

# The Neighbour

Official Newsletter of  
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council



Local elections took place on Thursday 6th May 2021. The following councillors were elected for the new four year term:

- Samantha Browne - Eaton North Ward
- Ed Hume - Eaton North Ward
- Daniel Ribton - Eaton North Ward
- Richard Graham - Central Bletchley Ward
- Gavin Bedford - Eaton South Ward
- Michael McDonald - Eaton South Ward
- Mariee Wymer - Eaton South Ward
- Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson - Newton Leys Ward
- Liz Campbell - Manor North Ward
- Amanda Carter-Philpott - Queensway & Denbigh North Ward
- Ron Haine - Queensway & Denbigh North Ward
- Mohammad Imran - Granby Ward
- Keith Ely - Manor South Ward
- Terry Stephens - Manor South Ward
- E'Amonn O'Rourke - Fenny Stratford Ward
- Axel Hans Segebrecht - Fenny Stratford Ward
- Sean Porter - Fenny Stratford Ward
- Cllr Ayesha Khanom was co-opted to the Manor South ward vacancy on 8th June 2021.

Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson was elected as the new Chair for the Town Council, with Cllr Richard Graham remaining as Vice Chair. Councillor contact details can be found on page 11 of this newsletter and are available to view on the Councillor webpage on our website.

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# Message from our new Chair

## CLr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson

Dear Resident,

I am so proud to be writing to you as the new Chair of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council. I have been a member of this Council representing Newton Leys since 2016 and for many years prior to this I was the Chair of Newton Leys Residents' Association. I'd like to start my first message to you by giving a big thank you to Angela Kennedy, our former longstanding Chair who spent over 16 years on the Council who stepped down at the latest election.

I'd like to welcome to the new Councillors who have joined us at the latest election, it has been a delight to see so many new people from our local community who have volunteered to represent and serve you, the local residents. Congratulations also to Mayor Khan who is the first Mayor of Milton Keynes to have grown up on the Lakes Estate.

Over our next Council period up to 2025, we see much investment and development coming to our local area. I'm hoping that our communities will benefit and thrive as a result.

Our Council now operates three amazing community resources at Spotlight, Fenny Stratford Community Centre and Newton Leys Pavilion, and our teams have worked hard through the lockdowns to make sure they are looking the best they can be. Please do give your support to any events or groups that are using our local venues. Let's keep it local!

Whilst Councillors are here to represent your interests in this, we need your help as local residents, so please do engage with us, it's important that we hear your ideas and suggestions on what we can do to make our Parish, from Water Eaton to Eaton Leys, from Granby to Central Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, from Denbigh to Newton Leys, the very best communities that they can be. You'll be hearing some information about the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan very soon, it's our opportunity to influence how our part of MK is developed. Please get involved!

Best wishes,

Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson  
Chair, Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council



# Get Involved with the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Council started a new term in May this year so there has never been a better time to get involved in local democracy.

You can do this by joining the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Planning Group. The group will be composed of local people to steer the preparation of the plan and to seek the views of local people. Find out more in the poster below.

For further information on joining the group or getting involved in devising the plan, please get in contact by emailing [info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk) or by calling 01908 649 469. A new website and social media channels for the Neighbourhood Plan Group will also go live soon so watch out for those!

## Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan

Join us in shaping your community for the better

### What is a Neighbourhood Plan?

A neighbourhood plan sets out how your local area should grow and develop. It empowers the community to choose how and where they want new homes, shops, and offices to be built, and what infrastructure should be provided to support local people and businesses. We are looking for people who know and love the area, to ensure the community gets the right types of development, in the right place.

### Who

We need a diverse group of individuals who care about how the local community works for those who live and work here. You could represent:

- Local residents
- Local business - small, medium, large
- Community/faith groups
- Not-for-profit organisations
- Educational establishments
- Individuals with planning knowledge or experience

### Skills

We want a balanced team of people with different skills, including:

- Leadership
- Project management
- Organisation
- Communication
- Negotiation
- Analysis
- Ability to compromise
- Consideration of differing viewpoints
- Collaborative working

### Roles

As a member of the Neighbourhood Planning group, you will:

- Develop a shared vision of growth for the area
- Engage and seek views from the wider community
- Review and gather evidence
- Attend regular group meetings
- Keep the community updated on the plan's progress
- Lead on certain areas of the plan

### Apply

To apply or for more information, please email: [info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk) by 20th July 2021 providing your name, address, telephone, and email. Briefly explain why you want to be involved, what skills you can bring to the group, and details of any memberships of local groups within the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford area.



# Free Swimming Available



The Town Council is funding free swimming at Bletchley Leisure Centre for residents who meet certain criteria. The application form can be downloaded from our website or collected from either the Town Council office or from Bletchley Leisure Centre itself.

Please then take your completed form and associated documents to the Leisure Centre.



**FREE SWIMMING AVAILABLE**

**Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council are funding free swimming for residents that meet certain criteria. Find out more in the application form and on our website: [www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk)**

**You can also collect an application form from our office:**  
**Bletchley Library, Westfield Road, Bletchley, MK2 2RA**  
**01908 649 469**

**Free Swimming Eligibility Criteria**

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council are funding free swimming for the following residents:

Anyone in the following categories:

- Unemployed
- Over 60 years of age
- Youths aged between 3 and 16 years of age
- Young people in further education aged 16 to 19 yrs.

Anyone In Receipt of any of the following :

- Council Tax Reduction
- Universal Credit
- Personal Independence Payment
- Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Invalid Care Allowance
- Working Tax Credit
- Pension Credit

Proof of address and evidence of eligibility will be required. Please find more information in the application form and on our website: [www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](http://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk)

## Counselling and Wellbeing Support

Residents in our parish can access free wellbeing and counselling support as the Town Council has gone into partnership with the West Bletchley Wellbeing Counselling Service.

If anyone feels that they would benefit from some support at this time, just call or email and they will carry out an initial assessment to see if this is the right support service for you.

Please call: 01908 370 860 (phone lines are open between 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm with voicemail facilities available too) or email: [wbwbcounselling@btconnect.com](mailto:wbwbcounselling@btconnect.com) . Find out more on the West Bletchley Wellbeing Counselling Service's website and on our own website.



**WellBeing**

**FREE FOR BLETCHLEY AND FENNY STRATFORD TOWN COUNCIL RESIDENTS ONLY**

**COUNSELLING AND WELLBEING SUPPORT**

# Fenny Poppers Festival 2021

## Q+A



Gill Long, our Support Services Manager, recently took a short walk into Fenny Stratford to catch up with three of the team that bring us the Fenny Festival in August, to learn about this year's event. You can find out more on the Fenny Poppers Festival Facebook page.

*Q. The biggest questions of all are will it take place and when?*

A. Yes so long as the rug doesn't get pulled from under our feet like last year, there will be a festival on 15th August.

*Q. Will it have a similar format as past years?*

A. Yes the plan is to have the main stage and a secondary stage with the street full of stalls and a selection of fairground rides.

*Q. Not all people will have been vaccinated by 15th August so are you going to doing anything to ensure that visitors are still going to be safe regarding Covid?*

A. This is something that we are carefully monitoring. No doubt there will be government guidelines issued. We can expect to have hand sanitising stations throughout the site on the day.

*Q. How can local business get involved and support the event?*

A. Many local businesses offer financial support and sponsorship. All of them can have stalls and they are all invited to discuss how they can be involved.

*Q. The Poppers cannons were not fired last year on St Martin's day and the festival did not take place. Can we look forward to a big bang this year?*

A. At the festival one Popper is fired and this will be chosen in advance of the day. Aficionados can hear all six on 11th November if we remain free of restrictions.

### Photos from previous Fenny Poppers Festivals



# Fenny Poppers Festival Q+A continued

*Q. How does the event come together?*

A. Through a lot of hard work from a small band of volunteers. It would not be possible without the support of the local business community, the Town Council's grant that covers around 40% of the costs and support from Keith Emmet for the fairground rides and logistical experience.

*Q. How do interested parties book stalls?*

A. Anyone can email [stalls@fennyfestival.org.uk](mailto:stalls@fennyfestival.org.uk) There is a maximum number of stalls and we can only accept so many of each type so early application is always recommended.

*Q. What about stage acts or street entertainers.*

A. We would love to hear from anyone new. If the weather is good they can expect a lot of exposure.

*Q. Can anyone volunteer?*

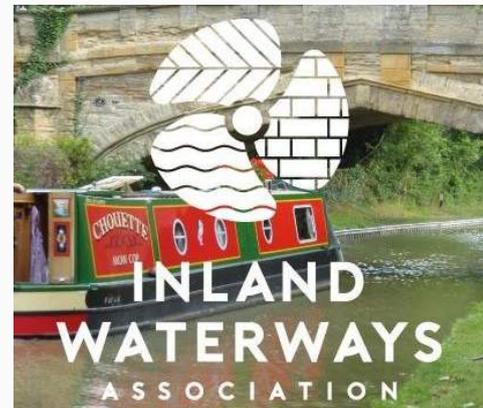
A. We would love to hear from anyone who thinks they can assist with preparations or to help on the day. We always need additional bodies. You do need to be reasonably fit to help set up the event and take it down again. It is a long day but is always enjoyable. If anyone has helped previously and hasn't heard from us or anyone who would like to take part for the first time please contact 07747 017858 or email [stalls@fennyfestival.org.uk](mailto:stalls@fennyfestival.org.uk) . We do feed volunteers and they can keep their identification T Shirt.

We look forward to the 15th August!

## Advance Notice: Fenny Stratford, IWA Canal Festival, 7th and 8th August 2021

We are looking forward to the IWA Canal Festival which will take place in August, There will be trading boats, model boats and stalls along with Electra, the new all electric trip boat for the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, appearing on the Saturday.

Watch out for the banners and flyers for the IWA Canal Festival and have a look at the IWA Milton Keynes Facebook page.



## Water Eaton Community Larder

The Water Eaton Community Larder takes place on Tuesdays at Water Eaton Church Centre between 2pm-4pm. Please wear a face covering, unless you are medically exempt, and follow the Covid-19 safety measures in place.

You can also join the Water Eaton Community Larder Facebook Group to find out more and to get inspired with your cooking! Find further information on the SOFEA website: [www.sofea.uk.com/](http://www.sofea.uk.com/)



# Newton Leys Allotments are open!



After much anticipation, Newton Leys Allotments are finally open. We already have a full waiting list of potential allotment tenants. The Town Council will continue to get in contact with residents to allocate allotments plots. We can't wait to see the allotments develop and grow! The photo on the top left shows the first plot holder at Newton Leys Allotments to get a spade in the ground!

Remember you can share your allotment's progress and produce with the local community by sending photos and videos to us. Email an update to us: [info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk).

## Rangers Report Update

As the weather continues to improve, our Rangers have been busy mowing and planting flowers across our parish. The photo on the right shows our Rangers gardening outside Bletchley Library. Other completed jobs include:

- Planting of planters on Queensway and an additional planter at our office entrance (see second photo).
- Strip out of Kitchen at Fenny Stratford Community Centre
- Inspection of other allotment sites
- Mowing at Newton Leys Pavilion and Larch Grove Allotments
- Weeding the beds at Newton Leys Pavilion
- Litter picking
- Reporting of fly tipping for removal by Milton Keynes Council
- Removal of fencing from old pump house site at Manor Road

Make sure you follow the Town Council on social media for more Ranger updates!



Will Allen, our Environment and Premises Manager, recently joined a canalside walk to discuss with local colleagues and organisations ways we can support and improve the canalside in our parish.

Electra, an all-electric, fully accessible 12-passenger community trip boat, has now been launched into the Grand Union Canal. The Town Council contributed to the set-up costs for the Community Boat project and has subsequently entered into a three year partnership with the Bedford and Milton Keynes Waterway Trust. We are looking forward to seeing our residents using and enjoying the Community Boat, Electra, and the canalside this summer!

Find out more about Electra on their website: [www.bmkwaterway.org/mkcommunityboatelectra/](http://www.bmkwaterway.org/mkcommunityboatelectra/)

# A message from CarersMK

*"I come from a generation who are used to just 'getting on with it' and we do what we can, but I do feel alone sometimes and could really use some help, or even a break."*

*"I had to look after my friend and neighbour because she had no-one else – we sort of look after each other because we are both alone now."*

*"I have had very limited help since Covid hit us and have felt very isolated from everything."*

It was Carers Week between 7th-14th June. Carers MK hear many statements like the ones above from those who care for loved ones at home. Although it has its rewards, caring for another without help is challenging, both physically and mentally, and can be particularly difficult when you are over 75 and may have your own health issues. Often a carer does not think of themselves as such and will insist they are just looking after someone because they care about them. Many have no idea of the type of help they could be accessing unless someone points them in the right direction at the right time.

It can be hard to navigate the many services delivered by local authorities and the NHS, accompanied by the numerous voluntary sector organisations who provide practical and emotional support when you need it.

Carers MK supports carers of all ages and the "Caring for Older Carers Service" team provide an enhanced service, designed to help carers over 75 overcome the barriers they experience to accessing the help they need, in order to continue to care for their loved ones. The team can provide the information you need, signpost, or advise you about the services appropriate to you and your circumstances.

The team work with carers who may have communication difficulties, due to hearing or sight loss and having a member of the Caring for Older Carers team to support them can make a huge difference. It can simply be to link them into the organisations and services they were unaware of. It is anticipated that developments expected in the local area will bring positive change, but if you are a carer who is struggling with these changes and need to access information, you can ring, text, or email us for further advice.

**Telephone: 01908 231703**

**Email: [mail@carersmiltonkeynes.org](mailto:mail@carersmiltonkeynes.org)**

**Website: [www.carersmiltonkeynes.org](http://www.carersmiltonkeynes.org)**

## gentlespaces

Have you recently lost a friend or family member? gentlespaces are safe places for those who are grieving.

If you would like to join one of the supported groups, please call 01908 382318 (10-12am and 6-8pm Mon, Weds, Fri) to book your place.

## gentlespaces

for those who are grieving

Have you recently lost a friend or family member? Would you find it helpful to meet with others who are also dealing with loss?

gentlespaces are safe places for those who are grieving.

If you would like to join one of our supported groups, please contact 01908 382318 (10-12am and 6-8pm Mon, Weds, Fri) to book your place



A project by MK Mission Partnership  
with funding provided by MK Community Foundation



# New Timetable at Newton Leys Pavilion

## GET ACTIVE IN 2021!

### Newton Leys Pavilion Timetable



#### Thursday

18:00 - 21:00	MK Cyclones	07902 011 154
19:30 - 21:30	Ballet Bums*	07969 677 898
19:45 - 21:30	Womens Institute*	01908 208 878

\*Ballet Bums runs on 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, WI runs on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

#### Friday

10:00 - 11:00	Cha Char Chimps	07976 484 212
13:45 - 16:15	Leisure Together (TBC)	07851 729 029
18:00 - 19:00	Freestyle Martial Arts	03334 567 585
18:30 - 19:30	Yoga With Anna (TBC)	01908 274 910

#### Saturday

8:45 - 12:00	Socatots	07432 644 934
9:00 - 12:00	Jukebox Junction	07864 212 171
10:15 - 11:15	Millingue	07830 655 161

#### Sunday

10:30 - 12:00	Joy Community Church	07931 011 470
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#### Monday

9:30 - 10:15	Little Kickers	01494 911 133
18:00 - 19:00	Five Star Fitness	07718 140 921

#### Tuesday

12:30 - 13:30	Baby College	07976 484 212
17:30 - 18:30	Youth Network	07483 107 016
19:00 - 20:00	Brownies (TBC)	07973 376 993
19:15 - 20:00	Clubbercise (TBC)	07786 806 980

#### Wednesday

9:30 - 12:00	Robot Reg Phonics	07809 459 648
18:30 - 19:30	Five Star Fitness	07718 140 921
18:15 - 20:15	Table Tennis (TBC)	01908 208 878

Monday - Friday	TERM TIME ONLY
09:00 - 16:30	07973 158 368

Tel: 01908 274910

www.newtonleypavilion.gov.uk

Following the government's roadmap, more classes have returned to Newton Leys Pavilion.

We are very pleased to be able to begin welcoming back our regular users. The new timetable is available to view on the Newton Leys Pavilion page on our website.

Keep up to date by following and liking our social media, with the Newton Leys Pavilion Facebook Page.

## Fenny Stratford Community Centre



The renovation at Fenny Stratford Community Centre is fully underway. This includes replacing lighting, flooring and doorways and the refurbishment of the kitchens and toilets. A new sign about the entrance to the Community Centre has also been installed, as you can see in the photo on the left.

All work is expected to be completed by the end of July. We will continue to share updates about Fenny Stratford Community Centre on our website and social media.

## Services at our Spotlight Centre

Our Spotlight Centre, MK2 3QR, is currently open as a Food Bank Collection Point between 10am-1pm on weekdays. This service is currently being reviewed. We will share an update if anything changes. If you need support, please contact MK Food Bank Xtra by calling 0300 303 4933 or by texting 07874 964505. The Helpline is open between 10am-4pm on weekdays.

Appointments are also available for residents to use our IT Suite. Appointments will last for a maximum of 45 minutes at a time and are available on both Monday and Wednesday mornings at 10.30am and 11.30am. Access is limited to maintain the correct levels of hygiene as computers will be cleaned after each use.

If you would like to book to use the IT Suite, please ring the phone number for our main Town Council office on 01908 649 469 or ring the number for our Spotlight Centre on 01908 644 941.



Entrance to the Spotlight Centre

# Town Council Officer Team Update

The main Town Council office, at Bletchley Library, is now open to the public between 9.30am-1pm on weekdays. Appointments can be made outside of these times. The team continues to work well, despite the challenges of the pandemic, and are looking forward to more face to face contact with the local community. This is an exciting time for our area and the team continues to work hard and plan for the future, with recruitment taking place to add to our team.

It was recently Gill Long's last day as our Support Services Manager. Gill has been a very hardworking and dedicated staff member since she joined the Town Council team. We want to thank Gill for all her hard work and we wish her a very happy retirement!

The photos below are from Gill's last day.



**Save The Date for our Christmas Event - 27th November 2021**



**WE'RE HAVING A CHRISTMAS EVENT!**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**SATURDAY  
27TH NOVEMBER 2021**



# Bletchley & Fenny Town Councillors



## Newton Leys

### Chairman

**ClIr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson**

ethaniel.kellywilson@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



## Central Bletchley

### Vice Chair

**ClIr Richard Graham**

richard.graham@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



## Queensway & Denbigh North

**ClIr Ron Haine**

ron.haine@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Amanda Carter-Philpott**

amanda.carterphilpott@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-  
tc.gov.uk



## Manor South

**ClIr Keith Ely**

keith.ely@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Ayesha Khanom**

ayesha.khanom@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Terry Stephens**

terry.stephens@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



## Granby

**ClIr Mohammad Imran**

mohammad.imran@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



## Manor North

**ClIr Liz Campbell**

liz.campbell@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-  
tc.gov.uk



## Eaton North

**ClIr Samantha Browne**

samantha.browne@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-  
tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Daniel Ribton**

daniel.ribton@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Ed Hume**

ed.hume@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



## Fenny Stratford

**ClIr E'Amonn O'Rouke**

eamonn.orouke@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Sean Porter**

sean.porter@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Axel Hans Segebrecht**

axel.segebrecht@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-  
tc.gov.uk



## Eaton South

**ClIr Mariee Wymer**

mariee.wymer@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Michael McDonald**

michael.mcdonald@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk



**ClIr Gavin Bedford**

gavin.bedford@cllr.bletchleyfenny  
stratford-tc.gov.uk





# Newsletter Dates



We will be distributing our Town Council newsletter each quarter. The next newsletter will be sent to local residents in September 2021. If you would like to contribute to the June newsletter, then please send any articles or information to us by **23rd July**. The newsletter will include Town Council news and updates as well as upcoming local events and consultations.

Please see upcoming newsletter contribution and delivery dates below:

<b>COPY DEADLINE DATE</b>	<b>NEWSLETTERS DELIVERED</b>
<b>23RD JULY 2021</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 2021</b>
<b>3RD DECEMBER 2021</b>	<b>JANUARY 2022</b>
<b>31ST JANUARY 2022</b>	<b>MARCH 2022</b>

## We want to hear from you!

If you also have local news or an event that you would like to share with our community, we will be happy to share this information on our social media channels and in future Town Council newsletters (did you know that we also send out monthly e-newsletters). Let's ensure that we stay connected and share good news across our parish.

To discuss this further, please get in contact with Ruth, our Projects and Media Officer, by emailing: [ruth.horsburgh@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.horsburgh@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk) or via Facebook Messenger.



**Share your ideas, concerns and success stories with us**

'Where can I get help for my project?'

'I think there should be more focus on...'

'Are you aware of my community group?'



## Contact Us

Phone 01908 649 469

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

Email [info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk](mailto:info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk)

The Town Council office is based at Bletchley Library, Westfield Road, MK2 2RA. These offices are currently open to the public between 9.30am-1pm on weekdays. The best way to keep up to date is by following us on our social media channels. We are on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube.

