



BPARA *Intelligence*

Newsletter of the Bletchley Park Area Residents Association

Spring
2023

BPARA AGM

The AGM will be held at Bletchley Park on **Tuesday, 23rd May, starting at 7pm**. The main item on the agenda will be the **Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Deal Board (TDB)** presentation by **John Cove, TDB Chair**. John, who is also Chairman of Milton Keynes Dons FC Sport and Education Trust, gave an interesting and informative talk about the TDB projects at last year's AGM.

Other speakers at the AGM will be **Iain Standen (CEO, Bletchley Park)** and **Alex Warner (Principal, the South-Central Institute of Technology - SC IOT)** – both were speakers at last year's AGM. See overleaf for more information about the **SC IOT**.

The meeting will take place in **C Block/Exhibition Entrance** which is access-friendly, and with toilets close by. Refreshments are kindly being provided by Bletchley Park. **We will be sending an invitation to you under separate cover. To assist Bletchley Park with their seating and catering arrangements, can you let us know if you are coming?**

The 2023 AGM Agenda and 2022 AGM meeting minutes can be found at <https://bit.ly/3HTUaMw>

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

The Board last met on 27 February, and the next meeting will be on 19 June. As previously advised, the TDB projects and funding have been approved by the Government, and MKCC are now putting together project plans as part of the delivery stage. We will shortly hear about the **Public Realm Improvement** project, which is being led by Paul Hammond, also a speaker at last year's AGM. This project will be looking primarily at improvements to the **Queensway** area.

Your Chair is a member of the TDB and does not always support the proposals from MKCC and Milton Keynes Development Partnership <https://mkdp.org.uk>. MKDP is owned by MKCC. As advised in our last newsletter, she did not support the Transport Hub project which proposes to make Saxon Street a single carriageway in each direction. Saxon Street is a major route in our area and, with the increase in traffic from new developments both within and

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Other news

- West Bletchley Community Forum operated via Thames Valley Police – the next meeting will now take place on Friday, May 12th between 7 and 8pm at the Frank Moran Centre (not May 13th, as previously stated).
- West Bletchley Carnival on Saturday, 8th July - BPARA will have a stall and sponsor face-painting.
- Your Chair attended a Community Champions Reception at Downing Street and, wearing her BPARA badge, was photographed with PM, Rishi Sunak. She handed him a BPARA flyer and newsletter. The following week she attended a Housing Round Table hosted by the Housing Minister in the Houses of Parliament.
- BPARA wishes to thank Alison Hammett who is standing down after many years as a BPARA representative.
- BPARA sends its condolences to the family of the late Joan Lancaster, formerly of Park Gardens, who passed away recently.

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

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

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

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outside our area, this will result in unacceptable delays and increase traffic congestion in our area.

The last year was a busy time for the TDB, and the priority was to finalise projects for sign off within tight timescales imposed by government. Community Engagement was not a main item on meeting agendas. During that time, the BPARA Chair raised concerns regarding the lack of information being made available to the public, both in TDB meetings and via emails outside those meetings.

Against a background of residents expressing their dissatisfaction via social media or ad-hoc meetings, your Chair wrote to Tracey Aldsworth, (Deputy CEO and

MKCC's most senior TDB representative), and John Cove on 21 March. She requested a meeting to discuss how to improve community engagement ahead of the next scheduled meeting in June.

A Community Engagement Plan was part of the Town Investment Plan Appendices and was a requirement to obtain approval of the Town Deal Bid in July 2021 – an extract from a BPARA newsletter is featured on page 16 of the Town Investment Plan Appendices <https://bit.ly/42hH8AH>! Sadly, not enough attention has been paid to this in the meantime, nor has the TDB website - <https://bit.ly/3rNwrVs> - been updated on a regular basis. Public consultation has been in the form of lengthy online documents-

BPARA agrees with residents that this is not the best way to engage with residents.

MKDP has owned the Brunel Centre for more than a year - an empty unit could be used as an information point, or via pop-ups at outdoor activities planned for this summer in Queensway or at the West Bletchley Carnival. As we go to press, we have only had an acknowledgement but no response from Tracey. Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council has also written about community engagement to the TDB. Whilst accepting that commercial sensitivities might limit the provision of some information; no news is giving rise to fake news!

The South-Central Institute of Technology (SC IOT)

The SC IOT has been operating for some time, and its new building on Sherwood Drive, next to Bletchley College, will be opening in June. It provides higher level technical qualifications and short courses for a new generation of digital students. However, the SC IOT is keen to engage with the community and support people of all ages to improve their digital skills. The building also has a small cafeteria that will

be open to the public on an ongoing basis.

On Saturday, 24th June the SC IOT will be open to the local community to go along to view the new facilities and investigate everything the SC IOT has to offer - you could even take part in some interactive activities. To register your attendance at the Open Day, please go to <https://southcentraliot.ac.uk/events>

What are your views?

Do you think we should have a hotel in the Bletchley Park area to serve visitors to Bletchley Park, the SC IOT, and elsewhere in our area? Please email any comments to info@bpara.co.uk

Subscriptions

The subscription of £3 per household for the year commencing 1st April 2023 is now due. Payment, preferably on-line, can be made:

Online

To **Lloyds A/C 45244068 Sort Code 30-91-97**, quote your street & house number as reference - please drop a quick email to info@bpara.co.uk to let us know and we can confirm receipt and your email address.

Cash

Please complete the slip below and give it to a BPARA representative – <https://www.bpara.co.uk/committee-representatives/>.

I / We enclose the annual subscription of £3 per household for year ending 31st March 2024.

Name: (in capitals, please)

Address:

Signature:

Email address:

(For sending BPARA emails only)

Keep up to date!

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