

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20



### Chairman's Foreword

I am writing the foreword to this annual report at an extremely challenging time for our community. Like all my fellow Town Councillors, I expected to complete my four-year term of office as a councillor and Chairman of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council in May 2020. Instead we find ourselves remaining in office until May 2021 when the postponed 2020 local elections are now due to take place. We cannot hold our annual meeting of electors as usual because of restrictions on gatherings and many of our plans and services have had to be cut or changed in recent weeks. However, people in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford are resilient and I am proud to be part of a community where individuals and groups are helping each other to manage through these difficult weeks and months.

Despite the pandemic the Town Council is still working hard and we have not forgotten our duty to be open and accountable to the community. Our annual report gives a flavour of some of the work we have been doing during 2019-20 along with a summary of our accounts and details of your councillors' attendance at meetings. There are many challenges and opportunities for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford ahead and we look forward to continued working with our residents to help our community to thrive in the time to come.



Cllr Angela Kennedy  
Chair of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council  
April 2020

## Overview of Council Work 2019-20

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### Council Policy and Governance

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There are 18 seats on Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council and at the time of writing there are 17 elected councillors and one casual vacancy in Manor South. Councillors are not paid for their public service but undertake their role because they want to make a difference in their community. A table of Councillor attendance is shown at Appendix 1.

The council held business meetings throughout the year including monthly Planning, Finance and Human Resource Committee meetings. In addition, there were regular monthly full council meetings when matters of policy and decisions about taking on new activities were considered.

Members of the public are always welcome to attend formal Council and committee meetings and many people have done so during the past year and asked questions and made representations to the Council which have informed decision making.

In addition, the Town Council has arranged more informal meetings to seek opinions from the community about different issues e.g. in November 2019 a community meeting was held to discuss the need for a Neighbourhood Plan. Bletchley and Fenny Stratford parish is positioned at the intersection of strategic east-west and north-south rail routes at the centre of the Oxford-Cambridge arc. Residents at the meeting recognised that development of the East West rail link may result in extensive future development which could affect the people and the infrastructure of the whole parish and it is hoped that development of a Neighbourhood Plan will allow local people to have some influence on the future planning and development of the area.

Another important policy decision made by the Council in January 2020 was the declaration of a climate emergency. Councillors recognised that the biggest single issue facing the county was climate change and that many issues concerning the local community were directly linked with this for example the potential extension of the landfill site at Newton Leys, the proposed East West Express (the route of which would be close to the parish) and potential problems with flooding in the area. A commitment was made to work towards making the Town Council carbon neutral by 2030. Significant work needs to be done to

achieve this ambitious target and work will continue in 2020-21. The Town Council will also be working in partnership with MK Council, other parishes and community groups to achieve our climate change objectives.

Throughout 2019-20 the Town Council has provided our regular services such as allotments, public toilets, play schemes and youth services, Christmas lights and events, information and advice services, Spotlight, Newton Leys Pavilion etc. We have continued to advocate for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford and to represent the views of our residents. Some of the main themes informing our work have been:

- Improving the environment
- Working in partnership
- Responding to community need
- Helping community groups

and the next pages show some examples of this.



Figure 1&2 Litter pick at Blue Lagoon

Community Litter Picks were very successful throughout the year and a great sense of achievement was had by all!



Figure 3 Manor Road Cemetery Chapel

The current phase of work on the cemetery chapel at Manor Road was completed in June 2019. The building is currently being used for storage purposes until a long term community use can be identified.



Figure 4 New gates and doors



Figure 5 Bletchley Library

In partnership with Milton Keynes Council the Town Council installed benches and planters in Westfield Road to enhance Bletchley Library



Figure 6 Bletchley Library

Throughout the year, we have worked with partner organisations to support our work and theirs. We have had a close relationship with MK Council on specific projects including the Lakes Regeneration programme and the Community Infrastructure scheme. Thames Valley Police Neighbourhood Team communicate regularly with the council and we work with them to support their Police Community Forum and provide intelligence on a regular basis. We have used different charities and community organisations to deliver local services for us for example MK Citizens Advice, MK Play Association and Youth Network MK.



Figure 7 Play session delivered by MK Play Association 2019



Figure 8 & 9 The War Memorial

Bletchley Masons have partnered with the Town Council in maintaining the War Memorial in Bletchley and their volunteers have kept the flower beds looking beautiful. Saplings Children's Centre also worked with us to produce a field of poppies ready for Remembrance Sunday.

## Responding to Community Need

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Figure 10 CCTV Camera

In autumn 2019 residents in the Lakes Estate (especially residents of Serpentine Court who were involved in the Lakes Improvement Project) approached the Town Council with concerns about antisocial behaviour, community safety and crime which was seriously impacting on their day to day lives. Working with the residents and MK Council's

Community Partnership Manager we hosted a community meeting at Spotlight which was well attended by residents, representatives of local business and many statutory agencies. Residents spoke eloquently and movingly about the challenges they were facing. Within a matter of weeks, the Town Council agreed to fund 3 redeployable CCTV cameras in key positions agreed with Thames Valley Police and these were in place before Christmas 2019. The cameras have yielded valuable intelligence about a number of incidents and the crime figures in the months after their installation were reduced.

Residents in Eaton Avenue had mixed feelings about a scheme to reduce speeding and improve safety in the road through the introduction of traffic calming measures and a 20 mph speed limit. This project was co-funded with Milton Keynes Council and was put forward by the Town Council in 2018-19 following requests from residents for action to improve pedestrian safety. The Town Council agreed to an adapted scheme involving speed cushions which was installed at the end of 2019-20. The majority of residents were in favour of the scheme as installed and we will continue to listen to resident's views about road safety, parking and speeding as the scheme is properly tested during 2020-21.

Complaints about the local area are always taken seriously and where we are able to support the local authority, we do. Some of the local alleyways needed attention and these



Figures 11, 12, 13 Clearing alleyways

are the results of some work in March 2020. Some essential maintenance too.

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Figures 14 & 15 Essential Maintenance

### Helping Community Groups

A number of community grants were awarded last year totalling £25,398 and they went to a variety of good causes across the parish.

<b>Bletchley Town Cricket Club</b>	<b>£4,000</b>	New lawn mower for the local club
<b>Fenny Festival (Fenny Poppers)</b>	<b>£4,250</b>	Support for the yearly festival held in August
<b>Locals of the Lakes</b>	<b>£2,025</b>	Trip to the seaside for local residents
<b>MK Pride</b>	<b>£1,500</b>	Support for the annual festival in MK
<b>Milton Keynes Bangladeshi Association</b>	<b>£1,000</b>	Trip to the coast for the local community
<b>YMCA Milton Keynes</b>	<b>£2,500</b>	Contribution to the new MK YMCA building which supports residents in this parish
<b>Lakes Fireworks Display</b>	<b>£4,360</b>	Grant for the yearly Fireworks display organised by the Lakes Residents Association
<b>Bletchley Lions</b>	<b>£445</b>	Support for local senior citizens annual celebration meal and activities
<b>The Somewhere Safe Garden Project</b>	<b>£868</b>	Supporting the Mill Residents Association to provide an outside space at a local hostel
<b>Better Futures Forever</b>	<b>£4,450</b>	Continued support for the activities and services on the Lakes Estate to promote better mental health for young people and families



Figures 16, 17, 18 & 19 Examples of grant recipients



Grant funding will be available again in 2020-21 and details about how to apply and the grant criteria can be found on our website.



Figure 20 Newton Leys Pavilion

Work around the parish continued in other ways including the continued success of the Newton Leys Pavilion and an increasing number of activities taking place there.

Get active in 2020!		Newton Leys Pavilion Something for Everyone	
<b>MONDAY</b>		<b>FRIDAY</b>	
09:30-10:15	Little Kickers 01494 931133	10:00-11:00	Cha Cha Chimps 07736 449746
15:00-20:00	Five Star Fitness 07718 140210	11:30-12:15	Let's Move Together 07851 723029
<b>TUESDAY</b>		18:30-19:30	Yoga with Debbie 07948 804021
17:00-18:30	Youth Network Youth Club 0748 3107016	19:00-20:00	Five Star Fitness 07718 140210
18:15-19:15	No Strings Badminton 01908 274910	<b>SATURDAY</b>	
19:15-20:00	Clubbercise 07786 806980	08:45-12:00	Socciots booking.socciots.co.uk
19:00-20:00	Brownies 07973 376993	09:00-12:00	Jukebox Junction info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>		<b>SUNDAY</b>	
10:45-12:15	Bounce Studios 03288 183004	10:30-12:00	Joy Community Church 07931 011470
19:15-20:30	Five Star Fitness 07718 140210	08:45-09:40	Yoga with Jessica 07900 423746
<b>THURSDAY</b>		Monday to Friday (Term time only)	
19:15-20:00	Zumba 07786 806980	09:00-11:00	Buttonts Pre-School 07973 153368
19:45-22:00	Women's Institute 07802 709526		
Runs on the 2nd Thursday of the month			
Contact us to make a booking 01908 274910 www.bletchleyfennystratford.gov.uk			

Figure 21 Newton Leys Pavilion Timetable 2020

The shopping area and the Pavilion are now well established and we look forward to opening the football pitches and the allotments in 2020-21 to add to the existing community facilities in Newton Leys.



Figure 22 The War Memorial

The War Memorial was celebrated once again and the children from Saplings and Knowles School helped to make it extra special with hand made poppies for the day.

## **Finances**

The Town Council received an unqualified internal audit in 2019/20 with no matters brought to the attention of The Council by the external auditor. The external audit of 2019/20's accounts has been delayed by the Covid19 pandemic.

The Council's finance committee met monthly to review income and expenditure and ensure value for money for council tax payers. Detailed financial information is published on our website and further questions about the finances may be addressed to the Town Clerk or to the Chairman of the Finance Committee.

The income and expenditure figures are at Appendix 3

## Appendix I

<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Number of meetings attended (full council and committee meetings)</b>	<b>Attendance rate (based on attendance at all meetings the councillor was due to attend during the year)</b>
<b>Mohammed Arshad</b>	4	8%
<b>Samantha Browne</b>	35	81%
<b>Keith Ely</b>	41	77%
<b>Richard Graham</b>	17	44%
<b>Ron Haine</b>	41	93%
<b>William Hewitt</b>	10	26%
<b>Ed Hume</b>	39	81%
<b>Tracey Hyde (from July 19)</b>	12	44%
<b>Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson</b>	43	81%
<b>Angela Kennedy</b>	12	25%
<b>Gary Kenworthy</b>	36	82%
<b>Michael McDonald</b>	40	83%
<b>E'Amonn O'Rourke</b>	35	71%
<b>Sean Porter</b>	9	26%
<b>Mohammed Rohim</b>	6	18%
<b>Shirley Rolfe</b>	9	26%
<b>Rosemary Smith</b>	12	35%

## Appendix 2

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## Bletchley &amp; Fenny Town Councillors



## Manor North

## Chairman

Cllr Angela Kennedy

Angela.kennedy@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Central Bletchley

## Vice Chair

Cllr Richard Graham

Richard.graham@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Queensway &amp; Denbigh North

Cllr Ron Haine

Ron.Haine@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr William Hewitt

William.Hewitt@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Manor South

Cllr Keith Ely

keith.ely@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Shirley Rolfe

Shirley.rolfe@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Casual Vacancy

TBC@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk

## Granby

Cllr Tracy Hyde

Tracy.hyde@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Newton Leys

Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson

Ethaniel.kellywilson@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Artwork Jan 2020

## Eaton North

Cllr Samantha Browne

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



Cllr Mohammed Rohim

Mohammed.rohim@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Ed Hume

Ed.hume@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Fenny Stratford

Cllr E'Amonn O'Rourke

Eamonn.orourke@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Sean Porter

Sean.porter@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Rosemary Smith

Rosemary.smith@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



## Eaton South

Cllr Mohammed Arshad

Mohammed.arshad@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Michael McDonald

Michael.mcdonald@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Gary Kenworthy

Gary.kenworthy@cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council  
Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31/03/2020

31/03/2019		31/03/2020
	<b>Operating Income</b>	
0	Community Grants	35,000
4,352	Spotlight	3,347
14,640	LE Activity Project	0
744,857	Precept/Grant	795,458
0	Christmas Lights Overhead Expe	1,617
340	Christmas Event	40
1,000	Albert Street Toilets	1,000
4,690	Allotments & Community Orchard	5,188
8,720	George Street	0
10,424	74/76 Queensway/Library	24,532
4,772	Council Support Services	7,292
59	Town Council Vehicle	0
17,616	Newton Leys Community Centre	0
17,784	Newton Leys Pavilion	227,497
22,088	Market	14,321
<u>851,340</u>	<b>Total Income</b>	<u>1,115,292</u>
	<b>Running Costs</b>	
24,080	Community Grants	62,873
11,503	Democratic Services	8,491
375	Planters	0
5,994	Youth Work	7,800
9,137	Dog Bins	13,915
14,822	Senior Youth Club	22,233
15,016	Spotlight	9,287
3,561	Bandstand	5,283
3,502	Community Engagement	3,382
20,673	Christmas Lights Overhead Expe	29,234
9,286	Christmas Event	12,578
26,688	Albert Street Toilets	31,475
15,176	Allotments & Community Orchard	11,334
1,438	War Memorial	0
17,782	New/Additional Building Wks	0
20,041	The Chapel	5,271
65	Manor Road Lockup	1,740
15,623	George Street	2,500
9,092	Professional Fees	1,416
0	Community Infrastructure Fund	22,951
7,698	Community Projects/Services	30,800
272,000	Staff Costs	270,563
70,063	74/76 Queensway/Library	68,860
52,090	Council Support Services	79,048
15,220	Town Council Vehicle	2,770
4,952	Lakes Regeneration Fund	0
8,710	Newton Leys Community Centre	0
70,631	Newton Leys Pavilion	87,402
4,046	Market	3,692
<u>729,264</u>	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<u>794,898</u>

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Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council  
Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31/03/2020

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31/03/2019		31/03/2020
	General Fund Analysis	
208,321	Opening Balance	294,237
851,340	Plus : Income for Year	1,115,292
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1,059,662		1,409,529
729,264	Less : Expenditure for Year	794,898
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330,397		614,632
36,160	Transfers TO / FROM Reserves	158,427
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294,237	Closing Balance	456,205
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Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council  
Bletchley Library  
Westfield Road  
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