

Have your say on the Groundbreaking Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Deal!

Although BPARA is busy with many matters that affect residents, this newsletter is about the consultation that has now opened on two major Town Deal projects:

- **Transport Hub** which covers proposed changes to Saxon Street, including the downgrade to a single carriageway between the Brunel and Princes Way roundabouts.
- **Public Realm Improvement** which covers Queensway and Aylesbury Street in Fenny Stratford.

As you are aware, the BPARA Chair has represented residents on the Town Deal Board since its inception in July 2020 and, during this time, she has been critical of the poor communication of key issues by MKCC. However, this has improved in recent months following the appointment of Darrel Canvin, Programme Manager (Town Deal and Infrastructure Projects), and the formation of a Town Deal Advisory Group representing the wider community.

This consultation process will be the most comprehensive and far-reaching exercise to date, and is intended to reach all residents, via face-to-face, written and digital means. Darrel was a speaker at the BPARA Annual Meeting in May and, together with the BPARA Chair, started the consultation process at the Fenny Stratford Canal Festival on August 3.

Please note that the site of the proposed relocation of the Bus Station, and access in/out of Duncombe Street has now changed, and not as originally proposed – **MKCC do take account of resident feedback!**

The consultation continues until September 22, and there will be opportunities for you to view the information and give your views for both

projects via exhibitions to be held at various locations – dates for some have already been confirmed and BPARA has requested that at least one session is held at the South-Central Institute of Technology in Sherwood Drive, opposite the Rail Station.

Take a look at the plans for Queensway, Aylesbury Street and Saxon Street and Have Your Say - please go to <https://gbftowndeal.commonplace.is/>

Please do take time to view the consultation material and give your views via Commonplace – if you have any difficulty with this, please let BPARA know.



Following the conclusion of the consultation, **MKCC will respond to all points raised and come back to the community with a 'you said, we did' report detailing how it has considered your feedback. This will be followed by detailed design in preparation for an expected construction start in Summer 2025.**

Transport Hub Improvements Project - Saxon Street

The proposals are intended to improve connectivity between the Town Centre and rail station, creating an area where people can more easily connect their bus and rail

journeys and travel. MKCC selected the design in this consultation to achieve an ideal balance, without significant impact on travel time.

Bletchley Rail Station - potential new Eastern Entrance - MKCC has an aspiration to create a new eastern entrance from Bletchley Rail Station, which faces onto Saxon Street, although this would require multi-million-pound funding. The proposed design would protect sufficient land to deliver an eastern entrance in the future – please see below.

Narrowing of Saxon Street - it will be necessary to change Saxon Street by **reducing the road between the current Brunel and Princes Street roundabouts to a single carriageway.** MKCC has carried out detailed traffic modelling in this area and can confirm this will not impact journey times to a significant degree. **However, modelling has not been carried out on Buckingham Road or the roads that feed into Buckingham Road to access Saxon Street.** There is already congestion at peak times, which will increase from new developments from both within and outside Bletchley, such as the future new Brunel site and Salden Park. At the BPARA Annual Meeting in May, residents were keen to see whether East West Rail/MKCC will agree on an eastern entrance with bridge to link to Queensway via land owned by MKCC/MKDP.

Bus Station – relocate closer to Queensway and the proposed new development of the Brunel/Sainsbury site as it is used by many Queensway shoppers. This will help improve connectivity and wayfinding through the Town Centre and create a better sense of arrival. The present bus station site is owned by a private landowner.



Other proposed changes to improve the experience of Saxon Street for pedestrians and to create a 'gateway' connecting Queensway with the new bus station and a future Eastern rail entrance:

- **Pedestrian crossings** - improve and upgrade the existing designated crossing points from the train station to Queensway to give pedestrians more priority, help reduce speeds and improve overall safety.
- **Proposed removal of the existing Brunel roundabout** and the implementation of new traffic lights to help enable safe movements.
- **Change the existing redway layout** to provide better access across Saxon Street and into the surrounding area.
- Improve accessibility to buses and trains, and, in the future, a new modern transport system (**Mass Rapid Transport**).

Do you support these changes – please complete the survey to make your views known?

Public Realm Improvements Project – Queensway & Aylesbury Street in Fenny Stratford:

The concept design shows a series of proposals which will help improve the overall appearance, attractiveness, safety useability of the Queensway and Aylesbury Street and deliver on these objectives:

- To improve the attractiveness of the town centre
- To increase footfall and time spent in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.
- To improve the safety of public space and reduce the reported incidents of

Date for your diary:

August 30 – West Bletchley

Community Forum meeting operated by Thames Valley Police at Frank Moran Centre between 7 and 8pm. Do come along and meet your local Neighbourhood Policing Team and raise issues that impact you.

anti-social behaviour and crime.

- To improve the link between Bletchley Rail Station and Bletchley Town Centre.
- To improve the health and wellbeing of Queensway and Aylesbury Street.

MKCC considered several options for Queensway, including full pedestrianisation (i.e. no cars) and retaining the two-way access. As these options would not enable MKCC to meet all project objectives and be delivered with the project budget available, it has identified **a one-way approach on Queensway to best meet the objectives for the area.**

Via their survey, MKCC are asking for your feedback and thoughts on:

- Do you support Queensway becoming a one-way street, or it to stay as a two-way street or be fully pedestrianised?
- The scheme will also provide an equal number of parking spaces to that currently provided - do you agree the proposals have an appropriate level of parking?

One issue that has been consistently raised is **inconsiderate parking**. In the new concept plans, **the street has been designed to prevent vehicles mounting the pavement and parking inconsiderately**. A range of features will be installed such as planters, seating, bollards and raised kerbs to protect pedestrians on the pavement and prevent inconsiderate parking.

MKCC are proposing to **widen the current narrow pavements** to improve the pedestrian environment and make the street safer with

- Several designated crossing points and new continuous pavement crossings at all side streets to reflect changes in the Highway Code giving pedestrians priority, reduce speed and improve safety.
- Widened pavements could be used and shared by people walking, using bikes or scooters, with places to hire/ secure e-bike and e-scooter equipment. Seating and other services such as delivery lockers could also be provided in these spaces.

Other proposals

- Maintain bus services to **Queensway and Princes Way** and retain stops to ensure convenient bus connections from either end of the street.
- **Buses no longer drive through Queensway** and remove the Brooklands Road Stop. Impacted passengers will be served by the MK Connect on demand service.
- **New wayfinding signage** will be installed ensuring the footpaths connecting to all bus stops are clear and accessible. In the future
- Queensway will be served by a **new modern transport system called Mass Rapid Transport (MRT)** in the future. MRT will be a clean electric shuttle bus service directly into Queensway as part of a city-wide initiative.

Healthy Streets initiatives:

- Measures to improve the street environment and reduce air and noise pollution, and wider conflicts between the car user, street vendors, businesses and people spending time on Queensway. Planting replacement street trees, introducing planting and improving pavements.
- **Stanier Square** will become a multifunctional event/market space with power supply and flexible seating provided. Pop-up spaces created for community groups/ start-up businesses to utilise. Street furniture including flexible seating integrated with soft landscape/ planting features to make the spaces feel welcoming and comfortable to spend time in.
- Improved pavement environment will encourage more businesses to provide spaces to their shop frontages, such as dedicated outdoor seating.

Aylesbury street – to prevent illegal and inconsiderate parking, installation of soft landscape planters and bollards. Also, continuous crossings at all side streets and improvement of existing crossing points.

Bletchley Park Area Residents' Association

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