



Fairfields Forum



Issue 11-Spring Edition

Spring is nearly here, bringing rising temperatures, longer days, and new beginnings. Don't forget to change your clocks on Sunday 26/03/23!



PARISH BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2023/24

WHAT IS A PRECEPT?

The precept is the share of council tax that Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) collects on behalf of a parish, community or town council. MKCC determines the cost per head, based on a number of criteria and informs the Clerk for budgeting purposes. The precept is calculated as part of FCC's budget planning process; it fills the gap between the community council's planned expenditure and its estimated income.

FCC currently has no other sources of income other than applying for grants for projects when required. For a more detailed explanation of the precept, head over to our website.

At a full council meeting held on 24/01/23, Fairfields Community Council (FCC) agreed to request a precept of £58,097.27 for 2023/24. This precept remains unchanged at £49.25 (Band D), see below for your specific band and what you will pay.

Tax Band	Precept per year	Precept per week
Band AR	£27.58	£0.53
Band A	£33.00	£0.63
Band B	£38.42	£0.74
Band C	£43.83	£0.84
Band D	£49.25	£0.95
Band E	£60.09	£1.16
Band F	£70.92	£1.36
Band G	£82.25	£1.58
Band H	£98.50	£1.89

Get in touch with the Clerk if you have any ideas, you want us to consider for future budgets or, alternatively, come to our monthly meetings and have your say.

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Monthly Meets

Monthly Full Council meetings held every 2nd Thursday of the month at the Sports Centre, starting at 18h30.

Check our website for more information.



Leavers

31 December 22

Jean Nicholas, Clerk/RFO, who has contributed to the public sector for over 20 years, decided to take a well earned retirement from Fairfields Community Council. We would like to thank Jean for her great contribution in getting the community council set up and running and wish her well for the future.

15 February 23

Jade Walsh took a decision to step down as Councillor, we thank her for her contribution and wish her well for the future.

Starters

27 February 2023

We are pleased to announce that at an extra ordinary meeting on Monday 27 Feb, we co-opted three new councillors.

Jake Bloomfield
(Councillor)



I was born in Milton Keynes and have lived here for the best part of 30-years. I moved to Fairfields with my fiancée in Oct 22, the first house we have bought together! I'm a passionate football supporter and eager to help foster a community in the local area.

CHAIR'S REPORT FOR 2022



February 12th was a big planting day on Apollo Green when residents joined Vice Lord Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire Alexander Boswell and the Mayor of Milton Keynes Mohammed Khan who along with volunteers from Community Trees MK (CTMK) planted saplings provided by CTMK. We were proud to accept the award of the "Queens Green Canopy" which was to commemorate the Queens jubilee as recognition of the work on Apollo Green and a plaque is now in place regarding this.

March – A Defibrillator was finally installed at the front of Fairfields Primary School. This is registered with the ambulance service so that a 999-call reporting a possible heart attack will trigger the operator telling the caller the code for the box. The Annual cost will be paid by the Parish Council.

June - MKC lost their legal battle over land at the end of Apollo Avenue which meant that the plans for the Community Centre had to be changed and it was agreed that this should now be planned behind the shops at the other end of Apollo Avenue. June the Parish Council meeting moved to a new venue at the Sports hub behind the school.

June as Council were not able to organise any celebrations due to lack of facilities, bunting was provided to all residents who had requested it, to help with their own street parties expenses.

July a 2nd Speed Indicator Device was installed. This will give full information on driver speed etc when computer downloaded to a laptop. There is now one on Vespasian Road and one approaching the school on Apollo Avenue.

July and Aug the Milton Keynes Play Association were brought in to organise a play morning every Friday during the school holidays which was very successful and well attended.

August saw 2 new benches installed at residents' request on the perimeter footpath near to Balbina Way looking over the fields.

October – Following several weeks of work including writing to the Secretary of State at Westminster and several other government departments to apply for the change of status the Parish Council was granted the permission to change its name to Fairfields Community Council.

November 3750 bulbs were planted at Apollo Green in time for Spring 2023.

Starters (cont.)

Shelley Holmes
(Councillor)



I have lived in Milton Keynes (MK) since 1996. My two children attended school here and we loved the many facilities that MK offered us as a family.

I spend my working life in the IT Department of several companies, including Cable & Wireless, Lloyds and Equitable Life, but am now retired.

Shelley Holmes (cont)

My husband and I moved to Fairfields in 2020 and we are very happy living here. I enjoy gardening and have an allotment on Marius Grove site, which occupies much of my time and has been a great way to meet many of our neighbours.

I believe that the Community Council is important for the residents of Fairfields and I joined the council to play my part in building an active and flourishing community.



Chair's report (cont.)

December Jean Nicholas retired as Clerk and was replaced by Vicky Mote.

During the year, three more dog waste bins were installed by the Community Council as well as undertaking several litter picks.

During 2022 we said goodbye to Councillors Jamie Harris, Piyush Gupta, Simon Webb, Robin Burn and Ian Hunt.

Co-opted Councillors during the year were Jade Walsh, Edward Martin, David Nicholas and Rajeev Sharma.

David Nicholas

Chairman
Fairfields Community Council

NEW CLERK / RFO



Hello Everybody

As a brief introduction, I started my new position on 01 September 2022 as your community Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer (RFO).

I am a fully qualified Clerk and have been in the public sector for circa 10-years. Prior to that I worked in the private sector within customer service and operational roles, at mid-senior management level.

I bring with me an extensive amount of knowledge, skills and experience and look forward to working with Council in making a difference. I am very passionate about community engagement and service and look forward to taking this council to the next level.

Head over to our new website and find out more about the key role a Clerk plays within a Council.



**COMMUNITY
SPEEDWATCH
SCHEME**

This is a national initiative where proactive members of local communities join with the support and supervision

of their local police to record details of speeding vehicles, using approved devices. If this is something you believe is a problem in Fairfields, have a look at their website for further information and let us know (contact details p8)

https://www.communityspeedwatch.org/FRONT-v2-The_Scheme.php

Starters (cont.)

Jenny Wilson-Markley
(Councillor)



Having been a ward councillor in Stony Stratford for 5 years now, I have been speaking to residents in Fairfield's for that time and have seen the development go from a few hundred houses to thousands.

I have worked hard for the area-supporting residents to communicate with the developers and representing them on Milton Keynes City Council. I am particularly passionate about sustainability and transport - looking to work across Milton Keynes to reach a carbon neutral target by 2030. I've lived in Milton Keynes all my life and am privileged to be bringing up my son here and having all the benefits that come with living in somewhere with so much to do and so much green space.



SUMMER PLAY SESSIONS



These are funded jointly by Fairfields Community Council and Cross Keys Homes.



They are run by Milton Keynes Play Association (MKPA)



The proposed sessions will be held on the grassed area beyond the play park (All Hallows) at the corner of Fabius Drive and Cicero Crescent (see picture below)

The proposed days are Fridays 10h00-12h30, keep an eye out on Facebook and our website for further details

HOLD THE DATES

28 Jul	04 Aug	11 Aug	18 Aug	25 Aug
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BUS SERVICE SURVEY/PETITION

We will be conducting both a survey and a petition regarding the lack of bus service through Fairfields. Further details to follow via our communication platforms (Facebook, website, noticeboard)



Milton Keynes City Council (MKCC) New Bins

Why are they changing Wheelie Bins?

MKCC's ambition is to be a cleaner, greener and safer place to live and changing to wheelie bins for the collection of rubbish and recycling is one of the ways they can achieve their aims.

Resident of MK currently use 11 million single use recycling sacks annually.

By changing to wheelie bins there are many advantages, including:

- higher levels of recycling.
- better quality recycled materials,
- lower rates of injuries for residents and to staff moving sacks,
- less street litter from sack spillage,
- more straight forward to monitor misuse of the bins, to support better recycling.

What's changing?

In a recent consultation, 76% of MK residents told us they want to move from sacks to wheelie bins. In 2023 three new bins will be introduced:



There are separate bins for paper/card and for plastic/metal/glass as this will help us recycle more items, which is better for the environment.

Most properties in MK will have wheelie bins. A small number will remain on a sack collection service.

Milton Keynes City Council has awarded a new contract to SUEZ Recycling and Recovery UK Ltd to collect MK's waste, keep streets clean, and maintain council owned green spaces and play areas.

The contract starts in September 2023 alongside the vast majority of Milton Keynes 119,000 households moving to wheelie bins.

How can I find out more?

Visit: www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling



NEW IDENTITY – NEW LOGO

The current logo that is used by FCC is that of the developer and Fairfields site as a whole. FCC would like to create their own identity, if you would like to put forward any suggestions, please head over to our new website for more details. NOTE, this is not about replacing the "Welcome to Fairfields" estate logo.



Fairfields Sport Hub

Apollo Avenue Fairfields
Milton Keynes

MK11 4BA

Be part of the next generation, need more information?

Email: nextgeneration@mkunitedfc.co.uk

Foundation + Year 1
Sundays 9-10 am

Year 2 + Year 3
Sundays 10-11 am

Girls (Aged 6-11)
Sundays 9-10 am

Girls (Aged 12-14)
Sundays 10-11 am

For more information, head over to their website.

www.mkunitedfc.co.uk

Got any photo's you would be happy for us to use on our communication platforms, please send them through to clerk@fairfields-pc.gov.uk

We will be happy to give you a mention!



Allotments

March is the month when the world wakes up, as days slowly lengthen again and the clocks go forward at the end of the month.

We have two sites, one at Maximus Court (next door to Fairfields Primary School and the other one just off Marius Grove.

Yellow = Maximus Court (60 plots)
Red = Marius Grove (36 plots)



Looking for an allotment, head over to our website for more information and complete an application form. Once received, you will receive an email confirming if there are any vacancies and where you are on the waiting list.

GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN 2023



Date: Sunday 26 March 2023 from 10h30 to 12h00.
Meet at: All Hallows play park.
Litter pickers, hoops, gloves and bags will be supplied.
Councillor Shelley Holmes will be there to host you.



ACCESSIBILITY



Think before you park!

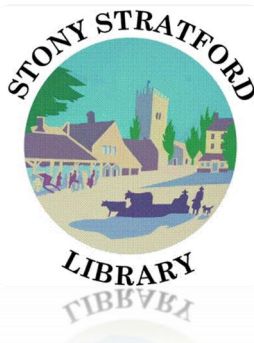


BE KIND

Don't park on pavements or dropped curbs, as this impedes those people who might have difficulty navigating a pathway with obstacles.

Stony Stratford Library

Local organization, including Friends of Stony Stratford Library (FOSSL) and Community Foundation have also supported the installation of a kitchen on the first floor.



Opening Times This is run jointly by Stony Stratford Town Council and Friends of Stony Stratford Library (FOSSL).

Day	Opening	Volunteer Hour (FOSSL)
Mon	CLOSED	CLOSED
Tue	09h00-17h00	09h00-10h00
Wed	09h00-17h00	09h00-10h00
Thur	09h00-17h00	09h00-10h00 + 17h00-19h00
Fr	09h00-17h00	09h00-10h00
Sat	09h00-13h00	09h00-10h00
Sun	CLOSED	CLOSED

Children's story times - Click and Collect - Computer access - Free Wi-Fi - Friends Group (FOSSL) - Home library service - Laminating - Lego Club - Scanning - Volunteer opportunities - Community engagement - Meet people - Warm space - Books

For more information about what is on at Stony Stratford Library go to: <https://milton-keynes.gov.uk/libraries/nearest-library/stony-stratford-library>

Watling Primary School-September 2023-Opening

The Denbigh Alliance which operates Denbigh School in Shenley Church End and Watling Academy on the Whitehouse development is opening the new Watling Primary school in September 2023. The building is on track, and they hope to take possession in June.

Vikki Pegg, Watling Primary's Headteacher shared the Trust's vision with prospective parents and emphasised the school's passion for STEM, the commitment to outdoor learning opportunities and the Forest School focus.

Vikki said that the school will have children and the local community at its heart and is looking forward to providing an exceptional primary experience to children in the Western Expansion Area.

Want to be a school governor: <https://watlingprimary.net/>

Elections Thur 4 May 2023



FAIRFIELDS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

are due to hold elections this year, something that takes place every 4-years.

Do you have time and want to be a **VOICE** on behalf of your community, and be a part of shaping the future, then get in touch for an informal chat.

Contact Vicky:

clerk@fairfields-pc.gov.uk

Keep an eye out on our communication platforms (Facebook, website, noticeboard), where you can come and find out more about what we do for you and share your ideas.

You now need photo ID to vote

The Government has introduced a requirement for voters to show photo ID when voting as a polling station at some election. This new requirement will apply for the first time in England at the local elections on Thursday 4 May 2023.

Which forms of ID can I use to vote?

You may already have a form of photo ID that is acceptable. You can use any of the following:

- Passport
- Driving license (including provisional license)
- Blue badge
- Certain concessionary travel cards
- Identity card with PASS mark (Proof of Age Standards Scheme)
- Biometric Immigration document
- Defence identity card
- Certain national identity cards

For more information on which forms of photo ID will be accepted, visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

If you do not have an accepted form photo ID

If you don't already have an accepted form of photo ID, or you're not sure whether your photo ID still looks like you, you can apply for a free voter ID document, known as a **Voter Authority Certificate**. You can apply for this at voter-authority-certificate.service.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can complete a paper application form and send this to the electoral services team at your local council. If you need any help with applying for a Voter Authority Certificate or want to request an application form, contact your local council. To find their contact details visit electoralcommission.org.uk/voter.

Find out more!

If you have any questions or would like to find out more, go to electoralcommission.org.uk/voterID, or call their helpline on 0800 328 0280.

FCC CONTACT DETAILS

CLERK: CLERK@FAIRFIELDS-PC.GOV.UK

WEBSITE: WWW.FAIRFIELDS-PC.ORG.UK