



# **Annual Report 2018 - 2019**

## Chairman's Foreword

This is the 2018-2019 annual report of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council. It includes our draft accounts for the financial year 2018-2019 and “edited highlights” of the work we have been doing on behalf of the community.

As councillors our job is to deliver local services, to improve community life and to give our community a voice by making representations to other organisations such as Milton Keynes Council, Thames Valley Police, private developers and others whose work affects the people in our area. This year the Town Council agreed a council plan which includes our priorities for the area and we are now working on specific projects and activities which support these goals.

Please do read our report and if you are interested in your local community check our website and our Facebook page to find out more about what the council is doing in 2019-20.

By the time the next annual report is produced all the seats on our council will be up for election (May 2020). It's your council – why not find out more about our work and talk to us about what you'd like to see in the future?



Cllr Angela Kennedy  
Chair of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

April 2019

[www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk)

## Overview of Council Work 2018-19

### 1 New Projects

#### Newton Leys Pavilion

In December 2019 the Town Council finally took ownership of the long awaited Newton Leys Pavilion, Furzey Way. This fantastic mixed use building was funded by Taylor Wimpey as part of their planning obligations under the planning permission relating to the Newton Leys development. The building cost approximately £2.4 million and the Town Council was involved from the earliest stage being able to influence the design and oversee the build which began on 21 February 2018.



Newton Leys Pavilion Ground Breaking



Formal Handover of Newton Leys Pavilion

The Council rushed to fit out the building in time for community Christmas events and we were able to transfer most of our users from the old community centre to their new home before Christmas 2018.



Ribbon cutting by the Town Council Chair, Vice-Chair and Cllr Kelly-Wilson



Father Christmas amazed at local school children's talent

The football pitches at the Pavilion remain to be transferred to us by Taylor Wimpey but it is hoped that these will be in a suitable condition for transfer late in 2020.

## Fenny Chapel

Work began during 2017/18 and continued this year on the chapel in Manor Road Cemetery, Fenny Stratford. The building has been cleared of asbestos, re-plastered and structural repairs have been undertaken to the interior and exterior as well as measures to seal the window apertures. Security lighting and cameras are now in place and new doors and metal gates will be installed in Spring 2019. This major work has been undertaken to stabilise the condition of the building and secure its future as part of the heritage of the area. Although the council will be using the chapel for its own purposes for the time being we are still looking at options for community use of this building and we welcome ideas from local groups who are interested.



Fenny Chapel

## Council Move

The Town Council moved its main office from Queensway to Bletchley Library in October 2018. There were several reasons for the move which will result in a cost saving to the Town Council. One of the most important of these was the Town Council's wish to work with and support Bletchley Library. Our new premises also allow us access to the community room in the library as a venue for our council meetings. The central location means our premises are still very accessible to residents and there is parking nearby for those who visit us. Our office can be accessed directly from the library or through an independent entrance. The council has also provided furniture and blinds for the community room which is being well used by many community groups.



New office location - Bletchley Library



Inside the office

## 2 Continuing Services

### Allotments

Our three managed allotment sites at Larch Grove, Manor Fields and Orchardside continue to be well used. At the time of writing our occupancy rate is 92%. Allotment rents have been kept low to encourage allotment gardening which promotes healthy exercise, production of low cost “clean” food and social and leisure facilities.



Allotment plot at Orchardside



Produce from allotments

Disappointingly the new allotment site at Newton Leys, due to be handed over to the Town Council during 2018, remains in the ownership of Taylor Wimpey. Despite strenuous encouragement from the Town Council, Taylor Wimpey has not yet been able to finish this site to a suitable standard for transfer.

### Albert Street Toilets

The Town Council is keen to keep these public conveniences open despite the expense of doing so. Our recording data shows that there are over 2,900 visits to our toilets every week so these are clearly much needed facilities.

### Community Grants

This year seven community groups received funding from the Town Council:

Recipient	Purpose of grant	Amount awarded
<b>Fenny Festival (Fenny Poppers)</b>	To support with costs of event designed to bring community together and fundraise for groups and charities	£4,000
<b>Newton Leys Youth Football Association</b>	To assist with general running costs eg pitch hire, training, kit	£1,500
<b>MK Bangladeshi Association</b>	To pay for the hire of 2 coaches for a community trip to Blackpool	£2,260
<b>Clean Slate Feed MK</b>	Support with costs for community meal over Summer and Christmas 2018 designed for the homeless, elderly or single parent families.	£2,500

<b>Locals of the Lakes</b>	To support with costs for a programme of events to celebrate the 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Lakes Estate.	£2,670
<b>Lakes Estate Fire Display (LERA)</b>	Support with costs for a fireworks display which brings the community together and greatly reduces the number of private bonfires (reducing costs for the emergency services and damage to property).	£3,150
<b>Christmas Day Party for the Elderly</b>	Support with costs for a community meal on Christmas Day for the elderly.	£300

## Dog bins

The Council installed an additional seven dog bins in December 2018 taking the number managed by the Town Council to 47. In addition and following feedback from residents, an additional weekly collection is now taking place for 20 of these bins where usage is highest. In March 2019 we started a refurbishment programme and our Parish Ranger will be cleaning and re-numbering throughout 2019/20. Unfortunately several bins have been vandalised this year.



Dog bin in our parish

## Recycling



Council stand at Fenny Poppers Festival

The Town Council has continued its commitment to promoting recycling and correct use of the bags and bins across the parish. We participated in Fenny Poppers Festival 2018 and our theme was “Keep the parish tidy”. Approximately 100 people played a recycling game and discussed recycling and waste issues with us. Councillors, staff members and the

Waste Education Officer from the Milton Keynes Council enjoyed talking to residents.

In February 2019 (following earlier changes made to Milton Keynes recycling sack distribution scheme which caused problems for our community) the Town Council agreed to act as a collection point for Milton Keynes Council ‘Click and Collect’ pilot for recycling sacks.

## Community Litter Picks

During the year we held community litter picks across different areas of the parish and we supported litter picks and tidy up initiatives organised by local groups. We know littering is a major concern of our residents and we have also spent resources on reporting problems and providing information to the local environmental crime team.



Serco, Town Council and volunteers working together at the Lakes Community Litter Pick

## Christmas Lights

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council held a family friendly celebration event on 24 November 2018 to mark the switch on of the Christmas lights and to bring the community together. In addition to funding the lights we made improvements to the lighting infrastructure which is needed to sustain the annual display.



Father Christmas was in his grotto

## Bletchley Market

Income from Bletchley market for 2018/19 was £22,088 against a projected income of £22,000. The overall trend of reduced yearly income from market rent has continued this year in line with that of many small street markets nationally. Bletchley has a number of loyal and valued traders who continue to trade consistently. Whilst we have attracted new traders who have tried the market this year they have been unable to justify continued attendance due to lack of sales.

## Spotlight Community Resource

During 2018-19 the Spotlight Resource Centre has acted as an important venue for community work on the Lakes. Spotlight has been home to many consultation events with residents about Milton Keynes Council's regeneration plans for the area including the decisive ballot on the future plans for Serpentine Court in



The IT Suite at Spotlight

November 2018. We continue to provide an IT room with free computer access for residents and this is also used for delivery of Neighbourhood Employment Job Clubs and training. The Town Council purchases an information and advice service from Milton Keynes Citizens Advice for residents which is delivered from Spotlight. The counselling rooms, offices and community space have also been used for different activities including coffee mornings, community church services, energy roadshow, councillor surgeries, one to one meetings with residents and private hire.

## Youth Services

Our support for young people has been demonstrated by our funding of Easter 2018 and Summer 2018 play sessions in Newton Leys, Leon Recreation Ground and the Lakes which were delivered for us by MK Play. Provision of a weekly youth club at Newton Leys, Fenny Stratford and the Lakes was commissioned from Youth Network MK and these clubs operated throughout the academic year.

The Town Council also funded a year long project called Better Futures Forever which involved multiple agencies and community members working together to try to improve mental health and well-being for children and families on the Lakes. Our funding of £12,952 was used to run a pilot which has had positive outcomes for local families as well as allowing BFF to collect evidence for a long term funding bid to a major grant giver.



Easter Play sessions at Leon Recreation Ground



Children getting crafty

## War Memorial and Centenary of 1918 Armistice

In May 2018 the Council took on responsibility for maintenance of the War Memorial in Queensway and it was professionally cleaned so as to have it in prime condition for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of the 1918 armistice in November.

The Memorial received more care and attention to both the borders and planting in May and the gate was restored in July. These works were kindly undertaken voluntarily by Bletchley Freemasons at no charge to the taxpayer.



Restored Memorial gates which honour Charles Head

On Sunday 11 November 2018 the Town Council co-ordinated a Remembrance Ceremony at the War Memorial which was well attended by members of the community of all ages. A silent walk took place from Elizabeth Square along Queensway and wreath laying took place at the War Memorial followed by light refreshments at the Masonic Hall. The Town Council is very grateful to all those members of the public and community organisations who participated in the arrangements for this ceremony which allowed us to reflect and show respect to those from this community who gave their lives in many conflicts during the last century.



Iain Stewart MP with Chair and Vice-Chair of the Town Council and members of the community

## Council Business

During 2018/19 there were nineteen meetings of Full Council, six meetings of Newton Leys Pavilion Committee, eight meetings of its Finance and Planning Committee and eight meetings of its Human Resources Committee. In addition to these formal meetings separate informal working groups of Councillors were established to focus on the parking problems across the parish, the Bletchley Market, Christmas Event and the IT needs of the Council. Individual members of Council have also taken part in workshops focused on council development and strategic planning. A table of Councillor attendance at full council is shown at Appendix 1.

In 2018 former councillors Wajeeha Khan and Linda Reeves stood down from office. In January 2019 Cllr Gary Kenworthy was elected as member for Eaton South Ward and in March 2019 Cllr Rosemary Smith was elected as member for Fenny Stratford Ward. This means the Council consisted of seventeen elected members and one co-opted member at the end of the council year 2018/19. A full list of members and contact details are at Appendix 2.

Day to day council activities have been carried out by a small team of officers who work together to implement the council's decisions and policies led by the Town Clerk. Sam Jivram (Facilities Officer) joined this team in June 2018 and both Gill Long (Support Services Manager) and Will Allen (Environment and Premises Manager) joined in October 2018.



Welcome to the team

## Planning

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council takes its role in the planning system very seriously and has reviewed over 130 planning applications (made to Milton Keynes Council) in the last year. The Council has commented on behalf of the local community when necessary sometimes objecting when there were relevant planning grounds to do so. The council has paid particular attention to planned parking provision in all new developments in the light of current and anticipated parking pressure in the area. The council has also reviewed planning policy documents on behalf of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

In March 2019 representatives of the council attended a workshop with Milton Keynes Council to discuss the Urban Development Prospectus for Bletchley. The Town Council will continue to participate in these discussions and all planning matters which affect the parish.

## Parking and Congestion

As noted in last year's annual report problems with parking and traffic congestion continue to affect those who live and work in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. The Town Council shares these concerns and has liaised with the relevant authorities about illegal parking, lack of parking enforcement and speeding in the parish. We have also been working very closely with Thames Valley Police, Milton Keynes Council and Saba Parking Enforcement team to tackle specific local parking problems in Queensway and this work will continue.

## 3 Finances

The Town Council received an unqualified audit in 2017/18 with no matters brought to the attention of The Council by the external auditor.

At the time of writing the 2018/19 accounts have not yet been audited or approved by Council and will be confirmed later in the year. Therefore the summary figures for the year ending March 2019 below have not yet been approved. However, the Council has finished the year with an agreed underspend against budget. The Council has reviewed its earmarked reserves policy and has undertaken assessments of its financial risks and potential future liabilities. Some changes to the earmarked reserve funds were made mid-year (as recorded in council minutes).

The financial information provided in the annual report is necessarily a summary and full details of the Town Council's finances are published throughout the year and updated monthly on our website at [www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/Finances](http://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/Finances)

Draft Annual Return 2018/19

	Mar 31 2018	Mar 31 2019
	£	£
Balances brought forward	819,156	958,455
(+) Annual Precept	600,140	649,599
(+) Total Other receipts	157,244	201,741
(-) Staff Costs	278,338	257,094
(-) Loan interest/ capital repayments	0	0
(-) All other payments	339,754	473,042
(=) Balances carried forward	958,455	1,079,659
Total cash & investments	973,190	1,063,913
Total fixed assets and long term assets	284,176	284,176
Total borrowings	0	0
<b>Breakdown of funds held in reserve at year end 2018/19 (includes third party and S106 funds)</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Total funds held in General Reserve	208,321	294,237
Precept Mitigation Reserve*	100,000	0
Lakes Estate	13,881	8,929
Devolved Services (previously Transfer of Services Reserve)	129,740	264,740
Repairs, Maintenance and Equipment	36,446	36,446
Newton Leys Development Reserve	49,101	49,101
Premises Reserve	400,000	400,000
SP- Sport England	0	14,640
Newton Leys Pavilion S106	20,965	11,566
<b>Total funds</b>	<b>958,455</b>	<b>1,079,659</b>

\*Now combined with Transfer of Services Reserve to form new Devolved Services Reserve

**Appendix 1: Members Attendance at Full Council Meetings from April 2018 up to and including 26 March 2019**

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Number of meetings</b>	<b>Apologies received</b>	<b>Number of meetings attended</b>	<b>Attendance rate</b>
Mohammed Arshad	19	10	6	32%
Samantha Browne	19	1	18	95%
Keith Ely	19	4	15	79%
Richard Graham	19	7	13	68%
Ron Haine	19	0	19	100%
William Hewitt	19	7	11	58%
Ed Hume	19	0	19	100%
Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson	19	5	14	74%
Angela Kennedy	19	9	14	74%
Gary Kenworthy (from January 2019)	5	0	5	100%
Peter Kuling	19	2	6	32%
Michael McDonald	19	3	16	84%
E'Amonn O'Rourke	19	3	16	84%
Sean Porter	19	7	10	53%
Mohammed Rohim	19	3	10	53%
Shirley Rolfe	19	4	13	68%
Rosemary Smith (from March 2019)	2	0	2	100%
Lewis Webster	19	4	15	79%

# Town Councillors

## Manor North

**Chairman**

**Cllr Angela Kennedy**

angela.kennedy@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Central Bletchley

**Vice-Chair**

**Cllr Richard Graham**

richard.graham@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Queensway & Denbigh North

**Cllr Ron Haine**

ron.haine@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



**Cllr William Hewitt**

william.hewitt@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Manor South

**Cllr Keith Ely**

keith.ely@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



**Cllr Peter Kuling**

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**Cllr Shirley Rolfe**

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## Granby

**Cllr Lewis Webster**

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## Newton Leys

**Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson**

Ethaniel.kellywilson@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Eaton North

**Cllr Sam Browne**

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**Cllr Mohammed Rohim**

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**Cllr Ed Hume**

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## Fenny Stratford

**Cllr E'Amonn O'Rourke**

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**Cllr Sean Porter**

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**Cllr Rosemary Smith**

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## Eaton South

**Cllr Mohammed Arshad**

mohammed.arshad@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



**Cllr Michael McDonald**

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**Cllr Gary Kenworthy**

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