



BPARA *Intelligence*

Newsletter of the Bletchley Park Area Residents Association

Autumn
2016

Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter which contains the latest news on current planning projects as well as feedback from meetings attended by members of the BPARA Committee. We've received some very positive comments on the new format and we hope you'll find this edition's items interesting and informative. Please do contact us if you would like an item to be included in a future issue.

Membership Matters

BPARA Website

The Committee are planning to redesign the Association's website. Chairman, Angie Ravn-Aagaard applied to West Bletchley Council's Community Committee for a grant to assist with the costs of this. The Council has now approved a grant of £250 which means that we'll go ahead with this project as soon as possible.

We are now looking for a "website savvy" member who would be willing to maintain and update information on the site. If you think you can undertake this valuable role, please do get in touch with Angie or Secretary, Kathy Wilson (see contact numbers below).

Desperately SeekingBPARA Representatives

The death of long-serving Area Representative, Keith Tooley, has meant that there is a vacancy in his area - The Elms, The Grove & Travis Grove. Also, a new BP Estate representative is needed. The BPARA Committee is therefore seeking members to undertake these roles. If there are any BPARA members willing and able to spare a little time to deliver the quarterly Newsletter to members who've opted not to receive it by email & also act as liaison points for residents' queries, please contact a member of the Committee.

Sadly, we have learnt that BPARA member, Mike Carney, of Church Green Road has passed away. We would like to extend our sympathies to his family and friends.

West Bletchley Neighbourhood Plan

The draft plan is currently being completed by the Steering Committee, which includes representatives from BPARA. It will be submitted to WBC's Planning & Environment Committee at their meeting on Monday 7th November 2016. Further details of the plan can be obtained on the WBC's website, www.westbletchleycouncil.gov.uk

West Bletchley Neighbourhood Action Group (WBNAAG)

There was no meeting of this group in August but BPARA Chairman, Angie Ravn-Aagaard attended the July meeting and Secretary, Kathy Wilson, attended in September.

Issues discussed included:

Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)

– Mark Swallow from Thames Valley Police (TVP) attended both meetings & reported that in general the area had been quiet, apart from an incident at the Launderette at Melrose. There had also been instances of groups of people drinking alcohol in the area around Melrose shops during the day. Inspector Teladia, who attended the July meeting, stated that his objective is to make police presence visible in troubled areas.

(Editor's Note: Mark Swallow and his team have been following up on the reports of ASB in Rickley Park (noise and littering from occupants in cars driving into the car parks late at night) and Kathy Wilson had

been kept informed of police action by Sarah Williams at Bletchley Police Station. Mark had also visited residents in Craigmere Avenue – next to the park – to see if they had any concerns. Please contact Kathy if you are experiencing problems and she will pass these concerns to TVP. Alternatively, ring 101 to report any incidents.

Speeding/Parking

Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) are frequently utilised to deter speeding in local roads but WBC Councillor, Felicity Cockbaine had obtained speed data which reveals that, in general, speeds are rarely much above the 30mph so further enforcement is not considered a high priority. It was agreed that a NAG member would contact the MK Highways authority regarding the issue.

At the September meeting concern was expressed about taxis parking in bus stop areas in Whaddon Way. The Chair then offered to write to taxi firms to ensure that their drivers did not park in these laybys.

Planning Issues:

Central Bletchley Regeneration Project

This project is the proposed development of 184 residential units & community and office accommodation on the land once occupied by The Enigma Pub and Aldi supermarket & car park (but excluding the Burger King Restaurant – since destroyed by fire some weeks ago).

A full planning application from Remitone Properties Ltd & Octavia Homes (Bletchley) Ltd was received by MK Council's Planning Department in September with a public consultation expiry date of 26 October. (App. No. 16/02451/FUL). No further information is available at present but we will update members on the situation in due course.

SW Milton Keynes

Throughout the summer, Angie Ravn-Aagaard has been actively involved with campaigns to oppose major planning applications in the South & South West of Milton Keynes, which would mean, in total, some 4,000 dwellings being built in the Aylesbury Vale area to the south and west of Bletchley (plus a further 6,000 planned in Winslow). She represents BPARA on the Consortium of Bletchley Residents' Associations Committee (COBRA) and sits on the Eaton Leys Development Working Group and WBC's Salden Chase Sub-Committee. Although we don't have space for a detailed explanation of the work of these committees, here is a brief resume of progress on the largest development – Salden Chase.

South West Milton Keynes Consortium (Salden Chase)

This application from SWMK Consortium was for revisions to outline planning for a development of 1,855 dwellings, a primary school, an employment area and provision of land for a GP surgery and a secondary school.

Angie prepared detailed submissions for both MKC and Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC) on behalf of BPARA members which were presented to their Planning Committees in September. The focus of the objections to the development was "I before E" – Infrastructure before Expansion and pointing out the many problems which such a development would cause for the area.

A major concern for campaigners is that it seems that neither Bucks CC or MKC support the creation of a Southern Bypass (Oxford/MK/Cambridge Expressway). This is seen as key to relieving pressure on the increased traffic flow which would be created by new developments.

Angie, accompanied by Liz Rawlinson, Chair of COBRA, met with the MP for MK South, Iain Stewart, on the 17 September to enlist his support. Others, including WBC, a number of MKC Counsellors as well as residents of Newton Longville, have written to both authorities objecting to the application (Information on the application can be found on MKC's website, www.milton-keynes.gov.uk (Application nos. 15/00223/CONS & 15/00619/FUL) or at AVDC, www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk (15/00314/AOP))

We hope to report again on this issue in our Winter newsletter. However, if you would like further information in the meantime, please contact Angie.

Fixing The Links

Members who regularly travel along Buckingham Road into Bletchley will be relieved to know that, according to MK Council's September update on the progress of this project, work in the area of the Saxon Street roundabout is now due to be completed this autumn. For further updates and information on the project, visit the Council's website, www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/street-transport-and-parking/fixing-the-links and search for the Highways section.

Sensory Garden, Church Green

The project to renovate this garden, being led by Brenda Hart of the WBNAAG, is now underway, following a slight delay caused by vandals damaging the brickwork of some of the raised flower beds. The garden was off-limits for a few weeks while MK Council repaired the damage. The area is once again open to the public and the front bed cleared by WB Council, with some sterling assistance from Brenda, & Kev & Maxine Grenville from BPARA. The trio laboured under a hot sun to dig up the remaining shrubs & stubborn mint plants before WBC rotavated the bed in preparation for the planting of rose bushes to be donated by Dobbies. Volunteers have now rubbed down & varnished the wooden rails and posts at the back of the bed. Members of the Men In Sheds group in Rickley Park will now make up wooden border edging between the bed and the footpath in the garden.

If any more BPARA members would like to participate in this project, please do get in touch.

Bletchley Park Estate

The Old Canteen & G Block

There has been a substantial amount of undergrowth cleared on the Old Canteen site which has generally been made more secure. Other than that, it has not been possible to gather any further information from the owners, Bletchley Park Capital Partners, on future developments. The BPARA Committee Members will continue to pursue the issue.

Similarly, with G Block - also owned by them - little seems to have been done to improve either appearance or security on the site. BPARA member, Carol Caesar, has complained about piles of debris cleared from G Block which remain outside her property. However, nothing more has been done.

Other estate issues which Carol has highlighted are the long-promised children's play area and inconsiderate parking on the estate roads. The play area issue was raised at the WB Neighbourhood Plan meeting on 17th October. Apparently, this is not on the list of green spaces in the plan and MKC have promised to investigate.

If members have any similar concerns, please let the BPARA Committee know and we will do our best to resolve them.

What's On at Bletchley Park

Special events this autumn include:

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| 28-29 Oct | Blackout Bletchley – Special Museum at Night tours (1900-2100) |
| 12 Nov | Afternoon Tea & Jazz with singer Alison Carter |
| 13 Nov | Remembrance Day Parade from the Park to the Cenotaph on Church Green |
| 3 Dec | Fabulous Forties Pamper Day |
| 3-23 Dec | Christmas grotto |

Further details of all these events can be found at www.bletchleypark.org.

Bletchley Park Area Residents' Association

Chris Simpson – Honorary Life President

Angie Ravn-Aagaard – Honorary Chairman (01908 368332)

Kathy Wilson – Honorary Secretary (01908 373400)

www.bpara.co.uk