



BPARA *Intelligence*

Newsletter of the Bletchley Park Area Residents Association

Winter
2023

Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Deal Board (The 'TDB')

Exciting progress has been made since the end of 2022: the business cases for all 9 of the Town Deal Projects have now been approved by government and the projects have now entered the delivery stage. Milton Keynes Development Partnership (MKDP – MK City Council's development body) has agreed a deal to buy the former Sainsbury store using funding from the Town Deal.

MKDP already owns the adjacent Brunel Centre, the former Sainsbury carpark and Wilkinson store site. The site of the former police and fire stations is also owned by MKDP, and plans are moving forward for residential-led mixed use development, including the **Innovation Hub**, of this site – BPARA is campaigning for a hotel on part of this site. At the same time, MKCC is working on options for Queensway and Fenny Stratford under the TDB's **Improving the Public Realm** project.

The purchase of the Sainsbury site is a vital step forward in the redevelopment of the wider town area, and will give MKCC more control over how regeneration of our town centre takes place. The community-led regeneration approach will involve MKCC working with the TDB, the two local town and parish councils and resident groups to develop plans for the future.

Although East West Rail is due to operate via Bletchley in 2025, the **Transport Hub** project does not include any redevelopment of Bletchley

Station or its western entrance on Sherwood Drive. Instead, the purpose of this project is to improve the links between the Rail Station and Town Centre, fitting in with the longer-term ambition for an eastern entrance for the Rail Station. The aim is to reduce the dominance of vehicles in this area, and proposals include:

- Reducing Saxon Street to a single lane between the Brunel and Princes Street roundabouts in each direction;
- Replacing Brunel Roundabout with a left-in-left-out priority junction to Duncombe Street;
- Replacing the Princes Way Roundabout with a signalised junction.

As stated in the minutes of the TDB meeting held on 6 January, the Board approved the Transport Hub business case and it was noted that 2 members - the BPARA Chair (representing COBRA – see below) and Iain Stewart, MP - did not support the proposal. Despite MKCC traffic modelling exercises, your Chair is concerned that these proposals, together with an increase in traffic from new developments both within and outside our area, will result in unacceptable delays and increase traffic congestion.

For more information, including agendas and minutes of Town Deal Board meetings, please see <https://groundbreakingbletchleyandfenny.co.uk/>.

A date for your diary...

AGM

The AGM will be held at
Bletchley Park at 7pm on
23rd May 2023

with updates from
TDB Chair John Cove on
TDB projects and Iain
Standen (CEO) on Bletchley
Park - other speakers
to be confirmed

Keeping in touch

You can contact us via
email at info@bpara.co.uk.

Note: We have email
addresses for most
members to whom we
email information between
publication of newsletters.
If we do not have your
email address, please
provide via info@bpara.co.uk. It will be used for
BPARA purposes only,
and not shared with other
parties.

Bletchley Park Area Residents' Association

Chris Simpson – Honorary Life President
Angie Ravn-Aagaard – Honorary Chairman

Valda Stuckey – Honorary Secretary
Derek Storey – Honorary Treasurer

Email us on info@bpara.co.uk

The Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve

Under the TDB's **Redway Improvements Project**, routes to link Newton Leys and Blue Lagoon Nature Reserve to Bletchley Town centre are in progress. To carry out work in the Blue Lagoon area, closure of parts of some footpaths and car parks has been necessary on the grounds of public safety. In addition, the work has been scheduled to fit in with the habits and lifestyles of wildlife in the area – birds, badgers and bats. Work is in progress and is due to be completed by the end of this year.

Separately, a **Blue Lagoon Users Group** has been set up to represent the interests of park users and obtain views on the current and future use of the Blue Lagoon – BPARA and West Bletchley Council (WBC) are represented on this group. Sadly, the Blue Lagoon suffers from anti-social behaviour and lack of investment – MKCC now wishes to address this, possibly seeking funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Bletchley Rail Station & East West Rail (EWR)

Until recently, BPARA has struggled to obtain information from EWR:

- Date for the publication of the results of the EWR Informal Consultation that closed in mid-2021 (now due later this year).
- An eastern entrance for rail station.
- Refurbishment of the rail station, western entrance and development of land adjacent to station – this is dependent on Network Rail and London Northwestern Rail (current railway operator), not EWR.
- Bletchley rail passenger footfall now received: 2021/22 - **581,148**; 2020/21 - **242,554**; 2019/20 - **1,139,094**; 2018/19 - **1,135,190**

Prior to the Women's EUROS last year, BPARA had complained to MKCC about the drab, unwelcoming appearance and the absence of any information about Bletchley at the station, whereas MK Central Station had a display celebrating girls/women's football. However, Shane Downer (Heritage and International Partnerships, MKCC) later contacted BPARA and other parties, including **Friends of Bletchley Station (FOBS)** and there are now plans for a **Digital Heritage Trail** – see below.

Friends of Bletchley Station ('FOBS') & Digital Heritage Trail

BPARA supports FOBS, a local volunteer group founded in 2021 which determined that Bletchley Station should present an attractive gateway to the town and its environs. It has already installed green areas and planters in and around the station and obtained funding:

- To install poster cases around the station;
- Working with MK Living Archive to produce posters for these cases which will depict the history and other aspects of Bletchley Station.
- FOBS have a QR code for inclusion on posters with the aim of Bletchley Station being one of the "location points" on a future Bletchley Digital Heritage Trail.

FOBS is also working with local schools and art groups so that their 'work' can also be displayed in the poster cases. For more information about FOBS and the station, past and present, please go to www.friendsofbletchleystation.org

The **Digital Heritage Trail** project is led by Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council (B&FSTC), working with MKCC, MK Living Archive, BPARA and WBC. The Trail will link Bletchley and Fenny Stratford stations.

Codebreaker Project & Cricket Pavilion Site

BPARA has campaigned for the derelict Cricket Pavilion site on the corner of Sherwood Drive/Buckingham Road to be developed as a public green space with a memorial to Alan Turing. Whilst supportive of a memorial, neither MKCC or the TDB has been willing to purchase this site which is privately owned. The owners have indicated that they would support an Urban Park alongside "small clusters of higher density housing."

MKCC has now set up a project to celebrate the Bletchley Park and Alan Turing legacies in a fresh, creative and inclusive way, and encouraged residents and other interested persons to become '**Community Codebreakers**' to support the development of a brief for this future facing, innovative public celebration. BPARA is represented by 5 members who have attended an 'Enigma Day' and 3 online sessions. The brief is now with MKCC for consideration.

Station Parking Zone (SPZ)

To address parking, primarily by commuters, in roads within 15 minutes' walk of the Rail Station, SPZ consultations were carried out in 2019 and 2020. Due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions and resource issues in the MKCC Highways Department, the next steps of the SPZ Initiative were not taken forward by MKCC. Since then, BPARA and WBC has lobbied MKCC on several occasions to revisit the SPZ. MKCC have advised this will now be happening in **April this year**. However, at this stage, WBC does not know whether new consultations will be necessary and will not have any details until nearer the time.

Residents in **Welchman Court and Tiltman Lane** have experienced serious parking problems caused primarily by commuters. On one occasion Serco was unable to access the area to collect refuse/recycling. In addition, there is often dangerous parking on the entrance to Tiltman Lane which appears to contravene Highway Code Rule 243 which includes "not parking on a bend, or where access to emergency vehicles is impacted". To address this, a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) is necessary and involves several steps – WBC is aware and is currently looking into this matter.

Consortium of Bletchley Residents Associations (COBRA)

- Consists of the 5 residents associations in the B&FSTC area, plus BPARA. Face to face meetings have resumed.
- COBRA is a forum for discussion about, and input by residents, primarily on the Town Deal and B&FSTC's Neighbourhood Plan.

Other matters:

- West Bletchley Community Forum operated via TVP – face to face meetings have resumed. The next meeting will be on May 13 at 11am at the Frank Moran Centre. Normally, the meetings are in the evening - TVP are keen to hear your suggestions for location/date/times of meetings.
- West Bletchley Carnival on Saturday, 8 July - BPARA plan to have a stall and sponsor face-painting.

Keep up to date!

Read more about the above topics by going to the BPARA website www.bpara.co.uk