said how valuable these forums were to the rural areas and thanked him for coming.

DH also said that the forums were valuable to MKC and that the Council appreciates

RW

these forums and finds them valuable for gather information for priorities, and it was good to get out to see what policies and strategies are doing on the ground.

Being responsive does not always mean saying yes it's about dialog and honest dialog i.e. Highways have moved to a more rigorous structure.

This item had been triggered by an historic pond which had been filled in at Hanslope as part of a revised planning application which amended the s106 agreement and reduced the allocation of funds. There has been little enforcement from Planning or follow up.

Castlethorpe raised the issue of planning permission both in South Street and Station Road. No Neighbourhood Notifications were sent out. There is a failure somewhere from planning as residents rely on these notifications. DH said this was a statutory obligation and it would be investigated.

The forum also said that they are not getting responses from Planning sometimes you need to speak to Planning officers and you don't get replies also answer machines are not changed when they have been on leave.

Parishes are not given notification for significant works within the parish. RW said this should be on the Street Works List distributed with Members Weekly Lists. Mike Morris (Haversham) said he wasn't getting these

RW informed the forum that on the new website there is on the MKC homepage down near the bottom of the page My Milton Keynes it is marked with a pink strip. You put your postcode in and it will bring up lots of information and details.

Castlethorpe reported 2 men with angle grinders in a white van at Fishponds play area. When challenged they said they were from MKC. MKC have recently been using hire vehicles that are changed frequently. Cabinet had just looked into the fleet vehicles and decision taken upon which would solve the problem of unmarked vehicles. RW/HB would look into the notification to parishes and make sure play areas were included

Traffic lights appeared in Park Road Hanslope without any notice it came as a complete surprise also there was the incident where the road in Haversham was closed without any notification.

Could action be taken on communication? If anything like this happens let us know so that we can notify the NRSWA team who will go out to investigate.

It was asked could Parishes also be notified of emergency works?

DH spoke of the improvement to the system of Highways works. However both Castlethorpe and Hanslope said they were disappointed with the lack of feedback on items especially those not included in the bidding process. General requests for footpaths had not been included and no feedback was received. However, the meeting recognised that 2013 was the first year of the new system and it needed to settle down

A question was raised about verge parking rules being relaxed in Newport Pagnell was this correct? If it is a cul-de-sac this is correct but in a street where you come from different directions you still need signs.

PA thanked DH for his work over the past 5 years and recognised that there had been improvement against a background of tremendous budget reduction. His attendance at this meeting was appreciated. It was noted that soon after he arrived in MKC he went to visit all 3 parishes. Cllr AG also expressed gratitude saying we are in a better place now which was echoed by the forum.

DH thanked the parishes for all the work they do.

## 5. Flood Alleviation Tathall End & Devils Dip

RW informed the forum that project management for the scheme has been given to Kate Davidson an option not available previously. Kate has produced a project timeline for Tathall End which gives a clear outline of the work needed to implement

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the scheme.

On track to construct the flood alleviation measures in September 2014. If we can include the bund on the bridleway near Tathall End Farm we will. The 2 bunds will be at Yew Tree Farm and Littlewood Farm.

A second report was needed to ensure the most efficient and cost effective way of protecting Tathall End including an options appraisal. This should be with MKC in May and will ensure that we have full justification for the third bund and will demonstrate its impact in alleviating a potential flood and its impact on the use of the bridleway.

We will then be in a position to seek planning permission for the third bund and this should put us on track for delivering the works within the September timeframe. It is planned for the works to be delivered by Ringways.

MKC are in the process of procuring an ecologist contractor to carry out extended phase 1 habitat surveys during the months of May and June as per planning conditions. Further ecological surveys for great crested newts or badgers may be required.

The diversion of the Public Right of Way footpath and removal of the footbridge will be subject to a new consultation because we are proposing a change to the route in order to satisfy previous objections. This process is a minimum of 6 months assuming no significant objections.

Parish Councils will be sent monthly updates from the Project Manager.

The forum suggested that 2/3rds of water that goes into Tathall End is from the M1. The bunds nearest the village needs to be done first as the other 2 would not work without this.

There had been the construction of culverts to drain water from the Dips more quickly and this was completed following the January HPCAF.

In the dips there is a drain that runs across the field above the dips and discharges water out onto the road.

It was pointed out that the flooding of the dips often created dangerous situations with cars moving to the centre shallow part of the road by the blind bend.

## **6. Public Realm Service Group**

RW updated the forum. Ringway the Highways contractor starts on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April with new lorries new badges and you should quickly see a transition.

An operation hub is being set up at the depot in Bleak Hall.

Enquiries will go through the Public Access system straight to Ringway. Part of their KPI's is how they respond to enquiries.

It is even more important to use Public Access as enquiries will get dealt with quicker. There will be more automated responses, but more intelligent responses. Public access is continually evolving, now is better than where we were and it will get better.

If there are issues the first point of call is the Helpdesk if you still get no response then it will go to the Business and Liaison team.

At the last forum there was some concerns raised about the Public Access system. RW happy to show people how to use it.

The Landscape contract has been to Cabinet. It is planned that the contract will start 3<sup>rd</sup> November. More information will be available very soon. AG suggested this as a subject for the next forum.

Public Realm is going to have a new service director as John Prior is leaving on 25<sup>th</sup> July. It was agreed that he will be a loss for MKC, we would not be where we are today without all the work he has done.

## 7. Items Raised relating to the Forum Area

None

## 8. Any Other Business

This will be the last forum as the Hanslope Park Forum due to the boundary changes the new Ward will be Newport Pagnell North and Hanslope Ward. It seemed unlikely that HPCAF would continue in its current form.

It was agreed by the forum that in June Cllr PA as chair of this meeting invite all the parishes in the new Ward to the next meeting to discuss how the Forum should move forward. It was agreed unanimously that the 3 current parishes valued the Forum very highly and would like it to continue in some form.

Willow trees at Devils Dip are leaning on fences and are causing concern. RW told the forum that these were not MKC.

The tree officer is to go and take a look to see if there is a risk to the highway.

The forum asked if MKC could formally take responsibility for the land and trees.

### **Post Meeting Note**

***The Tree Officer has confirmed that the trees do not belong to MKC. There are 9 Willow trees along the brook line and a few have suffered limb or complete failure. It appears that they have only been pollarded once and this was not to all the trees. He did not see any defects that indicated works should be undertaken urgently to reduce a risk to the highway users.***

***Removing the trees or establishing them as pollards would represent a significant cost (I estimate around £4500 not including traffic management costs) and could present future issues in respect of maintaining the trees in perpetuity or the land if the trees are removed. If the trees are removed by MKC then it is likely bramble and scrub would quickly establish and in time possibly more trees, presumably we would then have to maintain the area and accept the any subsequent liabilities?***

***The trees are not on MKC land, they are not too close to the road and he does not believe they pose an immediate and serious hazard to users of the highway at this stage.***

## 9. Date Venue and Topics of next meeting

The forum noted the suggested dates of future meetings as follows:

Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2014	7.30pm	Hanslope Recreation Ground Pavilion
Weds 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2014	7.30pm	Haversham Social & Community Centre
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2015	7.30pm	Castlethorpe