

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2020

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the council on refurbishment plans at Netherfield Meeting Place.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the council notes the report
2. That the council agrees to the immediate actions proposed below and agrees funding of up to £4,000 towards this.
3. That the council agrees to continuing investigations into grant and external funding for the larger scale works needed in the long term, including quotes for external decoration and for the large refurbishment of the sports area.
4. That the council manager provides an update as and when new information or opportunities arise.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Netherfield Meeting Place is owned by Milton Keynes Council and managed by Woughton Community Council. It is not well used (current bookings vary but are limited to one session on most days (mainly evenings) with two bookings on weekend days (but not throughout the day). There is considerable room for increased usage, especially during the day.

The office, which was previously rented to the Netherfield Local Conversations Group is also now available for rental, either as a bookable resource or on a longer-term basis. This space is fine as is and does not require anything urgent (although lighting and ceiling would benefit from a refresh).

There are some relatively urgent works needed:

- The toilets are considered to be accessible, but the doors to the toilets are not suitable (as people are unable to get out, as they open inwards). These either need to be changed to electronically opening doors or made to open each way (flexible hinges that push or pull). Cost unknown, but electronic opener costs around £400 plus installation – for two toilets, plus an additional button to be placed externally will be around £1000 plus fitting). Additional consideration for extractor fans to be fitted also to be explored (around £100 plus fitting per system). *
- There are no baby changing facilities in place. These should be added to both bathrooms (approx. £150 each, plus fitting)*
- The hand dryers in bathrooms are dated. Whilst these are tolerable, changing to more modern units would be preferable (approx. £130 each plus fitting)*
- Hot water dispenser for kitchen (approx. £300 plus fitting)*
- Cigarette bin for outside (£40 plus fitting)*
- Ramp for access to patio area (cost dependent on what is provided, but likely to be around £50 if we get MiS to build one, or £500 for a proper, metal with handrail option). *

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- Internal blinds for the large windows. This has been addressed in the short term by provision of reflective film, but further request for blinds has been made. Based on costs for the blinds in the office (around £25 each – fitted by WCC), it is anticipated that the costs for the large hall will be £100 for the large rear windows (essential) with similar again for the patio windows, plus fitting.*
- The whole internal building would benefit from decoration – plan is that this is part of the Wednesday half day programme, with team members undertaking the majority of this work as a 'team building' exercise. This would also include minor repairs to some flooring. *

The cost of these works will be around £3200, plus fitting costs (I would anticipate this being a full days work for XPS, possibly two days, at a cost of £225 per day, so within a £4000 budget.

Additional, longer term works will also be needed.

- External painting. The external 'beams' look extremely shabby and bring the whole look of the centre down. This is a massive job and will require specialist contractors. We can, however, in the short term, address the lower level painting needed.

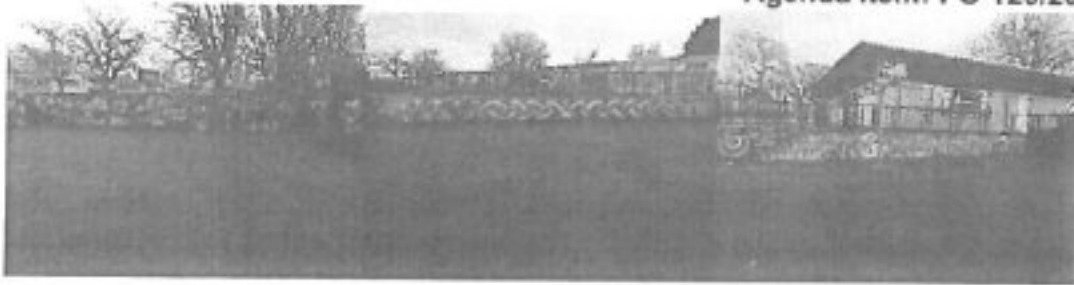


Beams – need specialist.

Low level, we can do.

- The sports court and surrounds will need a full renovation. This includes potential replacement of a wall, resurfacing the court and repainting of the external walls. This is a huge undertaking and whilst previous work has been investigated regarding grants, further work is needed to create a valid plan that may also include expansion of parking (and, if possible, the external works to the building).





This work will continue with an aim of getting a plan and funding in place during the 2020/21 financial year. It is likely to cost upwards of £100K for everything.

Other elements to be considered over the medium term include:

- Better tables
- Ceilings to be changed (this is a challenge, due to the design of the building and the integral metal beams).
- Changing the existing heaters to radiators in the main hall (relatively straightforward – pipework is in place and replacing would cost between £60 - £300 per radiator, depending on what was needed – there are three to be replaced, so under £1000 fitted).
- Reinstating the external lighting – XPS to investigate the current situation and provide options.

Additionally, the external area surrounding the building needs to be developed – currently the paths are in need of replacement (MKC responsibility), the landscaping needs improving (team is looking into this), the external areas (patio and storage spaces) need cleaning and improving and the raised beds / bug hotel (managed by the scouts?) needs either managing or removing.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The long-term elements above need grant / external funding to enable this.

The first tranche of works (noted with an * above) will cost around £4000.

The idea behind these improvements is two-fold:

- It shows investment in the asset that is NFMP
- It makes it more likely that the building will be considered as a rentable space by residents and groups.

Once completed, there is a plan in place to spend a day within the centre, dressing the main hall in a variety of styles and taking photos / videos to enable publicity to reflect the potential.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None, other than the days to decorate (team building) and to dress and photo the space.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None noted at this time.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

Monday 9th March 2020

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the council on the new committee structure and proposals for Council Year 2020/21 (from May 2020).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the council notes the report.
2. That the council agrees to the proposed Terms of Reference for the new committees and the updated Terms of Reference for existing committees.
3. That the council tasks the Committee and Member Services Officer with developing a new calendar of meetings for the 2020/21 council year.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

At the Full Council meeting on 11th November, the following was agreed:

- Full Council to sit monthly (second Monday of the month) to ensure oversight on all aspects of the council.
- A new committee named 'Finance and Resources' that covers everything financial, except where Full Council is necessary by law or policy (e.g. precept, budget agreement, auditor signoff). This committee will lead on budgetary issues, compliance, financial oversight, income generation, forward financial planning and will be the Committee that 'signs off' the monthly returns. This committee will replace the Policy and Resources Committee.
- Services Committee is expanded to be renamed as the 'Services and Community Committee', to include community development and engagement issues, alongside all aspects of service delivery.
- Operations Committee to cover most policy issues (Human Resources, Health & Safety) except where directly attributable to the Services and Community Committee or a need for Full Council ratification.
- A new 'Planning and Regeneration' Committee to be created, with a two (2) monthly cycle but with the ability to meet more quickly where planning issues arise.

RESOLVED

1. That the Council notes the report.
2. That the Council agrees to the creation of a 'Planning and Regeneration' committee, to meet flexibly in line with council needs.
3. That Services Committee becomes 'Services and Community', with a community engagement and development remit included.
4. That Policy and Resources becomes 'Finance and Resources', with a remit to include all aspects of financial planning and policy.
5. That Full Council moves to a monthly meeting cycle.
6. That these changes take place from the first meeting after May 2020, with a review in January 2021.

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To further this agreement, the Council Manager, working with the Committee and Member Services Officer, has developed new Terms of Reference (including some delegated decision making powers) which are attached to this paper for discussion and agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None, other than attendance at the relevant committees / council meetings.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Nothing new. Please note that the creation of the Planning and Regeneration Committee is an important part of the council taking a proactive approach to planning (day-to-day) and to the regeneration / renewal of estates.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Terms of reference for:

- Operations Committee
- Planning and Regeneration Committee
- Services and Community Committee
- Resources and Finance Committee

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: FC 130/20

Woughton Community Council

Operations Committee

Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

1. The Committee is a committee of the Full Council and shall operate within the terms of reference set by Woughton Community Council.
2. The Committee shall also be known by its shorter title of 'Operations Committee'
3. The quorum shall consist of 3 (three) members.
4. The Committee may co-opt any person who is not a member or officer of Woughton Community Council and shall have no voting rights. Each appointment will be reviewed at the annual meeting of Council in May.
5. That every member must attend any training session(s) that have been arranged that relates to the functions and or duties of the committee, up to six (6) months after appointment.
6. The Committee shall form dismissal level disciplinary panels and any subsequent appeals panels which will consist of 3 members.
7. The Committee shall receive updates on legislation changes that may affect HR and Health and Safety policies, alongside other legislative changes that may impact upon the council.
8. The Committee shall review pay and conditions of employment in line with JNC guidelines.
9. The Committee shall review the HR policy, procedures and priorities from time to time and shall make appropriate recommendations to the Council.
10. The Committee shall agree members' attendance at conferences, seminars and Training Events.
11. The Committee shall consider the training and development needs of both members and staff officers.
12. The Committee will consider Union Recognition agreements and ensure arrangements for a joint Negotiating and Consultation Committee with such recognised Trade Unions.
13. The Committee shall ensure arrangements are in place for an appraisal system of staff.
14. The Committee will consider and review arrangements and oversee policy creation and agreement for the following areas:

- a. Health and Safety,
- b. Safeguarding,
- c. Internal and External Communications,
- d. Payroll Services,
- e. Human Resources,
- f. other similar and related matters.

15. Working within the Financial Regulations of the Council, the Committee shall have powers to:

- To approve and determine expenditure within budgets controlled by the committee.
- To approve expenditure up to a maximum of £2,000 to any one body at any one time (any amounts larger than this may be recommended to Council for approval).

Adopted by a meeting of The Council on

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Woughton Community Council

Planning and Regeneration Committee

Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

1. The Committee is a committee of the Full Council and shall operate within the terms of reference set by Woughton Community Council.
2. The Committee shall also be known by its shorter title of 'Planning Committee'
3. The quorum shall consist of 3 (three) members.
4. The Committee may co-opt any person who is not a member or officer of Woughton Community Council and shall have no voting rights. Each appointment will be reviewed at the annual meeting of Council in May.
5. That every member must attend any training session(s) that have been arranged that relates to the functions and or duties of the committee, up to six (6) months after appointment. *This shall include attendance at a relevant planning training session as a minimum.*
6. The committee shall oversee all relevant planning applications, providing a response to the principle authority in line with legislation.
7. The committee shall be responsible for the creation and review of a Regeneration Policy that determines the council's response to any proposals for regeneration of estates.
8. The committee shall provide oversight of the Neighbourhood Plan, reviewing where appropriate, and coordinating and bringing proposals to Council where appropriate.
9. Working within the Financial Regulations of the Council, the Committee shall have powers to:
 - a. Approve and determine expenditure within budgets controlled by the committee.

Adopted by a meeting of The Council on

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Woughton Community Council

Resources and Finance Committee

Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

1. The Resources and Finance Committee is a committee of the Full Council and shall operate within the terms of reference set by Woughton Community Council.
2. Full Council to determine the appointment of members from time to time.
3. The quorum shall consist of 3 (three) members.
4. The Committee may co-opt any person who is not a member or officer of Woughton Community Council and shall have no voting rights. Each appointment will be reviewed at the annual meeting of Council in May.
5. That every member must attend any training session(s) that have been arranged that relates to the functions and or duties of the committee, up to six (6) months after appointment. *This includes undertaking the BMKALC Finance Training as a minimum.*
6. The Committee shall determine appropriate budget headings for the Community Council and all matters appertaining to budget consultations and will coordinate budget preparations generally, bringing final proposals to the Council at its January meeting.
7. The Committee shall monitor income and expenditure against the budget on a regular basis, shall approve virements as allowed under the financial regulations. It may recommend any review of the budget deemed necessary, and a half yearly review of the budget shall be undertaken each October.
8. The Committee shall ensure that the Council's financial procedures and systems are reviewed from time to time and that the Council abides by all statutory requirements in relation to its accounts and finances.
9. The Committee shall recommend to the Council all financial matters it feels are appropriate including an annual review of Financial Regulations.
10. The Committee shall review the Council's relevant procedures and priorities from time to time and shall make appropriate recommendations to the Council. *This shall include, but not be limited to, Annual Risk Register, Asset Register and policies relating to Financial Regulations and oversight.*
11. The Committee shall undertake all issues relating to premises and equipment owned leased or rented and also any annual hire charges relating thereto.

12. Working within the Financial Regulations of the Council, the Committee shall have powers to:

- To approve and determine expenditure within budgets controlled by the committee.
- To approve training expenditure up to a maximum of £2,000 to any one body at any one time (any amounts larger than this may be recommended to Council for approval).

13. The Committee shall be empowered to take any decision not prescribed by legislation or standing orders or the financial regulations of the Council that is not within the terms of reference of any other committee.

Adopted by a meeting of Council held on

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Woughton Community Council

Services and Communities Committee

Terms of Reference and Delegated Powers

1. The Services and Communities Committee (also known as 'Services Committee') is a committee of the full council and shall operate within the terms of reference set by Woughton Community Council.
2. Full Council to determine the appointment of members from time to time.
3. The quorum shall consist of 3 (three) members.
4. The Committee may co-opt any person who is not a member or officer of Woughton Community Council and shall have no voting rights. Each appointment shall be reviewed at the annual meeting of Council in May.
5. That every member must attend any training session(s) that have been arranged that relates to the functions and or duties of the committee, up to six (6) months after appointment.
6. The Committee shall promote, oversee and agree policy and direction for Community Development and Engagement, Environment and Landscape, Wellbeing and Advice and Youth services, and other services that may be developed within the council.
7. The committee will liaise with all relevant external agencies (both statutory and voluntary), work with agencies and other organisations to obtain funding and / or to work in partnership on specific projects and activities that will benefit all, or part of, the community in Woughton Parish.
8. The Committee shall oversee all aspects of the councils grants programme, reviewing the application pack and policies on an annual basis and assessing an awarding grants in line with said policies.
9. The Committee shall consider all aspects relating to matters concerning the Environment, transport, highways, crime and community safety, play areas, street lighting and antisocial behaviour as it relates to the Parish, and may approve projects within this remit.
10. The Committee shall review, monitor and develop services provided by the Council that impact on the social, environmental and wellbeing of the Community.
11. The Committee may recommend budgets for its activities on an annual basis and may agree virements in accordance with Financial Regulations.

12. Working within the Financial Regulations of the Council, the Committee shall have powers to:

- To approve and determine expenditure within budgets controlled by the committee.
- To approve grant aid up to a maximum of £2,000 to any one body at any one time (any grants larger than this may be recommended to Council for approval).

Adopted by a meeting of Council held on

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2020

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To update the council on Flood actions.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the council notes the report
2. That the Council Manager continues to work with partners around remedial work to reduce impact of any future flooding
3. That the Council manager continues to develop a Community Flood plan, to further build resilience within the communities of Woughton
4. That further reports are offered to council as and when developments take place.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

Following the significant flooding of May 2018 and subsequent lower level flooding, alongside historical issues and flood events prior to 2018, significant work has been undertaken to try and reduce the impacts of any future flooding, including recent meetings to look at public realm investment to try and avoid water ingress into properties.

The meeting was limited in attendance, with representatives from MKC Flood Planning, MKC Housing and some others from WCC and ward councillors, but nobody from Highways, Landscaping, drainage or similar.

Some useful information was provided in terms of the reported flooding locations, showing a clear pattern of flooding, mainly in line with the Environment Agency flood maps, but also suggesting areas which were previously unknown. Various ideas were discussed, including the potential for some central government investment into either estate based approaches or individual properties and a proposal was made that MKC provide a full investigation into the various property types, providing an overview of flood risk elements (e.g. specific design issues that increase the risks, window and door designs, any draining in place, holes in walls for cables and similar) and then providing a 'how to' guide for flood protecting a property.

In addition to this, investigations will continue into whole estate approaches, such as additional draining, lowering the level of some grassed areas to provide small 'flood plains', raising the level of kerbs, 'funnelling' walls to help direct water to where it will impact least and others.

In addition to this, the first of what will be several meetings looking at 'public realm' and practical steps, there has also been an initial meeting to investigate the potential of a 'Community Flood Plan'. This is less about prevention and more about reducing impacts and providing an overview of local resources and steps to be taken. Work will continue on this with local residents, MKC and others.

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Finally, the reports into the flooding of May 2018 have been taken to MKC for agreement and are now due to be scrutinised by another committee. As discussed at the Policy and Resources Committee on 10th February, there are concerns that the reports focus on river flooding, rather than the more challenging 'surface water' flooding, as experienced in Woughton. As agreed, a paper was submitted to this committee and officers / members will attend the Scrutiny Committee meeting (due to happen on 5th March – after the writing of this paper, but prior to the meeting – the Council Manager will provide a verbal update).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no direct issues for WCC at this point. If, following discussions, there is investment planned that involves WCC, a further report and request will be submitted to council.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

There is a need for officers (and members) to be involved in the meetings on an ongoing basis, which will place demands on time.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None perceived.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Flood reports x 2
WCC Submission to Scrutiny Committee

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda item: FC 131/20

Written Submission to Milton Keynes Council Scrutiny Committee relating to the Flood Reports following events of May 2018.

The following elements have been highlighted from the two reports that have been produced, following the flooding in May 2018, with Woughton Community Council (WCC) comments and recommendations in *italics*. These issues were discussed and agreed as submissions to the MKC Scrutiny Committee at the meeting of the WCC Policy and Resources Committee on 10th February 2020.

- Drainage systems in many of the areas were not particularly apparent. For example in Coffee Hall, it is understood that filter drains were originally installed in the gardens of residential properties to collect surface water from the individual gardens and runoff from the adjacent carriageways. It is likely given the age of the development, that these filter drains are at the end of their useful life and would benefit from being renewed. It is also fair to assume that many of these features have been lost over time due to paving and general alterations of gardens (Figure 4-7). Both these factors mean surface water is unlikely to be collected effectively.
We have seen nothing that addresses these concerns and information from builders who were involved in the creation of Coffee Hall suggests that this was not ever the situation – concrete bases were in place and no flood defences or preparation was in place. This should be addressed.
- In addition to planned inspections, MKC will investigate drainage and flooding problems related to the highway when reports are received. The usual approach is for a highway inspector to attend the location reported, visually assess the problem and investigate if and what solution may be required. In some instances the inspector may be able to resolve the problem, decide no further action is required, or arrange for further investigation or works to be undertaken
We would request that this is a priority and understand that there is now a defined and agreed drainage map for the city, defining who has ownership / responsibility for what (this has been an issue for many years). Publication of this map to enable more effective reporting and addressing of concerns should be included in any recommendations.
- MKC have established a three year gully emptying regime (Appendix J). It would appear that gullies have planned maintenance once during a three year period. Additional emptying would be completed upon receipt of an enquiry related to a gully or flooding in the locality. Due to the increasing expansion of the city, this may increase to a four year regime without increasing the vehicle gully cleaning capability from one to two or more vehicles.
Given the existing issues with gully maintenance and inappropriate tree planting in areas of the parish, a more frequent, rather than reduced service is essential.
- Responses to questionnaires issued as part of this IFR have highlighted locations where the same drainage defects have been reported to MKC on

numerous occasions. It would therefore seem that an update on the progress of a resolution has not been provided to the members of the public. This has been improved by recording information, and talking to members of the public face-to-face and via telephone to report and process priority works, using the drainage matrix introduced by the council

This continues to be an issue, with reports provided stating that work has been completed, where in reality it has not been addressed. Clear outcomes, reporting and KPI's around these issues are essential to monitor impact.

- Following the flood event, it has been reported that AWS have undertaken drainage CCTV surveys and completed immediate works where these identified a need. Locations include:
Beanhill – general area drainage inspection;
Coffee Hall – general area drainage inspection and removal of restrictions to the foul sewer;
As stated above, clarity of sewer ownership has now been reached and a full inspection regime, with particular reference to tree root incursion and blockage should be identified as a priority for future works.
- Due to the extent of the adopted sewer network, AWS predominantly undertake inspections and maintenance reactively, upon reports of a problem. It is understood that AWS has identified hotspots within MK that are known to suffer flooding more frequently which could be related to the capacity of the sewer system. The location of these hotspots has not been made available as part of the IFR however it is understood that planned inspection and maintenance is undertaken every 6 months up to 5 years using a risk based approach.
This is clearly not working as currently blockages are NOT identified in time, leading to ongoing issues.
- It is understood that MKC Landscape Services is currently refreshing its tree plan, focussing on the delivery of the urban forest and how this supports the growth of the area. MKC will look to remove or replace trees when they have reached the end of their life or outgrown their location and are no longer sustainable. MKC explain it is aware that past species choices may no longer suit the location and have already tested alternate species and planting design e.g. in Coffee Hall on Rochfords.
This work started and stopped, due to lack of resources. It should recommence and tree replacement where inappropriate planting has occurred
- During the Site Inspections a number of road gully covers were observed to be covered by leaves and other detritus, which may have reduced to capacity of the gullies. It is not obvious if the road gully inlets were blocked, before, during, or after the flood event. However, it is reasonable to assume that some of the road gully covers may have been blocked or partially blocked
Please see above – a regular maintenance programme, more frequent than three yearly, is needed.
- Within the area of Beanhill, Anglian Water confirmed that the surface water system has suffered from root ingress, and planned maintenance is in

progress. However due to the significant volume of rainfall that occurred, they consider that if the maintenance had taken place before the storm event, it would have had a negligible impact on the extent of flooding
Please see above. Whilst 'negligible', it is also reasonable to assume that it did have a negative impact on eth systems ability to manage.

- Property flooding has tended to occur where the property door thresholds are perpendicular to the local flow routes i.e. the property acts as a barrier to flow, causing the water level to rise sufficiently to exceed the door threshold of the property causing internal flooding. Some evidence of water rising-up through the floor has also been noted. Property flooding has also occurred where the driveway between the property and the highway falls towards the property, this is especially true where there is limited, or no kerb height.
We would request that a full evaluation of the cost of a replacement programme is considered to help ameliorate the potential impact of this design.
- Debris was observed on gully inlets, indicating that the storm event is likely to have mobilised a significant volume of leaf litter and other detritus. It is unclear if this occurred, before, during or after the event. This may have restricted the functioning capacity of the gullies. On clearing the gully grates, the internal gully was observed to be clear.

This preliminary report has been based on information available at the time of writing, and further information needs to be obtained before any conclusions can be reached. **As such the following next steps are recommended:**

A joint Drainage Service Review should be undertaken, involving Milton Keynes Highway and LLFA functions, Anglian Water, and other stakeholders with drainage assets. This review should seek to rationalise responsibility and maintenance functions.

Review of street-cleaning / grass cutting operations to reduce the amount of material that could cause blockages to the drainage system.

A combined asset register should be populated, sharing data between the RMA's. This should include data to identify where routine and remedial maintenance has taken place, to identify hotspots.

Promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems, for use on new developments. Milton Keynes to consider replacing off-street car parking areas with attenuating permeable paving, for use on new and existing developments.

We support all these recommendations with the proviso that in the event that additional resources are needed to address the outcomes of any review, that these resources are used to best effect, including the possibility of devolving some responsibility to parishes where this links to existing delivery.

Other issues:

*Of the reported flooding reports (686), 418 were on Woughton (>60%)
Of those that included internal flooding (315), 202 were on Woughton (>64%)*

Given the significant impact of the flooding with the Woughton Parish, the lack of any clear focus on improvements with the parish is startling. There is clear mapping of where surface water flooding regularly occurs and, with some additional design implementation, the impact on homes can be reduced. This could include funnelling of water through to grassed areas, greater protections offered to residents where regular flooding occurs (e.g. flood gates, property adjustments) and continuing work around a community flood plan should be prioritised with the necessary partners.

It is recommended that a full assessment of the parishes needs is undertaken, with a commitment from MKC that where possible and within reasonable budgetary constraints, remedial work is undertaken in the key areas to reduce the risks associated with significant rain events and surface water flooding.

The message sent to residents of Woughton through these two reports is that despite them bearing the considerable brunt of the flooding, the recommendations relate almost entirely to areas outside the parish. As a community that has consistently seen under investment, been ignored and had little or no action taken over many years to address these issues, to see once again the remainder of the city prioritised compounds the feelings of being left behind. Whilst it may not be within the remit of the Scrutiny Committee to address these ongoing issues, recommendations that Woughton is prioritised for assessment and further remedial action should be.

We would also recommend work to assist with residents obtaining affordable insurance, as due to the frequency and impact of flooding over the past few years (despite not being within the agreed distance of any 'watercourse'), many residents are not either unable to obtain insurance, have seen significant increases in premiums or face excesses that mean any claim will not meet the financial needs of the reality.

Other comments include the delays in getting sandbags to residents, the failure to declare a 'major incident' (despite the level of impact) which may have led to a more resource driven, collective response (although it is acknowledged that this was a bank holiday weekend) and that whilst there were pockets of excellent work from both MKC and WCC colleagues, greater clarity and a collaborative approach is needed to bring greater benefit in the future. This is being addressed through work that is ongoing around Community Flood Planning and similar.

Signed (on behalf of Woughton Community Council)



Steve McNay
Council Manager

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

MONDAY 9TH MARCH 2020

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To provide feedback on the Woughton Conference.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the council notes the report.
2. That the council agrees to a further event to take place in late 2020.
3. That the council considers workshop ideas for said event, considering the needs of the parish and the needs of the council.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

February 14th, 2020 saw the first Woughton Spring Conference take place. This event came from discussions which suggested that working with partners to try and open discussions about working creatively, collaboratively and with the needs of local people at the heart of what is done.

The conference was attended by 35 people, including representatives from MKC, Citizens Advice, local GP practices, local education providers, ward and parish councillors, Community Action and others. There were four workshops, plus opening address by Nigel Long and Hannah O Neil.

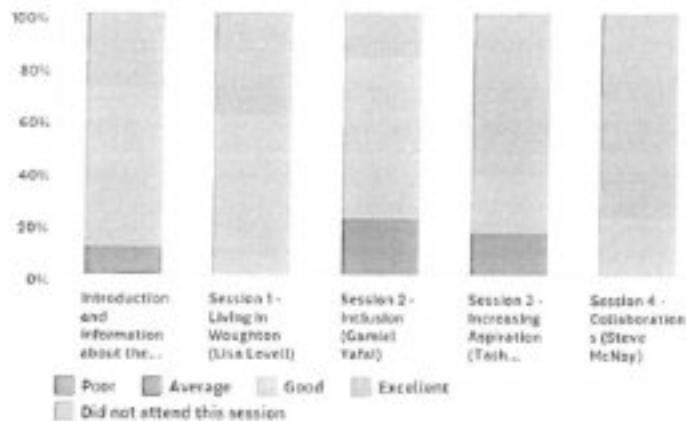
Feedback from participants has been positive, with a total of 18 responses to the feedback survey.

In response to specific questions, the answers were:

Ease of registering, 6 'good' and 12 'excellent'
How was the venue, 5 'good' and 13 'excellent'
Catering, 2 'good' and 16 'excellent'
Length of event, 1 'too short' and 17 'just right'.
Would you attend again, 4 'very likely' and 14 'extremely likely'.

The session feedback varied:

Q3 How did you rate the sessions?



There was also some useful feedback in terms of what was good / what could have been better and ideas for future events:

What did you enjoy?

Whilst we all have different diverse communities, in many ways we have similar challenges to deliver services in various ways.

A great chance to meet local people who are active in the community.

Really good to see so many stakeholders coming together to have an input, very inspiring. I was very impressed with the community spirit

Thought provoking and showcasing the passion and commitment towards making things better. Networking and improving relationships. Highlighting collaborative working already happening and inspiring for the future.

The event was really well organised, very welcoming and great mix of people. Really community focused. I thought that the sessions were excellent and the speakers fantastic. A great selection of well thought out subjects and speakers. Very interesting, inspiring real food for thought. A great way to advertise all of the great things that Woughton are doing for their residents. I enjoyed meeting Councillors and other members of the parish community council who were very welcoming and have a clear passion for Woughton. I gained a lot personally from the event, thank you very much for inviting us.

What did you dislike?

Would have liked more time available for getting to really know who was involved

Ideas for the future?

Maybe a couple of presentations from "partners" we could engage and work with in order to deliver services, eg: Dementia, Age UK, Mental Health for youth, different culture groups, adult education etc

Local Policing issues would be good to hear about.

I don't live in Woughton so would have liked to have a walk around the parish to see the area, facilities, projects, etc for myself.

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The ability to network and have more time to get to know who does what

I think some Residents Association representation would be helpful

Sharing of services, community events

How to encourage voluntary help

Session to discuss future plans/ideas and/or quick wins?

More examples of what has worked before as in Tash Darlings presentation.

It would have been interesting to hear from some local residents about what it is like living in Woughton and what improvements they would like to see.

More of the same.

Sessions addressing issues across MK as a whole

The workshops have provided some interesting feedback which we are currently assessing and will help us to look at future events and building upon the success of the day.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The cost of the conference, taking out costs that would be met anyway (e.g. room costs, officer, time, etc.) was approximately £650. This included catering (the majority), resources (flip charts, pens, badges, etc.) and expenses for workshop providers.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

Officer time for the event was around 30 hours in total. This included workshop preparation, invites and registration management, event planning, set up / take down, etc. It is likely that this would be slightly reduced for any future event, as the structures are now in place and can be simply replicated.

Use of EventBrite for tickets and participant management was free, providing an excellent way of contacting and managing attendees. It also means that we now have details of participants for future invites, stored by EventBrite.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

None.

AUTHOR

Steve McNay – Council Manager

Agenda Item: FC 133/20

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Full Council

Monday 9th March 2020

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To agree to lobby Mr Iain Stewart MP and Mr Ben Everitt MP using the template letter from the Milton Keynes Association of Local Councils (MKALC) as attached to this report.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

MKALC and Hanslope Parish Council have asked Parish and Town Councils to write to persuade the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to amend the National Planning Policy Framework with regard to two matters; the calculation of, and responsibility for, an Authority's Five (5) Year Housing Land Supply and the period of validity of a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan.

Last year a Planning Inspector ruled on appeal that Milton Keynes Council did not have a Five (5) Year Housing Land Supply and therefore allowed two planning applications in Hanslope which had been refused by the Development Control Committee and were vigorously opposed by the Parish Council and residents.

Protection on non-strategic matters is given under the National Planning Policy Framework paragraph 14 a) for a period of two (2) years from the date a Neighbourhood Plan is 'made' and became part of the Local Plan providing certain conditions are met including that it contains policies and allocations to meet its identified housing requirement.

Two years is a short period of time. It takes far longer than that to produce a Neighbourhood Plan or even to produce a Modification (update). A Modification requires a huge amount of effort, nearly all voluntary.

Furthermore, the most common way of making a Modification that would be regarded as 'major' - is to keep the protection of the Neighbourhood Plan updated - is to allocate new land for housing. It is not sustainable for a community to make a new land allocation every two (2) years simply to protect it against inappropriate development and defeats the purpose of a Neighbourhood Plan to define a local spatial planning policy.

MKALC and Hanslope Parish Council suggests that the period of validity would be for the period of the Neighbourhood Plan (typically ten (10) years) or the period of the overarching Local Plan, whichever is the earlier, and providing that the identified housing requirement continues to be met.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None perceived.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Draft letter to Mr Iain Stewart MP and Mr Ben Everitt MP.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. To note the report.
2. To agree to send the template letter as drafted by the MKALC to Mr Iain Stewart MP & Mr Ben Everitt MP.

AUTHOR

Brian Barton
Committee & Member Services Officer

Agenda item: FC 133/20

Messrs Iain Stewart MP and Ben Everitt MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Iain and Ben,

Deficiencies in Neighbourhood Planning

Woughton Community Council is writing to ask your help to persuade the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government to amend the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) with regard to two matters; the calculation of, and responsibility for, an Authority's Five Year Housing Land Supply (5YHLS) and the period of validity of a 'made' Neighbourhood Plan.

As you know, Milton Keynes has a Local Plan, Plan:MK, but last year a Planning Inspector ruled on appeal that Milton Keynes Council did not have a 5YHLS and therefore allowed two planning applications in Hanslope which had been refused by the Development Control Committee and were vigorously opposed by the parish council and residents.

Five Year Housing Land Supply Calculation

Not having a 5YHLS engages paragraph 11 d) of the NPPF and designates the protecting policies of Plan:MK as 'out of date' and removes them from consideration, allowing planning applications except in the most extreme circumstances. In particular, planning policies setting the boundaries of settlements are set aside.

Firstly, if a method, whether Sedgefield or Liverpool or some other – and this really ought to be standardised – calculates that Milton Keynes, with all its expansion and approved planning applications, doesn't have a 5YHLS, then the method is wrong. Secondly, housing deliveries are not within the power of the Planning Authority but lie with the developer.

Indeed, it results in a macabre game; the developer applies for a development permission and gets it (perhaps on appeal). He then says that, for various reasons, he can't develop the application within five years and so the development cannot be counted in the 5YHLS so he applies for another inappropriate development which he gets on appeal and so on until he is gorged with planning permissions. This cannot be right. The onus must be placed on those with unbuilt permissions and some kind of sanction applied such as the permission lapsing if it is not built and occupied within five years unless formally agreed by the Planning Authority.

Neighbourhood Plan Period of Validity

Protection on non-strategic matters is given under NPPF paragraph 14 a) for a period of two years from the date a Neighbourhood Plan (NP) is 'made' and became part of the Local Plan providing certain conditions are met including that it contains policies and allocations to meet its identified housing requirement.

Two years is a ridiculously short period of time. It takes far longer than that to produce an NP or even to produce a Modification (update). This is grossly unfair on the resources of local (parish) councils and residents as an NP or a Modification requires a huge amount of effort, nearly all voluntary. It can and does detract from all the other areas on which a local council should be concentrating to improve life for its residents.

Furthermore, the most common way of making a Modification that would be regarded as 'major' - to keep the protection of the NP updated - is to allocate new land for housing. It is not sustainable for a community to make a new land allocation every two years simply to protect it against inappropriate development and defeats the purpose of an NP to define a local spatial planning policy.

Woughton Community Council would suggest that the period of validity would be for the period of the Neighbourhood Plan (typically 10 years) or the period of the overarching Local Plan, whichever is the earlier, and providing that the identified housing requirement continues to be met.

This is a really important issue in your constituencies and especially in the rural parishes, though it is also a national problem, and we really would appreciate your help.

Yours sincerely,

Agenda Item: FC 134/20

WOUGHTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Full Council

Monday 9th March 2020

PURPOSE OF REPORT:

To agree to produce a submission to the Milton Keynes Council MK2050 Futures consultation.

The deadline for comments is Friday 17th April 2020.

MAIN ISSUES AND CONSIDERATIONS:

The MK2050 Commission as set up by Milton Keynes Council produced a strategy document which has now gone out to consultation.

The strategy document considers the challenges for the future growth of Milton Keynes and the proposed vision by the commission.

Milton Keynes Council has suggested a response along the lines of the questions, as prepared below, although this is not restrictive to any other points and or comments that can be put in any submission.

- Do you agree with taking a long-term approach to 2050?
- Will these proposals stand the test of time?
- Have we set the right ambitions for the growth of Milton Keynes to 2050?
- Does this Strategy cover the right issues?
- Do you have any comments on any part of this Strategy?
- Do you have any comments on the assessment of growth locations (available online)?

The MK 2050 Futures Commission website can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.mkfutures2050.com/>

The presentation and the strategy document is attached to this report.

STAFFING IMPLICATIONS:

None perceived.

OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

None.

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

MK2050 Futures PowerPoint Presentation slides.

MK 2050 Futures Commission Website: <https://www.mkfutures2050.com/>

RECOMMENDATION(S):

1. To note the report.
2. To agree to make a submission to the Milton Keynes Council MK2050 Futures consultation.

AUTHOR

Brian Barton
Committee & Member Services Officer