

The Neighbour

Newsletter from
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council



A letter from our Chair Ethaniel

Dear Resident,

How was your summer? My hope is that you had a wonderful time. For many of you with children you will have had a busy time settling them into a new school routine, and I know some of our young people will have changed schools or gone on to higher education which is a massive change for them.

I enjoyed meeting so many of the community of all ages at the recent Bletchley Big Street Eat which took place in Queensway on 29 July. This is our carnival style event which celebrates the cultural diversity of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford. Queensway was pedestrianised for the day and the town centre was busy with street food vendors, market stalls, art activities and lots of things to do. The town council is very keen to bring more people into the town centre through our events and it was wonderful to celebrate the voluntary work in our community by presenting our Pride in Bletchley community awards.

The autumn started for us with delivery of a new service. The town council has taken over the majority of the soft landscaping activity previously performed by Serco on behalf of Milton Keynes City Council. Our directly employed landscaping professionals are busy working to provide a consistent service and improve the green landscaping. Please report any issues on our website.

Enjoy the autumn, and make sure you read the rest of The Neighbour to find out about our next events and the work of the town council and others in our area. It will be Christmas before we know it!

I look forward to seeing you soon.

Best wishes

Ethaniel



Councillor Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson
Chair of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council

Become A Councillor

Are you passionate about the local area and want to represent your local community? Maybe it's time to apply to become a councillor.

There are now three casual councillor vacancies, one for Queensway and Denbigh, one for Eaton South ward and one for Fenny Stratford ward. You can view the vacancy notices on our website:

<https://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/become-a-councillor>

If you would like to find out more information on becoming a councillor, please contact us by calling 01908 649 469 or by emailing info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk.

Council Meeting Dates



Community Committee - Tuesday 10 October - 7.30pm
Finance and Governance Committee - Tuesday 24 October - 7.30pm

Employment Policy Committee - Tuesday 7 November - 7.30pm
Environment & Planning Committee - Tuesday 14 November - 7.30pm

Community Committee - Tuesday 12 December - 7.30pm

Upcoming events



A ghoulishly good time at Halloween on Stanier Square

Join us for some delicious hot food like witches' fingers, chips and ghoulish ice cream treats (vegan and gf catered for)
Lots of themed, collectors toy and comic stalls plus wonderful handmade food and craft too

Entertainment

- win prizes for best fancy dress (kids and adults)
- meet the Ghostbusters and have a go catching your own ghouls
- take part in the Mystery trail
- face painting

and lots more...

Local company Striking Events organise toy and comicon events nationwide and will be supporting us to deliver a really interactive day

- dogs on leads welcome
- no booking / tickets required
- free to attend

Get into the festive sprit with Christmas on Queensway

Join us on 2nd December to celebrate festive traditions old and new.

Delight in snow flurries and carol singers while you eat and drink your way along Queensway with hot food, snacks and treats from local and independent traders.

Meet Santa and ride the land train. Create mischief with the Grinch and festive elves.

Experience the magic of a Christmas pantomime live and outdoors on Queensway. There are two times available to book via the event website.

Plus join us for the very first Santa Dash across Queensway. Come dressed in your finest santa suit and run / walk / stroll along Queensway for a commemorative medal.
Bookable via the event website.

There will be fairground games and lots to see and do. The Premier Academy School children will be singing live alongside other entertainment throughout the day.

Win prizes with *gingerbread house decorating* craft table and enter our best *ugly Christmas Jumper* parade.



For more information and to book Panto tickets or enter the Santa Dash please visit bit.ly/BFSTCXMAS

Is there an event you'd love to see in 2024 / 2025? Drop us an email (see page 20) to tell us what

Congratulations to all our Community Award Winners

This was the second year of the Pride of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Community Awards. The judging panel were hugely impressed by the dedication and hard work of the nominees to our area and local community.

The PRIDE of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Community Awards were created to celebrate all the amazing ways in which you help, support and work to improve the areas around you.

We are honoured to have so many dedicated and community minded individuals and organisations within our town.

Congratulations to all winners:

Climate Champion Award

Winner - Bletchley Green Gym

Lifetime Achievement Award

Winner - Andy Walton

Customer Service Award

Winner - Twice Boutique

Best Allotment Plot

Winners -

Orchardside - Dirk Hinze

Manor Fields - Ian Wilson

Newton Leys - Anna Dudek

Larch Grove - Michelle Logan

Volunteer or Charity Award

Winner - Girl Pack

Young Volunteer Award

Winners -

Abi Brown

Beau Green

Guglielmo Clark

The photos below are from the awards presentation which took place on the main stage at the Bletchley Big Street Eat.



Our Buildings' Timetables



Newton Leys Pavilion Timetable

Call 01908 735 035 or email bookings@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk for info about the building
Please contact classes directly using the contact details below for any enquiries about the classes/clubs

Monday Amber Elephant Performing Arts 4.50pm - 5.50pm Age 6-10 6pm - 7.20pm Age 10-16 hello@amberelephant.co.uk Inspired Martial Arts 5pm-8pm Age 4+ graham@inspiredmartialarts.co.uk Buttons Monday-Friday Term Time 8.30am-4.30pm newtonleys@buttonspreschools.co.uk	Tuesday Baby College 10.30am-11.15am Age 18 months-4 11.30am-12.15pm Age 9-18 months 12.30pm-1.15pm Age 0-9 months Kate@babycollege.co.uk 07976484212 Youth Network Term Time 5pm-6.30pm Age 7-15 info@ynmk.org 07966366556	Wednesday Robot Reg 10am Minis 11am Pre-School claired@robotreg.co.uk 07809459648 Social Ping Pong From October 6pm - 8pm socialpingpongmk@gmail.com V Pilates 6.30pm-7.30pm vicsweet@mail.com
Thursday Music Bugs 10am-11am michelle@musicbugs.co.uk 0844 8221 158 Anna Pichowski Yoga 7pm-8pm annapichowskiyoga@gmail.com 07888730464 Women's Institute Every 2nd Thursday of the month 7.30pm-10pm HQ@bucksfwi.org.uk 01908 208878	Friday Cha Char Chimps 10am-11am amisangi@ccchimps.com 07786388700 Freestyle Martial Arts 6pm - 6.45pm newtonleys@freestylemartialarts.com 03334567585	Saturday Shima Dance 9am- 10am marieclaire_umutoni@yahoo.com 07840260419 Jukebox Junction Term Time 9.45am- 12pm Age 2-14 info@jukeboxjunction.co.uk 07864212171 Sunday Joy Community Church 10.30am-12pm 07931011470



Spotlight Community Centre Timetable

Call 01908 649469 or email bookings@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk for info about the building
Please contact classes directly using the contact details below for any enquiries about the classes/clubs

Monday Drop-in Art Club 9.30am-1pm Drop-in use of IT Suite 10am-12pm Drop-In Job Club 10am-12pm nep@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908 252323 Food Bank 12pm-2pm Food Bank Helpline Number 0300 3034933	Tuesday Drop-in use of IT Suite 10am-12pm Food Bank 12pm-2pm Food Bank Helpline Number 0300 3034933	Wednesday Community Coffee Morning 10am-11.30am Drop-in use of IT Suite 10am-12pm Food Bank 12pm-2pm Food Bank Helpline Number 0300 3034933 Drop-In Job Club 2pm-4pm nep@milton-keynes.gov.uk 01908 252323 Church of Christ 5.30pm-9.30pm
Thursday Ward Councillor Surgery 10am-11am Mears & MKCC Housing Officers Drop-in use of IT Suite 10am-12pm Food Bank 12pm-2pm Food Bank Helpline Number 0300 3034933	Friday Food Bank 12pm-2pm Food Bank Helpline Number 0300 3034933 Drop-in use of IT Suite 10am-12pm	Saturday Church of Christ 5.30pm-9.30pm Sunday



Fenny Stratford Community Centre Timetable

Call 01908 649469 or email bookings@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk for info about the building
Please contact classes directly using the contact details below for any enquiries about the classes/clubs

<p>Monday</p> <p>Bletchley Pre-school Monday-Friday bletchleypreschool@live.co.uk</p> <p><i>Term Time</i> 8.30am-4pm</p>	<p>Tuesday</p> <p>Brownies www.girlguiding.org.uk</p> <p>5.45pm-7.45pm</p> <p>Bletchley Pre-school Monday-Friday bletchleypreschool@live.co.uk</p> <p><i>Term Time</i> 8.30am-4pm</p>	<p>Wednesday</p> <p>Girl Guides www.girlguiding.org.uk</p> <p>6.30pm-8pm</p> <p>Bletchley Pre-school Monday-Friday bletchleypreschool@live.co.uk</p> <p><i>Term Time</i> 8.30am-4pm</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p>Inspired Martial Arts 5.30pm-8.30pm Age 4+ Little heroes (Age 4-6): 5:30pm-6:15pm Inspired Heroes (Age 7-14): 6:30pm-7:30pm Adults (Age 15+): 7:30pm-8:30pm graham@inspiredmartialarts.co.uk</p> <p>Bletchley Pre-school Monday-Friday bletchleypreschool@live.co.uk</p> <p><i>Term Time</i> 8.30am-4pm</p>	<p>Friday</p> <p>Bletchley Pre-school Monday-Friday bletchleypreschool@live.co.uk</p> <p><i>Term Time</i> 8.30am-4pm</p>	<p>Saturday</p> <p>MK TT Drop-In Gaming Club mktabletopgaming@gmail.com</p> <p>3pm-9.30pm</p> <p>Sunday</p> <p>Potters House Christian Church phmiltonkeynes@gmail.com</p> <p>2pm-3.30pm 6pm-7.30pm</p> <p>International Churches of Christ</p> <p>11am-1pm</p>

Community Orchard

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council owns and manages a community orchard located beside the canal and between Manor Fields and Orchardside allotments. It has been planted with a wide range of apple trees and crab apple trees, surrounded by cherry trees, but do wait for them to ripen.
This is a peaceful green space in which everyone can enjoy picking up the fruits from the trees.

On 20th August, The Fenny Stratford Residents Association held a summer family picnic in the orchard which Town Councillors Terry Stephens and Liz Campbell attended. There were garden games, a quiz, drinks for the children and a fly past from the Lancaster bomber. Please contact the council if you would like to hold a community event in the orchard.

Access to the orchard by car is via Bletchley Rugby Club entrance off Watling Street, or by foot over the canal bridge on Pinewood Drive.

For more information please visit: <https://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/community-orchard>



Supporting Local Businesses

Discount Domestic Appliances have been operating in Fenny Stratford for 15 years, supplying customers with affordable appliances. The store stocks fridges, freezers, washing machines, tumble dryers, cookers and dishwashers. The owner, Harroon can deliver on the same day as item purchased, and delivers free of charge to local areas in Milton Keynes. Washing machines can be installed by the company, and for gas appliances, they have recommended traders that can do the installation.

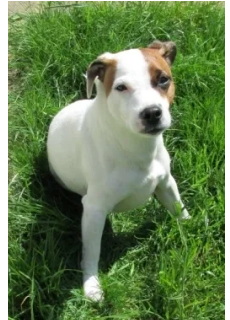
Discount Domestic Appliances are open weekdays 9am - 5.30pm and Saturdays 10am - 4pm.

For any enquiries please contact 01908 365981



Jed and Friends Veterinary Surgery opened in April 2023 and treats dogs, cats, rabbits, all small furries, birds, reptiles and exotics. Jed and Friends Veterinary Surgery was built in tribute to owner Teresa Burns' dog Jed, who sadly passed away in August 2022. Jed was an amazing, lovable Parson Russell Terrier, who is sorely missed within the practice.

At Jed and Friends there are clean, spacious consulting rooms, supplied with delicious dog treats, which helps put nervous dogs at ease. The ethos at Jed and Friends is always putting the patients best interest first, with compassion and love. Everything is under one roof at the veterinary surgery, with well equipped rooms and friendly staff treating animals for dentistry, microchipping, soft tissue surgery, ultrasounds, X-Rays and more.



Jed and Friends practice offer same day appointments and same day results for patients. Clients will be given an estimate for any treatment or investigations, so they are always aware of the costs and timings.

There are exciting plans for a pharmacy to be built in house at the surgery, making it easily accessible for patients to be treated quickly and efficiently.

Jed and Friends are currently accepting new patient registrations, please see all contact details below to get in touch. They are providing 10% off the first consultation to new clients, please quote the newsletter on booking.

Telephone: 01908 538141

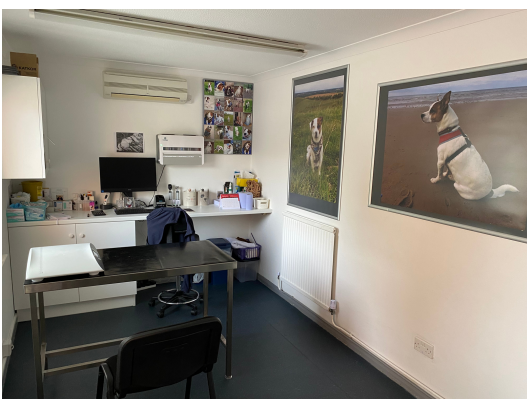
Opening Hours:

Monday to Friday: 8.30am - 7.00pm

Saturday: 8.30am - 12.00pm

For emergencies out of hours: 01296 423666

For more information about Jed and Friends, please visit: <https://jedandfriendsvets.co.uk/>



Isaac Maison GB World Dwarf Games Medalist

About Isaac Maison

Isaac lives in Bletchley and was born in 2007. He was diagnosed with Achondroplasia when he was 6 months old. Achondroplasia is a type of dwarfism whereby people have short upper limbs and enlarged heads. Isaac is one of two people ever to be born in Milton Keynes Hospital with Achondroplasia. The condition affects 1 in 40,000.

Despite his disability, Isaac has a love and ability for sport, which led him to become a member of the Dwarf Sports Association when he was just five years old, involving monthly Regional events and annual National events in Birmingham. The most memorable event was first National Games and they have approximately 200 competitors. Isaac was delighted to finally find other people just like him.

Up until the age of 13, Isaac was still taking part and playing in local team sports with average height children of the same age group. Isaac has always been determined not to allow his disability to prevent him from participating in sport.

Since Isaac became a member of the Dwarf Sport Association, he has won over 100 medals (most of them Gold) for various sporting activities at the National Games.

In 2017, Isaac was asked to represent Great Britain in Canada at the World Dwarf Games. Isaac returned home with 5 Gold medals, 1 Silver and 2 Bronze. Currently he is the U13 World Dwarf Champion in singles and doubles Badminton.

Isaac has now been recognised by Badminton England as a future Paralympian and has been selected for the GB Para Badminton pathway. This involves monthly training in Sheffield, one International competition per year and various Regional events throughout the year. As well as the above, Isaac trains for over 10 hours each week with a local Badminton Academy.

Isaac competed for the first time at the Spanish Para Badminton 2022 Tournament and came home with a bronze medal at just 14 for Men's doubles.

Fast forward to Summer 2023 and Isaac has exceeded all expectations! Isaac flew to Germany to represent GB at the World Dwarf Games in Germany in July 2023. Isaac won 9 medals, 2 Gold, 4 Silver and 3 Bronze. Isaac is now the Men's World Dwarf Champion in Singles Badminton at 15 years old !

One week later, Isaac flew to Rotterdam to represent Badminton England and managed to secure a bronze medal for Men's Singles Badminton. Isaac shared the podium with other players aged 32, 26 and 25!

The future looks very bright for Isaac and we wish him all the best with everything.



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council Residents' Survey 2023



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council consists of 21 councillors who are elected (or in some cases co-opted) to represent the local community. It is a statutory body which forms part of the first tier of local government. The town council is wholly independent of Milton Keynes City Council though we work with the city council and many other partner organisations. Our councillors are supported by a team of employees who implement the day-to-day work of the council.

Like all local councils, our work falls into three main categories:

- representing the local community
- delivering services to meet local needs
- working to improve community well-being and quality of life

and is funded by a tax known as a precept which is paid by local residents and is collected as part of the council tax.

We are asking you to give us your views about the services and support we provide to residents. This feedback is really important in helping councillors to decide the town council's priorities.

There are lots of services we cannot provide such as rubbish collections, schools, social care, planning, street lighting and road maintenance because these are all MKCC services. We will help where we can, but we cannot do this work ourselves. Our existing services include management of community centres, community events and specialist markets, Christmas lights, public toilets, allotments, youth clubs, holiday play schemes, CCTV cameras to deter and detect anti-social behaviour and many others. Recent feedback encouraged the council to take on landscaping maintenance and to provide warm spaces and money saving advice surgeries during the winter.

Please complete the survey and have your say about what matters most to you. Please use an extra sheet of paper if necessary. You can tear out and fill in the questionnaire on the next page, and drop it in to any of the following:

Sycamore House, Drayton Road, Bletchley MK2 3RR
Fenny Stratford Community Centre, George Street, Bletchley MK2 2NR
Spotlight Community Centre, Bletchley MK2 3QL
Newton Leys Pavilion, Furzey Way MK3 5SP

Or use the QR code to
access the digital version of
the survey on your phone.



Thank you for sharing your views, which will be taken into consideration in council decision making.

1. Where do you live/work?

- ☐ Newton Leys
- ☐ Central Bletchley / Leon
- ☐ Eaton Leys
- ☐ Granby
- ☐ Water Eaton
- ☐ Mount Farm
- ☐ Fenny Stratford / Trees Estate
- ☐ Lakes Estate
- ☐ Queensway and Denbigh

2. Which of our current services do you think are important?

Tick all that apply

- ☐ Community events (e.g. Big Street Eat, Christmas on Queensway, Specialist Markets and)
- ☐ Wellbeing and information (e.g. Free swimming and counselling services, information to local residents)
- ☐ Community Grants (e.g. Financial support for community groups)
- ☐ Community Buildings (e.g. Newton Leys Pavilion and football pitches, Spotlight and Fenny Stratford Community Centre)
- ☐ Environment and landscaping (e.g. grass cutting, hedge and shrub management, tree maintenance, allotments, dog bins, Community Orchard and Christmas lights)
- ☐ Town Centre (e.g. Public toilets, specialist markets, Christmas lights, CCTV, notice and information boards)
- ☐ Cost of living help (e.g. Foodbank collection service. community larder support, advice and information surgeries)
- ☐ Youth activities (e.g. Youth clubs and play schemes)
- ☐ Other (Please specify) :

3. Have you benefited from any of these services this year?
Tick all that apply

- ☐ Community events (e.g. Big Street Eat, Christmas on Queensway, Specialist Markets and)
- ☐ Wellbeing and information (e.g. Free swimming and counselling services, information to local residents)
- ☐ Community Grants (e.g. Financial support for community groups)
- ☐ Community Buildings (e.g. Newton Leys Pavilion and football pitches, Spotlight and Fenny Stratford Community Centre)
- ☐ Environment and landscaping (e.g. grass cutting, hedge and shrub management, tree maintenance, allotments, dog bins, Community Orchard and Christmas lights)
- ☐ Town Centre (e.g. Public toilets, specialist markets, Christmas lights, CCTV, notice and information boards)
- ☐ Cost of living help (e.g. Foodbank collection service. community larder support, advice and information surgeries)
- ☐ Youth activities (e.g. Youth clubs and play schemes)
- ☐ Other (Please specify) :

4. Are there other services or activities that you would like to see Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council deliver?
Please let us know your ideas, views or feelings below.

5. This year, what is your preference?

- ☐ Reduce services and no or low increase to precept
- ☐ Keep existing services but increase precept to cover inflation
- ☐ Provide additional services and increase precept
- ☐ Other (Please specify) :

6. If you are happy to do so, please let us know a little bit about you. This helps us make sure we are hearing from as many in our community as possible.

What age bracket do you fit into?

- ☐ Under 18
- ☐ 46-64
- ☐ 18-30
- ☐ 65+
- ☐ 31-45
- ☐ Would rather not answer

7. And which of the following most accurately describe(s) you?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Transgender
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Intersex
- ☐ Non-binary
- ☐ I prefer not to say
- ☐ Other (Please specify) :

8. Which race or ethnicity best describes you?

- ☐ White
- ☐ Black
- ☐ Asian
- ☐ Mixed
- ☐ Other (Please specify) :

9. Would you consider that any of the following apply to you?

- ☐ I or someone in my household has a physical disability
- ☐ I find it difficult to access services or support
- ☐ I or someone in my household has a mental health issue
- ☐ I would like to volunteer to help others / I already volunteer
- ☐ I experience loneliness or isolation
- ☐ I feel involved and connected with my community

10. Many thanks for completing this survey. We will use your views to help decide on how we deliver services and support in the future.

If there is anything else you would like to tell us about, please pop it in the box below.

Landscaping Services

On 4th September 2023 Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council took over delivery of landscape maintenance in our area from Milton Keynes City Council.

Work that was previously done by the city council's contracted operator is now being delivered by the town council's 'in house' landscape team. Our landscape employees are determined to provide a high quality service and continuously improve the green environment with the help and support of local residents.

Our landscape work includes grass cutting, maintenance of hedges and shrub beds and low level tree work on land owned by Milton Keynes City Council in addition to landscape maintenance of land owned by Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council.

If you notice any areas that might need maintenance please report it via the form on the landscaping page via the website.



Please use the form below to give us details of the issue. You can also review our FAQ section on our website as this may give you the information you need.

What would you like to report?
Choose your option

Description of issue

Postcode of issue Street of issue*

UPLOAD Select Picture

Email Phone

☐ By Clicking, you agree to our [terms and conditions](#)

A member of our Landscaping Team will get back to you as soon as possible.

For more information please visit our website: <https://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/landscaping-services>

Organised football at Newton Leys

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council is delighted to announce that the football pitches alongside Newton Leys Pavilion have been transferred to the ownership of the town council. The pitches and changing rooms at the Pavilion are now being used for organised football. The town council has entered into an agreement with Tattenhoe Football Club allowing this club hire and use of the pitches and related facilities for the football season 2023-2024. We believe this club will provide excellent youth sporting opportunities for residents of Newton Leys and the wider Bletchley community, in a safe and well supervised environment.



We know the introduction of organised matches will mean changes for residents with additional usage of the Pavilion car park and an end to unrestricted dog walking on the land formerly owned by Taylor Wimpey. We are aiming to minimise disruption as far as possible. We are working with the football club to manage parking on match days and we encourage everyone visiting the pitches to use active transport or car sharing whenever possible. Existing use of the Pavilion will continue and we have now extended our CCTV coverage to include the football pitches as well as the car park.

If you would like to join Tattenhoe FC please visit <https://www.tattenhoe.fc.com/contact-1>

Brand new affordable homes - Beacon Place



UK property developer Godwin Developments have agreed a forward funding deal with CBRE UK Affordable Housing Fund (AHF) to deliver 184 affordable homes in central Bletchley, Milton Keynes.

The four-acre scheme, named Beacon Place, will provide a mix of affordable and shared ownership properties, a combination of one and two-bed flats as well as 12 three-bedroom houses.

Beacon Place will cater to the growing demand for affordable homes in the area, especially from young people and families, seeking quality housing within commuting distance to employment opportunities.

Beacon Place is located adjacent to Bletchley station, and will have connections to London and across Oxfordshire and Cambridgeshire as a part of the developing East West Rail. For more information contact Godwin Developments.

This article is credited to Godwin Developments

White Ribbon



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council is a White Ribbon accredited organisation. We are committed to working to end violence against women and girls.

White Ribbon Day is Saturday 25th November, we are encouraging individuals and organisations to make consistent choices and actions so that we #ChangeTheStory for women and girls to live their lives free from the fear of violence. On White Ribbon Day and throughout the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, White Ribbon UK will run expert online events to provide you with strategies to #ChangeTheStory in your workplace and community.

The 25th November is also the International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.

We invite you to join us at the Milton Keynes Rose between 4pm-6pm, in Campbell Park at the vigil to mark White Ribbon Day.

White Ribbon Vigil

Come and join the vigil
to mark White Ribbon Day and
the International Day for the Elimination of
Violence Against Women at
Milton Keynes Rose, Campbell Park

Saturday 25th November
4pm meet at Milton Keynes Gallery
5.45pm walk to Milton Keynes Rose
for short vigil at 6pm



Everyone welcome
Please bring a torch or battery tealight
#endviolenceagainstwomen



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council are represented on the Town Deal Board.

Milton Keynes City Council are continuing to make great progress in the delivery of their £22.7 million Town Deal regeneration programme, funded via the Government's Towns Fund. The funding is designed to capitalise on the emerging opportunities presented by the development of the Oxford to Cambridge East-West rail link, which connects to the Bletchley railway station.

The funding will deliver 9 regeneration projects across Bletchley & Fenny Stratford, focusing on addressing three key themes of: Regeneration, planning and land-use; Connectivity; and Skills and Enterprise.

Two of the schemes are now nearing practical completion. The first is the Transformation at Bletchley Park project, which through the Towns Fund and other funding secured by the Bletchley Park Trust, has helped in the regeneration and use of a significant wartime building (Block E). The second project, Tech Park at MK College, has helped provide new hardware and equipment for the newly constructed MK College Institute of Technology building. Both these projects will help to support the growth of skills for the Town and upskilling of residents and students going forward.



The Redway project, which will provide new or improved Redway links between the Lakes Estate, Newton Leys and Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve to Bletchley Town centre, is now making great progress following mitigation to protect wildlife. The project is divided into 4 sections, with section 4 being delivered via the Towns Fund and sections 1 to 3 being delivered via several different funding streams. All sections are expected to be complete by Spring 2024.

Whilst some projects are nearing completion, the remaining are still in the development phase as MKCC and the Town Deal Board work on the emerging schemes. Progress is being made, including technical survey work and consultation will take place on several schemes in 2024. Details on any events will be provided to local residents and we look forward to sharing these projects with you.

If you have any questions on the Town Deal programme, then please contact the team by emailing:
info@groundbreakingbletchleyandfenny.co.uk

Marston Vale Line News



Marston Vale Line train services are due to resume in late October.

Train services are due to resume on the Bletchley to Bedford Marston Vale Line in late October 2023. The three Class 150 (two carriage trains) which will serve the Marston Vale Line arrived at Bletchley Station from Newton Heath in July and technician training has been taking place. Each unit has an accessible toilet and can accommodate wheelchairs, buggies and cycles.

Meanwhile the rail replacement bus service (all stations and limited stop) will continue until the new service starts. Please check the town council website for more detailed Marston Vale Line news at <https://www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/marston-vale-line-news>

Friends of Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Stations

Both Bletchley and Fenny Stratford have volunteer Station Friends Groups which play an important role in making these stations welcoming and attractive. Both groups would welcome some new members. Would you like to join them? Please visit <https://www.friendsofbletchleystation.org> for Bletchley and contact Stephen for Fenny Stratford.

For further information on any aspect of Marston Vale CRP or the Marston Vale Line please contact Stephen Sleight, MVCRP Officer, on 01234 832645, e-mail stephens@bedsrcc.org.uk.

Visit our new website - www.marstonvalecommunityrail.org.uk

Find us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/marstonvalecrp

Follow us on Twitter! @marstonvalecrp

MK Food Bank

In 2022 MK Food Bank saw a 40% increase in demand for services – which worked out as more than 50 new households contacting the food bank every week.

2023 is showing no signs of slowing down. Unfortunately, the rising cost of food has also led to a drop in donations of food, which were down last year by nearly a third.

MK Food Bank have created a pledge fundraiser this year in order to support the community who are in food insecurity. They are asking you to commit to Drop Food, Drop Money or Drop Time to ensure no one goes hungry in Milton Keynes.



Fundraiser pledge examples:

- Run a sponsored 5k, 10k, half or full marathon
- Climb a mountain
- Get sponsored to walk 10,000 steps every day for a month
- Hold a team fundraising event – a bake sale, dress up/down, raffle

What your fundraising could provide:

- £20 will pay for an emergency food parcel for a single adult
- £65 will feed a family of 4 for a week
- £100 will make up 20 family recipe kits

For ideas on how to Drop Food or Drop Time, or to email MK Food Bank head to their website:

<https://mkfoodbank.org.uk/mk-food-drop/>

If you have a food bank voucher, you can collect food between 12pm-2pm Monday-Friday at Spotlight Community Centre.



On Monday 16th October MK Food Bank are attempting to break a world record target by collecting 132,000 cans.

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council have joined the attempt and would love your help in collecting as many cans as possible.

Please drop them off to our main office at Sycamore House, Drayton Road, MK2 3RR by Friday 13th October.

Water Eaton Community Larder

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council is in a 3 year partnership agreement with Water Eaton community larder. The larder have recently announced that they are now becoming Water Eaton Community Hub. The Hub will be an umbrella that will cover the Larder, the Soup for the Soul Café, and the support services that they offer. This will give the opportunity to expand the Larder by working with more food suppliers and manufacturers, enabling priority on environmental sustainability by reducing waste and promoting responsible practices.

The Soup for the Soul Café is a lovely place to meet people and to chat. The Cafe serves hot and cold drinks and a light lunch. There are also informative talks from services such as Citizens Advice, Diabetes UK, Stop Smoking, who provide information about the services they offer. Money Lifeline attend every week providing help for people in debt or financial crisis.

The Soup for the Soul Café is open on Tuesdays 1pm - 2pm.

The Community Larder is a membership scheme that provides surplus food from the supermarkets that would otherwise go to waste and provides affordable access to healthy food every week. The Community Larder is not “means tested” and is therefore open to everyone.

It is £10 per year annual joining fee for the community larder, individual membership is from £3.50 per week and a family membership is from £7 per week.

An individual membership provides up to 10 items of non-perishables (pasta, tins, etc.) per week plus free fruit and vegetables. A family membership is twice as much.

The Water Eaton Community Larder is open on Tuesdays 2pm - 4pm.



Water Eaton Community Larder and The Soup for the Soul Café are at Water Eaton Church Centre, Drayton Road MK2 3RR

Community Boat Electra

Community boat Electra came back to Milton Keynes in mid-June and has had a busy summer season, with new cruises including a leisurely half day Ploughman's Lunch Cruise to Fenny Stratford, going through the lock, which runs on selected Thursdays.

The work on The Electra Welcome Centre at Campbell Wharf has started, generously funded by local organisations including Wolverton & Greenleys, Bletchley & Fenny Stratford and Central Milton Keynes Town Councils, and Stantonbury Parish Council. Soon people will be able to drop in and find out from our volunteers about cruises, the canal and canalside parks, and plans for the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Park.

There are volunteer vacancy roles currently for Customer Liaison Volunteer, Catering & Crew Support, Marketing Team Lead and Outreach Team Lead. The website also gives details about opportunities for people to help with various aspects of running the boat, from social media, to bookings, to fundraising, on a short or long-term basis. If you are interested, please get in touch through the website <https://www.bmkwaterway.org/electra/volunteering/>



Bletchley Pre-School

Term time childcare from 3 months - 5 years

What we offer

- Funding for children aged 2, 3 and 4
- Open 5 days a week
- Full day care 9am - 3pm
- Early Starts from 8.30am
- Lunch cover until 1pm
- AM and PM sessions (9am-12pm or 12pm-3pm)
- Late pick up until 4pm

Located in Fenny Stratford Community Centre,
13 George St, Fenny Stratford, Bletchley,
Milton Keynes MK2 2NR

- ✉ Contact Jenna Thorn or Sandra Thorn
Email: bletchleypreschool@live.co.uk
- ☎ 01908 375351 / 07496639094





Developing Neighbourhood Plan

Local volunteers from Bletchley and Fenny Stratford have been busy over the summer collecting data and taking photographs in our area.

Two teams of hardworking volunteers have been out on foot gathering information about the built environment, historic buildings and the green and blue infrastructure of our area. The information collected is being used by planning consultants Oneil Homer to inform the policy ideas which are emerging as part of the new Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan.

Keep a look out for our upcoming community consultation activities which will be advertised on the town council website and at <https://www.bfsnp.org.uk/>. Meanwhile thank you to all the volunteers young and old who are helping to develop the plan.

Sycamore Buildings Update



At the time of writing the town council's planning application (23/01793/FUL) for improvements to Sycamore Hall is being considered by Milton Keynes City Council now that further bat surveys have been completed by our ecologists. The aim of this building project is to provide an accessible and sustainable community building open to the whole community and run for public benefit which will provide a focus for neighbourhood activity and provision of local services. It is hoped that in the future Sycamore Hall can be brought back into full use by the community and be modernised with improved disabled access.

Blecca-Lea

Firstly, Thank you! To everyone who has been to see us so far. We have welcomed 2000+ visitors since we opened in March and it has been wonderful to meet you! After an incredible summer of exhibitions, events and workshops we are now going into our final part of the project, but we have an amazing Autumn/ Winter lined up for you;

Oct- Madeleine Wilkie is a sculptor whose work explores the emotive potential of found objects. In response to her research into female football and tournaments in this work Wilkie is exploring the boundary markings of a football pitch and inviting audiences to consider the power of a set of suggested rules.

Elsie Bryant is a local poet and social activist, she will be working with local football team Internationales to develop a slogan for football scarves using poetry and word explorations.

Nov- Lesley Asare will be creating a sacred space of rest within a time of transition. In this space we will return to the earth, our bodies, our breath and our creativity through all of which we can create a "home" wherever we are. In this work Asare is inviting the communities of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford to consider 'Home,' how we stay rooted and safe in a time of transition and the power of community and heritage.

Pop Up Exhibitions; Richard Harrison, Jane Charles, Lord Grey School and Talent Unlimited.

Dec- Farewell event and workshop (more information to come!)

Keep an eye on our website www.blecca-lea.com or our Instagram www.instagram.com/blecca-lea to find out more or pop in and see us. We are open Thursday, Friday and Saturday almost every week (when we aren't busy installing a new show)

We hope to see you soon!
Ciara and Madeleine
Blecca-Lea



Does your child struggle with reading and learning at school?

If your child:

- struggles with reading and is falling behind at school
- complains of headaches or words moving about
- reads letters incorrectly or omits them *
- follows the text with their finger

We may be able to help!

Schoolvision is a successful programme that identifies and treats early sight problems, often missed in a standard sight test, that can make reading and writing very difficult for some children.

Benefits of Schoolvision:

- improved classroom behaviour and
- attention increased reading speed and
- concentration increased self esteem &
- confidence
- reduction in headaches / migraines
- better school performance



schoolvision

Helping your child achieve their best

DW Roberts Optician, 63 Queensway, Bletchley, MK2 2DR

www.dwroberts.co.uk

01908 373131

bletchley@dwroberts.co.uk

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- ★ Ortho-K bespoke overnight lenses
- ★ Schoolvision assessments
- ★ Myopia management
- ★ Retinal photography
- ★ Dry Eye Clinics

Please call us on 01908 373131 for more information on any of these services

Queensway Methodist Church

Queensway, Fenny Stratford, MK2 2HB

Christmas Bazaar

Saturday 25th November 2023 | 12.00 Noon

Santa's Grotto - £1.00 per child

Gifts • Competitions • Tombola • Games
Cakes • Refreshments • Light lunches
Variety of Stalls

PLUS Fenny Stompers Jazz Band

FREE
ENTRY

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FASHIONWEAR

ASIAN LADIES
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URBAN CLOTHING
PARTY WEARS

GRAVE MEMORIAL GIFTS

PHOTO FRAMES



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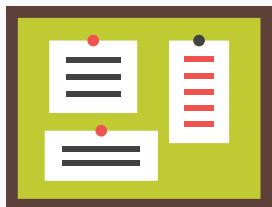
s4uprints@outlook.com

07397-777051

www.snaps4u.uk

@snaps4u

Local Contacts and Updates



Community Noticeboard

Your neighbourhood policing team are working on issues identified by the local community and the police.

To contact them call: 101

This is a non-emergency number

Alternatively, email them on:

MKBletchleyCluster@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk

www.thamesvalley.police.uk



Neighbourhood Policing

Working in partnership to make our community safer

Citizens Advice MK – Free confidential advice on subjects including debt and housing
Freephone 0808 278 7991

Age UK MK – Support for Older People -
01908 550 700

MK Money Lifeline – Call 0300 1235 198

MK Act – Domestic Abuse Charity - 0344 375 4307

Samaritans - Mental Health Support -
Call for Free 116 123

Carers MK - Supports the health and wellbeing of carers - 01908 231 703



Milton Keynes City Council Ward Councillors



Bletchley East Ward



Councillor Mohammed Khan
email: mohammed.khan@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Councillor Emily Darlington
email: emily.darlington@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Councillor Ed Hume
email: ed.hume@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Bletchley Park Ward



Councillor Nigel Long
email: nigel.long@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Councillor Waqas Ahmad
email: waqas.ahmad@milton-keynes.gov.uk



Councillor Mohammad Imran
email: mo.imran@milton-keynes.gov.uk

Local MP - Iain Stewart

Phone: 01908 686 830

Email:

iain.stewart.mp@parliament.uk

Letter: Suite 102,

Milton Keynes Business Centre,
Foxhunter Drive, Linford Wood
MK14 6GD



Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Councillors

Newton Leys

Chair
Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson

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Cllr Ismail Hussein

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Cllr Uche Osumili

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Central Bletchley

Vice Chair
Cllr Richard Graham

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Queensway & Denbigh North

Cllr Ron Haine

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Manor South

Cllr Keith Ely

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Cllr Ayesha Khanom

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Cllr Terry Stephens

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Granby

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Manor North

Cllr Liz Campbell

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Manor North & Eaton Leys

Casual Vacancy

Eaton North

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Cllr Andrew Palmer

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Cllr Ed Hume

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Fenny Stratford

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Cllr Axel Segebrecht

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Casual Vacancy

Eaton South

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cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Cllr Gavin Bedford

gavin.bedford@
cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Casual Vacancy

Contact Us

Phone 01908 649 469

Website: www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk

Email: info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk

The Town Council's main office is based at Sycamore House, Drayton Road, Water Eaton, Bletchley, MK2 3RR
These offices are currently open to the public between 9am-1pm on Mondays and 9am-4pm on other weekdays.

The best way to keep up to date is by following us on our social media channels.

