

Annual Report 2021-2022



www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk

In Memory of Cllr Amanda Carter-Philpott



Very sadly, Cllr Amanda Carter-Philpott passed away in April 2022.

Amanda was a committed and thoughtful councillor who worked tirelessly to champion and support our residents, in particular people with disabilities or facing the threat of violence. Amanda's hard work is detailed throughout this year's Annual Report.

Amanda made a massive impact on this council in a short period of time. Amanda's dedication and hard work led to us becoming the first council in Milton Keynes to gain White Ribbon accreditation. White Ribbon is a global campaign that encourages people, and especially men and boys, to individually and collectively take action and change the behaviour and culture that leads to abuse and violence.

Amanda brought lots of new energy to our council and championed the wellbeing of our residents, ensuring everyone in our community had a voice. Amanda always made sure that she shared her views on any subject and she gave her all to everything she did. Her sense of humour will also be missed at our meetings.

Amanda's passing is a huge loss to our council and our community. She was truly admired by councillors and staff alike. The council was only part of Amanda's work and there are many people who are living better lives today because of her. Amanda was an inspiration and her impact and legacy in our local community will continue.

All councillors and officers send their deepest condolences to Amanda's family and friends at this very sad time.

We were very proud to have Amanda as a councillor for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

Table of Contents

Chair's Foreword	Page 2
Council Governance	Page 3
Strategic Priorities and Policies	Page 4
Planning and Development	Page 5
Community Grant Recipients	Page 6
A year in the life of the Town Council	Page 8
Core Services	Page 21
Council Finances	Page 22
Councillor Attendance	Page 24
Councillor Contact Details	Page 25

Chair's Foreword

Since we entered into a new four-year council session in May 2022, I am delighted to introduce you to a report on our activities in the last year. This year has been one of transition for both the community as we learn to live with COVID, but also for the Council with some Councillors retiring and many new joiners.

One of the first things we did as a new Council in 2021 was to agree our vision, mission and values and the key strategic priorities, and our delivery plan. This work has led to us making many changes to the way we work as an organisation. We have recently moved from a leased building at Bletchley Library and moved to the first Town Council offices we have ever owned at Sycamore House in Water Eaton, right at the centre of the communities we serve.

We know many of our residents have found living throughout the pandemic very challenging. The community have told us, they want us to keep supporting our wellbeing initiatives such as free swimming, free face to face counselling, providing essential food support through the Community Larder scheme and to keep providing essential youth club services as well as free toilets in Bletchley Town Centre amongst other things. We have therefore had to make some difficult decisions made in relation to the council budget, but they are to the benefit of the community. As councillors we did debate the right thing to do, we of course appreciate it is a really difficult time for local residents, we managed to keep our precept increase very low in 2020 and 2021, if we had not increased the precept this year, we could not continue to fund much needed services, which are needed more than ever right now.

I know lots of you are asking what has happened to the £22.3 million allocated through the Groundbreaking Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Deal. We are an active partner in the Town Deal, led by Milton Keynes Council, but they are medium term projects which have not yet had a visible impact on the town, but the money is the catalyst to unlock those improvements in the future. We look forward to these schemes being developed further this year. Our Council is also supporting the creation of a Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan and the first round of public consultation took place in March 2022, this is a real opportunity for us to influence the future development of our area so please do continue to raise any issues on the CommonPlace app at bfsnpfeedback.commonplace.is

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford has many people here that do amazing and inspirational things but receive little credit, and we as a Council want to recognise these brilliant people. I am pleased to let you know we will having our first PRIDE of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Awards this year. We will be looking for you to nominate local residents for the work they have done with the local community. Visit our website to nominate now.

It has been a real delight to meet many of you at our regular events in Bletchley, and I know that people want to see a more vibrant town centre, so we will be having 11 town centre events this year, designed to bring more footfall into Bletchley. We are introducing regular vegan markets, as well as farmers and craft markets plus events at Easter, Summer and Christmas - we are investing in bringing more people into Bletchley town centre, more often.

Whilst you are welcome to meet any council meeting, we particularly would like to invite to our Annual Meeting of Electors on 12 May 2022 and to hold the meeting at Fenny Stratford Community Centre, George Street, Fenny Stratford at 7.30pm.



E Kelly-Wilson

Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson
Chair of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council
April 2022

Overview of Council Work 2021-2022

Council Governance

In May 2021 Town Council elections took place. These had been postponed for a year because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Seven councillors were elected for the first time and during the council year two further co-options have taken place to fill casual vacancies.

The wards in our area with contested elections were:

- Central Bletchley Ward
- Manor North
- Queensway and Denbigh North

The following councillors have been elected for the new four year term:

- Samantha Browne - Eaton North Ward
- Ed Hume - Eaton North Ward
- Daniel Ribton - Eaton North Ward
- Richard Graham - Central Bletchley Ward
- Gavin Bedford - Eaton South Ward
- Michael McDonald - Eaton South Ward
- Mariee Wymer - Eaton South Ward
- Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson - Newton Leys Ward
- Liz Campbell - Manor North Ward
- Amanda Carter-Philpott - Queensway & Denbigh North Ward
- Ron Haine - Queensway & Denbigh North Ward
- Mohammad Imran - Granby Ward
- Keith Ely - Manor South Ward
- Terry Stephens - Manor South Ward
- Vacancy - Manor South Ward
- E'Amonn O'Rourke - Fenny Stratford Ward
- Axel Hans Segebrecht - Fenny Stratford Ward
- Sean Porter - Fenny Stratford Ward

At the same time the regulations which allowed the Town Council to hold remote meetings ended and the Council returned to face-to-face meetings. These have been held in the Sports Hall at Newton Leys Pavilion because this large space enabled social distancing to continue. At the annual meeting a new Chair of the Council was elected. Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson took the place of former Cllr Angela Kennedy who was thanked as she stepped down from her long and valuable service as Chair and her contribution to the community. A full list of councillors who have served during 2021-2022 is included at the end of this report together with their attendance records.

Agendas and minutes of meetings together with financial and other reports from the year are available on the Town Council website www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk. The Council's unaudited accounts are also included in this report. This year Councillors have made decisions in the context of the Council's newly adopted strategic priorities and values. The Council has undertaken an annual survey to check that councillors are fully representing the views of their community and that we are informing the electorate about what we are doing. We also stepped up our social engagement activities for the same reason.

The Town Council commissioned a Best Practice review of all its services and activities and has been working through implementation of the independent recommendations arising from this review. A medium-term financial plan has also been adopted which is available on the website. The Town Council has continued to fulfil its statutory duties throughout the year and to provide a range of different services. This report can only give a flavour of these but all readers are welcome to contact the Town Council for more detailed information on any topic by email info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk, phone 01908 649469 or by calling in to our offices at Sycamore House, Drayton Road, Bletchley.



Residents and councillors at Town Council meeting

Strategic Priorities and Policies

Cleaner & greener

- We want our neighbourhoods and towns to be pleasant and attractive places to live and work
- We will contract with people who support our vision
- We will seek to be carbon neutral before 2030

Proud of our past and our future

- We will seek to protect the history of our neighbourhoods and towns
- We will work with the community to plan for the development and regeneration of our neighbourhoods and towns
- We will do our best to leverage both residential and transport infrastructure investments coming into our community for the benefit of residents

Robust with resources

- Our goal is to allocate money to things that improve our residents lives
- We will build a long-term financial plan
- We will look to deliver services in the most efficient way, through partners or joint working with other bodies
- We will invest in digital service provision to make us more efficient
- We will use local service providers wherever we can

Closer to our community

- We will consult on major decisions affecting our community and our decision making will reflect what is important to our community
- We will support the development of local community groups/social enterprises and initiatives which promote community resilience
- We will listen before we act, and we will explain our decisions

Supporting wellbeing and safety

- We will work with partners and other statutory services to increase community safety
- We invest in services which allow our residents to feel healthy and safe on both an emotional and physical level
- We encourage our community to treat each other with kindness and respect

We will make things happen

- We will be open to working in different ways and adopting new services, even if they are currently provided by another authority
- We will work in active partnership with other bodies but as the democratically elected body closest to voters we want to be the lead for our community
- We are here to make a difference for now and for the future

Planning and Development



Update from Gavin Bedford,
Chair of the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group

I am pleased to report that the last twelve months have seen the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan kick into gear. A Neighbourhood Plan is a document that gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of their local area.

The main focus of the steering group's work this year has been consulting the public and finding out what is important for those who live and work in the area. Highlights have included local pop-ups and the launch of our first major online survey. The public consultation stage is one of the most important in the development of the plan and will direct our work going forward.

Thank you very much to every resident who has shared their views with our team at a local event or via the survey. We will have more consultations coming soon, but if you want to have your say right now, please visit our interactive online map and select the local areas you want us to know are important to you: www.bfsnpfeedback.commonplace.is/proposals/proposal-1/step1

The next twelve months will be equally important, as we begin speaking with planning consultants who will help our group formulate the Neighbourhood Plan.

This is an exciting stage in the development of the plan, and we are looking for new members to join our steering group. This is composed of local people and businesses set up to steer the preparation of the plan and to seek the views of local people.

For more information on joining the group or the Neighbourhood Plan in general, please visit www.bfsnp.org.uk, email info@bfsnp.org.uk, or call 01908 649 469.

The Neighbourhood Plan gives our community the once in a generation opportunity to have our say in how our local area should look and feel. I hope you can help in this by either taking part in future public consultations or joining the steering group.



Community Grant Recipients

April 2021 - March 2022

Fenny Festival Community Group - Fenny Poppers Festival	£5,000
Lakes Estate Residents Association - Picnic in Park event	£1,000
Methodist Church - Community Garden project	£1,040
MK Bangladeshi Association - first award ceremony of the Association	£3,000
MKPF - Pride Festival	£1,000
Bletchley Town Bowls Club - Bowls Festival to celebrate Jubilee	£500
MK YMCA - To fund 10 welcome packs for new residents	£1,000
Bletchley Girl Guides - To host a Jubilee Fun Day	£750
Bletchley Lions Club - To host Jubilee Afternoon Tea	£1,000

At time of writing, the Town Council has received a further 8 community grant requests from local organisations and groups, which have applied for grants to host events later on in 2022.

A quote from Locals of the Lakes Residents Association on receiving a community grant:

'The Picnic in the Park was a great success which was hosted to over 600 residents from the estate and wider without the funding and support from the town council this would not of been possible to hold we thank you for your support.'



A quote from Fenny Festival Community Group on receiving a community grant:

'A short note of thanks to Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council for the additional support given that aided the operation of the Poppers Festival in 2021. The logistical and financial hurdles were considerable to present a festival with sufficient attractions in what was considered a 'safe' environment. The on the ground assistance of council employees on the day was especially helpful.



The hostile environment meant that many stall operators had simply stopped trading so income levels were diminished and other organisations had reduced their staff so had to scale back what they could provide. In the face of these challenges a well attended festival took place that remained free to enter and enjoy. Looking forward we are pleased to advise that we have had a number of new enquiries for the forthcoming year and plans have commenced for Sunday 14th August 2022.'

Community Grant Recipients

A quote from Queensway Methodist Church:

'Thanks to a grant from Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Town Council, we are progressing with our community garden project. We have had a very good response to our achievements so far.

We are ready to start using the raised vegetable beds. They are assembled and filled with soil. When Knowles Primary School children visit again, they will see the fruits of their labours from the bulb planting they did with us in January and be able to plant some fruit and vegetables. We have already planted two fruit trees (apple and pear) in church grounds.

The paved play area to the right of the Church Hall has been laid, but with some finishing touches still to be done. However, it has already been put to good use. Queensway Toddlers now have a more accessible outside play area where parents/carers can sit and watch the children play. The Community Café has started using it too.

We have been blessed with donations of outdoor plastic chairs and bistro tables and chairs which makes for a comfortable chat over coffee and cake.

We are slightly behind schedule due to Covid, but plan to finish the patio area, paths around the raised beds and install water butts before the end of April.'



A year in the life of the Town Council

April 2021

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting was held virtually via Zoom on Tuesday 20th April and the recording of this meeting is saved on the Town Council's YouTube channel.

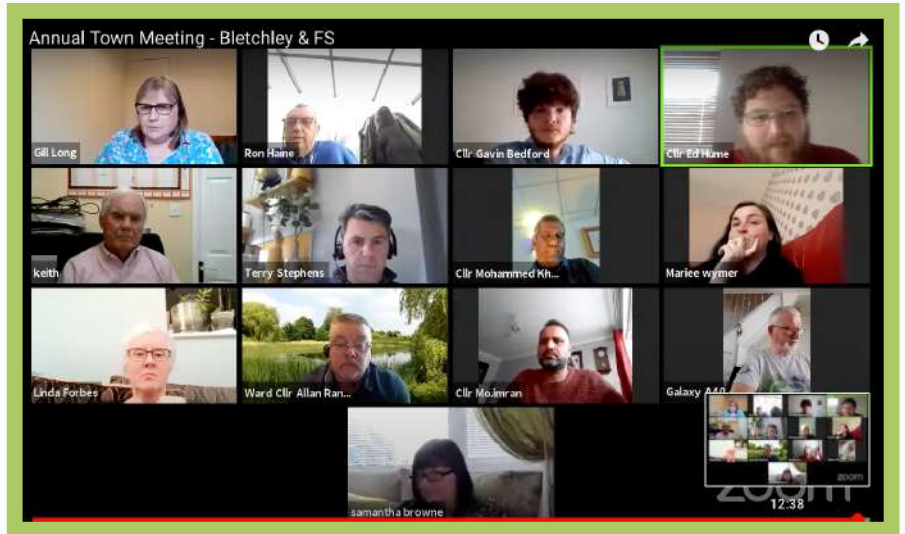


Annual Town Meeting
Tuesday 20th April 6.30pm
Via Zoom Video Conference
and livestreamed on our YouTube Channel

Virtually attend this year's Annual Town Meeting and hear about the work of the Town Council over the last year.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions those who wish to attend this meeting will need to register in advance. Please see the Town Council's website www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk or our social media channels for the invitation to join or email info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk. Alternatively please call 01908 649 469.

Please email any questions or proposals for discussion at the meeting by email to info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk by 12noon on Thursday 15 April 2021. Alternatively, please provide them in writing to the offices of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council at Bletchley Library, Westfield Road, MK2 2RA.



At the Annual Town Meeting, we thanked our previous Chair, Angela Kennedy, and Angela handed over the Chairmanship to Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson. We would like to thank Angela for her contribution to the Town Council.

Free Swimming Programme Begins

The Town Council reintroduced free swimming at Bletchley Leisure Centre for eligible residents from 20th April 2021.

This has been a very popular project. At time of writing, 4,615 residents have made use of the scheme in the last year.



FREE SWIMMING AVAILABLE

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council is funding free swimming for residents that meet certain criteria. Find out more in the application form and on our website: www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk

You can also collect an application form from our office:
Bletchley Library, Westfield Road, Bletchley, MK2 2RA
01908 649 469



Local Elections

A new 4 year term started in May 2021, with elections held on 6th May 2021. Further information about these elections can be found on page 3.



Newton Leys Allotments



After much anticipation, Newton Leys Allotments finally opened on 10th May 2021. There was a full waiting list of potential allotment tenants. We have been delighted to see the allotments develop and grow!

The first photo shows the first plot holder at Newton Leys Allotments to get a spade in the ground! The second photo is from March 2022, with allotment sites and plants in the spring sunshine.

If you are interested in joining the waiting list for an allotment site, please complete the allotment request form on our Allotments webpage: www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/Allotments_8221.aspx



New Support Services Manager

The Town Council was delighted to welcome John Fairclough to the Officer team. John joined the Town Council team as our new Support Services Manager.

June 2021

MKPA Spring Play Sessions 2021



Funded by the Town Council, MKPA Spring Play Sessions took place between 1st June–4th June 2021. MKPA Play sessions took place across our area; located on the Lakes Estate, Leon Rec and Newton Leys.

The Town Council organised and took part in a Community Litter Pick on 11th June 2021. Councillors and Town Council officers as well as volunteers from Carrie's Clean Up Crew all took part and we managed to collect over 10 bags of litter. This included cans, plastic bottles, old newspaper, coat hangers and even an old broken snooker cue!

Littering causes so much harm to our local environment and wildlife so we must all do what we can to look after our local area.

Below are photos from our Community Litter Pick.

Community Litter Pick



Visit to Queensway by the Mayor of Milton Keynes

The Town Council was delighted to welcome the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Cllr Mohammed Khan, on 23rd June 2021. This visit was particularly special as Cllr Mohammed Khan was brought up on the Lakes Estate and we are very proud to have a local resident serve as Mayor of Milton Keynes. Along with our Chair Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson and our Town Clerk, the Mayor visited and spoke to shop owners and members of the public.

June 2021

Fenny Stratford Community Centre Survey



The Fenny Stratford Community Centre Online Survey went live on 30th June 2021, with paper copies available to collect at the Town Council's offices. The Town Council team had recently been working on improvements to the Community Centre with the aim to re-open the Centre to the public in late summer or early autumn 2021. The Town Council wanted to hear from local residents and find out their thoughts about the future use of the building and to understand what facilities are needed in the area.

94 people completed the survey, with 55% of respondents saying that the dedicated snooker table space should not be kept (this space is now used for a Preschool) and all respondents gave a wide range of suggestions for use of the spaces which included: community events, fitness/dance classes and allowing the spaces to be hired out for private hire events. Bookings for hire of Fenny Stratford Community Centre went live in September 2021, following a celebratory opening Coffee Morning (read more on page 16). The Community Centre is available for hire for a wide range of community uses: www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk/Fenny_Stratford_Community_Centre_9877.aspx

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan



Supported by Town Council Officers, the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group began advertising for members to join.

July 2021

Community Canalside Walk

A community canalside walk took place on 8th July 2021. The canalside visit was organised by John Best, Chair of the Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust, and the Town Council, with Cllr Richard Graham and Cllr Terry Stephens attending. We were delighted to be joined by the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Cllr Mohammed Khan, Ward Cllr Emily Darlington, Ophelia Cole from community group Action Speaks and Pat Durham and Diane Witts from the IWA Milton Keynes Branch.

Good discussions took place about the canalside within our area. We also all got to enjoy and experience the surrounding nature and wildlife - seeing ducks, swans and a heron! The Town Council has entered into partnership with Bedford & Milton Keynes Waterway Trust and we will continue to work together to promote and improve the canalside in our area.



Public Toilets Consultation

Consultation on Public Toilets in Bletchley Town Centre went live in July 2021. The survey could be completed online and paper copies were available to collect from the Town Council's buildings. This survey received nearly 1000 responses. The majority of responses said how valued the toilets, with 82.7% of respondents believing that the current service offered good value for money and that based on the current costs, 93% of those surveyed believe the Town Council should continue to provide public toilets in the centre of Bletchley.

Following the consultation on the Public Toilets, Albert Street Public Toilets are now also open on Sundays between 9.30am-4.30pm. The Public Toilets continue to be open 7.30am-6pm Monday-Saturday.



MKPA Free Summer Play Sessions

MKPA Free Summer Play Sessions started on 26th July 2021. The sessions in our area were funded by the Town Council and enjoyed by lots of our youngest residents.

In July 2021, the Town Council adopted two new dog bins in Leon Recreation Grounds. These were installed by Milton Keynes Council without the Town Council's knowledge as part of a programme of improvements to Leon Recreation Grounds.

New Neighbourhood Plan Website

By the end of July 2021, the new Neighbourhood Plan website was launched.

This has been regularly updated with the Steering Group's progress, meeting dates and information as to how local residents can share their views and inform the Neighbourhood Plan going forward.



Picnic in the Park



On 29th July, local residents enjoyed a Picnic in the Park hosted by the the Locals of the Lakes Residents Association. The event was also part funded by the Town Council. In the photo above are some of the many volunteers and people who helped organise and run the event. A massive congratulations and thank you to the Locals of the Lakes Residents Association and to everyone for such a great family day out.

August 2021

Fenny Poppers Festival

The annual Fenny Poppers Festival took place on 15th August 2021. The Town Council awarded a Community Grant to Fenny Poppers and Drew Webb also attended to capture highlights from the day.

Congratulations to all involved and thank you to everyone that worked so hard to make the event happen.



MK Summer of Play at Newton Leys

The Town Council worked with YNMK to deliver free play activities for 7-15 year olds at Newton Leys.

Noticeboards Poll on Social Media

The Town Council ran a poll about whether residents would like to have more noticeboards in our area, with the majority of respondents saying that they would like to see more noticeboards in our area. The use of noticeboards was also included in the Annual Residents Survey - more information about the Annual Residents Survey can be found on page 21.



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan First Pop Up Event

The first Neighbourhood Plan Pop Up event took place in Queensway in August 2021. This was an opportunity for residents to find out more about the Neighbourhood Plan and how they could get involved with the process. There is a further update about the Neighbourhood Plan from the Steering Group Chair, Gavin Bedford, on page 5.

September 2021

Water Eaton Community Larder celebrates 1 year anniversary!

On 14th September 2021, Water Eaton Community Larder celebrated its first year since opening its doors. At that time the Community Larder had nearly 80 members. The Town Council continues to support the Community Larder both with funds and support in kind.



New Town Council Website Tender Goes Live

The Town Council started the tender process for a new website in September 2021. The new website will be more user friendly, accessible and easier to navigate on mobile devices. The new website will go live in Summer 2022.

Fenny Stratford Community Coffee Morning



Thank you to everyone that attended our celebratory Coffee Morning at the newly refurbished Fenny Stratford Community Centre on Saturday 18th September. The Mayor of Milton Keynes, the Town Council's Chair and several Town Councillors and local residents all attended and enjoyed exploring and learning about the Community Centre.

Renovations began at the building in March 2020, with the Main Hall and the Bowden Room now available for hire, for both one-off and regular bookings. The Town Council was delighted to host the Coffee Morning and continue to enjoy welcoming residents and users to Fenny Stratford Community Centre.

New Town Council Job Roles

The Town Council advertised for two new job roles: Bookings and Facilities Officer and Environment and Landscape Officer.

Rachel Burgess joined the Town Council team as our new Bookings and Facilities Officer.

Lee Dudley joined the Town Council team as our new Environment and Landscape Officer.



Community Governance Review

The Community Governance Review (CGR) Consultation for Bletchley and Fenny Stratford, by Milton Keynes Council, began in late October and ended in January 2022.

From the outcome of this review, the size of the Town Council will increase from 18 councillors to 21 councillors. There will be two additional councillors for Newton Leys and an additional councillor for the new Manor North and Eaton Leys ward to be elected in May 2022.

Community Governance Review (CGR) Consultation by Milton Keynes Council



Complete the short online survey now

**Bulky Waste Amnesty
Wednesday 27th October
Lakes Estate Renewal Forum (LERF)
in partnership with
Bletchley and Fenny Stratford
Town Council**



Bulky Waste Amnesty

The Town Council in partnership with the Lakes Estate Renewal Forum (LERF) arranged and funded a one off free collection of bulky waste items on Wednesday 27th October.

There were supervised drop-off locations across the estate and each location had a time slot for when waste items were accepted. Thank you to everyone involved with this Bulky Waste Amnesty.

November 2021

Remembrance Sunday - Wreath Laying Ceremony



Our wreath laying ceremony took place on Remembrance Sunday, 14th November 2021. Starting at 9am, there was a Silent Community Walk from Elizabeth Square in Queensway. On arrival at the Queensway War Memorial, the wreath laying ceremony began. This included our local MP and the Chair and Vice-Chair of our Town Council, alongside representatives from different local organisations and community groups, each laying a wreath.

November 2021

Sycamore House and Sycamore Hall

The Town Council was delighted to become the owner of both Sycamore House and Sycamore Hall in Drayton Road, Water Eaton in Bletchley in November 2021. Councillors and Town Council Officers enjoyed a celebratory visit to pick up the keys with the Town Council's Chair, Cllr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson, and the Mayor of Milton Keynes, Cllr Mohammed Khan. More information about the new council office and plans for the future can be found on page 21.



White Ribbon Day and Subsequent 16 Days of Activism

There were a wide range of events taking place to mark the 16 Days of Activism, run by a range of local organisations and charities, both online and in person. Town Council buildings were also used to host events.

The 16 Days of Activism began with a Community Gathering held at the Bandstand in Queensway, led by Cllr Amanda Carter-Philpott.



Community Gathering for White Ribbon Day



Community Safety Survey

The Town Council launched its own Community Safety Survey in November 2021, which ran until the end of January 2022. This survey received 87 responses in total. All responses will be used to help inform Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council's ongoing work focusing on community safety.





New Support Services Officer

Louise Salmon took on a new role in the Town Council Officer team, becoming our Support Services Officer.

Casual Vacancy - Eaton North ward

In early December, there was a casual vacancy for a councillor in the Eaton North ward. Cllr Andrew Palmer was co-opted to the Eaton North Ward casual vacancy in February 2022.

Mini Festive Family Fun Day

Unfortunately due to severe weather warnings about Storm Arwen, the original Festive Family Fun Day had to be cancelled in November 2021.

The Town Council worked hard to bring a smaller but still fantastic community event to Queensway.

Our Mini Festive Family Fun Day took place on 11th December, with lots of festive fun on offer with entertainment and games for children, delicious food and drink for all and a special visit from Santa himself. A highlights video of the event can be found on our social media channels.



January 2022

Town Council gains White Ribbon Accreditation



Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council has taken a stand to end all male violence against women by becoming White Ribbon Accredited. White Ribbon is a global campaign that encourages people, and especially men and boys, to individually and collectively take action and change the behaviour and culture that leads to abuse and violence. To wear a white ribbon is to promise to never to commit, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women. Commitments made by the Town Council in our White Ribbon action plan include appointing volunteer ambassadors to carry the message out to more men and raising awareness within our local community.

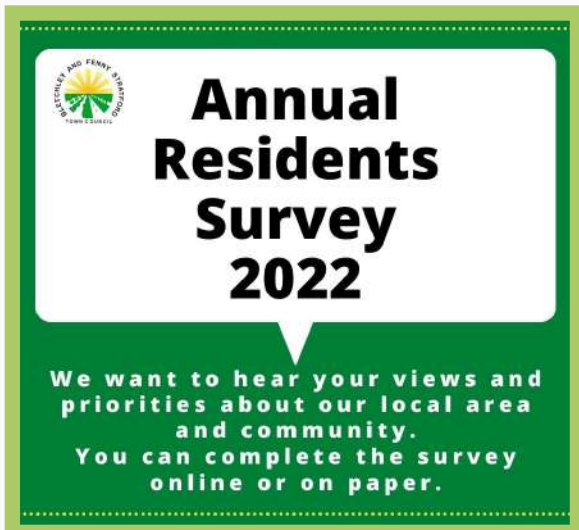
Cllr Amanda Carter Philpott, who led this activity on behalf of the Town Council, said 'We are very proud to achieve White Ribbon Accreditation in such a short period of time and this is just the beginning. We invite residents to join us on this journey to promote ending violence towards women and girls'.

2021 marked the first year of the Town Council promoting the 16 days of activism that take place globally to promote the ending of violence against women and girls. The Town Council hosted and supported a series of online and in person inspiring events, notably 'The Suitcase' by CEO of MK Act, Sue Burke.

Bletchley Vegan Market - working with the Vegan Market Co.



The Town Council, working with the Vegan Market Co, brought a great Vegan Market to Bletchley on Saturday 8th January 2022. There were a wide range of stalls on offer, including vegan street food, ethical jewellers and environmental charities. There was also entertainment playing on the bandstand.



Annual Residents Survey

All residents in our area received an Annual Survey Pack in the post from the Town Council in January 2022.

Residents could complete the survey either online or by completing the paper copy and returning it to the Town Council's office or by using the prepaid return envelope. The survey was open for responses for one month until 17th February 2022. We received just under 1000 responses in total. Residents' responses will inform the work of the Town Council, and our work with partner organisations, going forward.

The survey results report will be published in April/May 2022 and will be available to view on our website.

February 2022



Town Council moves to new office Sycamore House

On 23rd February, the Town Council closed its office at Bletchley Library and moved to our new address and office at Sycamore House, Drayton Road, Water Eaton, MK2 3RR. The new office opened to the public on 1st March 2022.

The Town Council was unable to continue at Bletchley Library due to the lack of meeting room facilities. The well loved Sycamore Hall has been transferred to the Town Council and refurbishment and redevelopment of both buildings is now taking place.

New Town Council Website Tender Completed

The website tender process was completed in February 2022. The new website will be created by Zodiac Media and will go live in Summer 2022.

March 2022

First Neighbourhood Plan Survey Goes Live

The first Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Neighbourhood Plan began in March 2022. Residents could complete the survey online or via a paper copy. The results of the survey will shape the neighbourhood plan, a crucial document that gives people a voice in how our local area develops.



PRIDE Community Awards - Nominations Open



The Town Council launched a new community awards scheme and nominations opened in March 2022. There are awards in the following categories:

- Culture Award – for those people who have made a contribution to artistic or cultural projects
- Sport Award – for those people who have made a significant contribution to sport
- Customer Service Award – for those people with businesses in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford who offer the best customer service
- Volunteer or Charity Award – for those people who work incredibly hard for the community with little recognition – nominations need not be for volunteering only
- Young Volunteer or Charity (under 21) – this is for young people who deserve recognition for volunteering regularly or have raised money for charity
- Lifetime Achievement Award – for those people who have gone that extra mile during their life
- Best Allotment Plot – An overall winner, and a winner per site

The judging panel will comprise of Town Councillors and the awards will be presented in late July 2022. The deadline for nominations is Friday 17th June 2022. The nomination form can be completed online or by a paper copy which can be collected from the Town Council's office.

March 2022

Bletchley Food and Craft Market



The Bletchley Food and Craft Market, organised by the Town Council, took place on 26th March 2022 in Stanier Square, with 29 independent stalls attending.

This market is part of a larger project to promote and support our town centre and will be one of many events planned in 2022. This event also received funding from Milton Keynes Council aimed at supporting local high streets and the reopening of town centres following Covid restrictions.

The Town Council is committed to bringing positive change to the town centre and local support is imperative for these events to thrive.

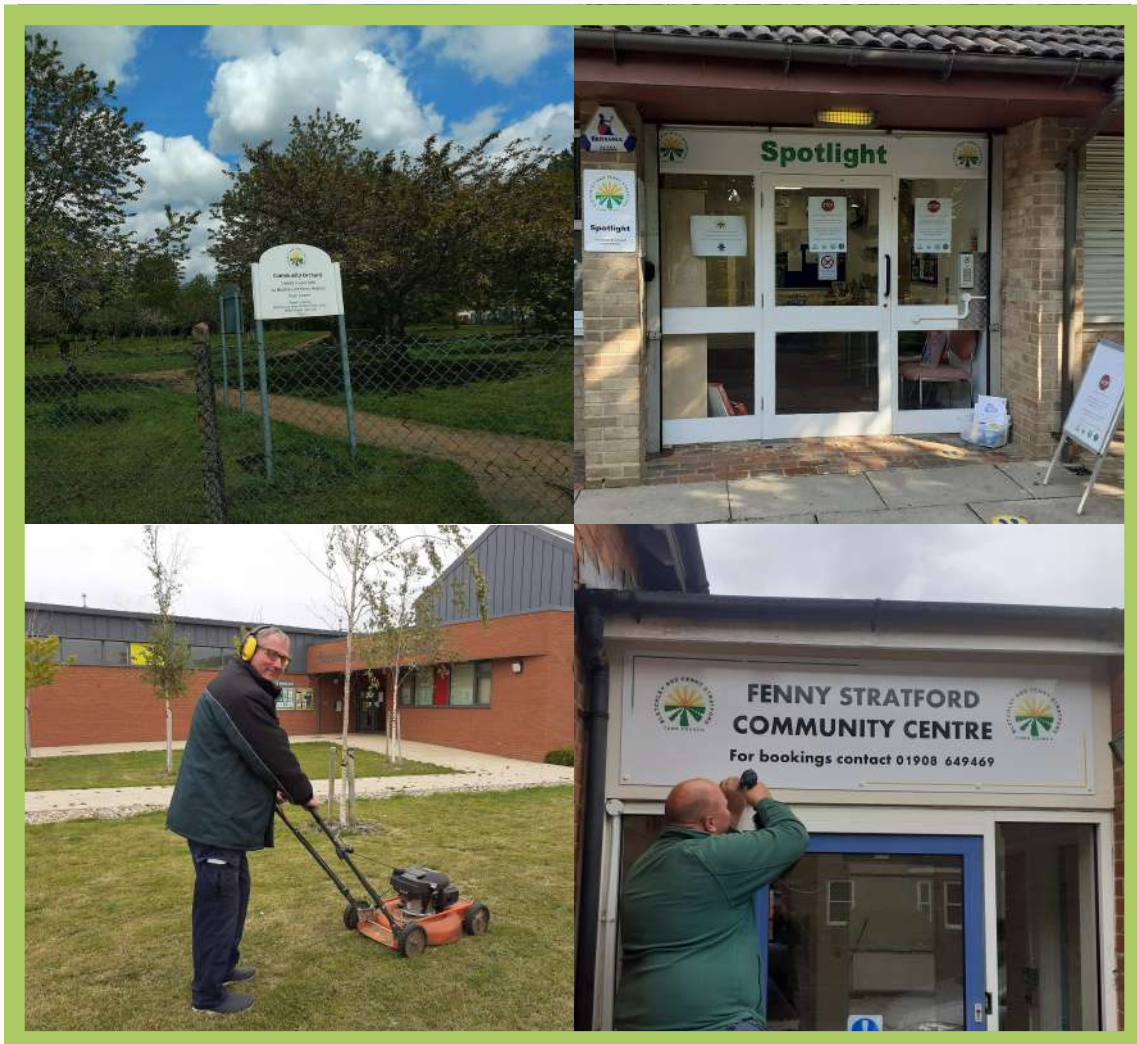


Alongside these highlights and events in the past year, the Town Council continues to maintain our core services:

- Allotments
- Albert Street Toilets
- Christmas Lights
- Community Events
- Community Grants
- Community Orchard
- Community Well-being (Free counselling and free swimming)
- Dog Waste Bins
- Fenny Cemetery Chapel
- Fenny Stratford Community Centre
- Market Stalls
- Newton Leys Pavilion
- Play Schemes
- Queensway War Memorial
- Spotlight Community Centre
- Street Furniture
- Sycamore House and Sycamore Hall
- Youth Clubs

as well as acting as an advocate for the community

Find out more on our website: www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk or call 01908 649 469.



Council Finances 2021-2022

Draft annual accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022 are included in this report to provide a comparison with last year's accounts. These accounts will be subject to internal audit during April 2022 and subsequently to external audit. Full details of the audit process and all our audit reports are available on our website www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk and any questions about the accounts should be addressed to the Finance Manager at finance@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk.

To summarise, like many other organisations both public and private, the Town Council was affected by the economic repercussions of the Covid-19 pandemic. The rental income at Newton Leys Pavilion was reduced until the social distancing and social gathering restrictions were completely removed in September 2021; Fenny Stratford Community Centre opened to the public in September 2021 and income exceeded the anticipated budget. The Town Council finally recruited the additional posts planned in the budget and Sycamore House was purchased as the permanent office base; whilst the cost of the new premises is included in the expenditure, the Town Council was able to use an earmarked reserve specifically set up to meet the anticipated cost.

The overall outcome of the year's finances was an overspend of £22,643 which was met by the general reserve, The original budget, however, was a deficit budget of £96,452, therefore the Council's financial position improved over the course of the 12 month period.

Draft Unaudited Accounts for 2021-2022

Income and Expenditure account for the Year Ended 31/03/22

2020/21	Operating Income	2021/22
10,000	Community Grants	135,000
10,241	Spotlight	3,894
798,409	Precept / Grant	800,629
0	Christmas Lights	0
40	Christmas Event	20,000
1,000	Albert Street Toilets	1,000
75,411	Allotments & Community Orchard	9,479
22,778	Fenny Stratford Community Centre	14,714
3,496	Community Instructure Fund	0
4,162	74/76 Queensway / Library	10,035
2,383	Council Support Services	863
0	Sycamore Hall	460
41,080	Newton Leys Pavilion	59,206
1,526	Market	2,323
970,526	Total Income	1,057,603

2020/21**2021/22****Running Costs**

22,846	Community Grants	28,122
13,411	Democratic Services	10,415
1,559	Planters	465
12,708	Youth Work	10,428
17,613	Dog Bins	10,143
19,696	Senior Youth Club	17,795
7,707	Spotlight	9,441
1,528	Bandstand	527
8,932	Community Engagement	22,273
16,532	Christmas Lights	16,168
535	Christmas Event	14,688
31,558	Albert Street Toilets	25,076
27,346	Allotments and Community Orchard	11,364
22	War Memorial	0
1,869	The Chapel	793
2,774	Manor Road Lockup	0
56,947	Fenny Stratford Community Centre	110,532
4,896	Professional Fees	423,664
(8,225)	Community Infrastructure Fund	4,417
31,240	Community Projects/Services	26,255
0	Well-Being	33,226
290,875	Staff Costs	341,109
0	Sycamore House	28,325
0	Sycamore Hall	2,355
70,547	74/76 Queensway / Library	83,722
44,894	Council Support Services	90,980
27,918	Town Council Vehicle	5,149
166	Neighbourhood Plan	7,661
46,099	Newton Leys Pavilion	57,630
2,935	Market	3,366

754,926**Total Expenditure****1,396,089**

Councillor Attendance

(April 2021- March 2022)

Councillor	Number of meetings Attended (full council and committee meetings)	Attendance rate (based on attendance at all meetings the councillor was due to attend during the year)
Gavin Bedford	17	77%
Samantha Browne	19	95%
Liz Campbell	6	43%
Amanda Carter Philpott	18	90%
Keith Ely	22	69%
Richard Graham	15	56%
Ron Haine	26	100%
Ed Hume	15	65%
Mohammad Imran	7	41%
Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson	31	94%
Ayesha Khanom	5	36%
Michael McDonald	19	61%
E'Amonn O'Rourke	24	89%
Andrew Palmer (from February 2022)	1	33%
Sean Porter	8	42%
Axel Segebrecht	9	64%
Terry Stephens	24	92%
Mariee Wymer	23	88%

Bletchley & Fenny Town Councillors



Newton Leys

Chairman

ClIr Ethaniel Kelly-Wilson

ethaniel.kellywilson@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Central Bletchley

Vice Chair

ClIr Richard Graham

richard.graham@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Queensway & Denbigh North

ClIr Ron Haine

ron.haine@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Amanda Carter-Philpott

amanda.carterphilpott@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Manor South

ClIr Keith Ely

keith.ely@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Ayesha Khanom

ayesha.khanom@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Terry Stephens

terry.stephens@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Granby

ClIr Mohammad Imran

mohammad.imran@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Manor North

ClIr Liz Campbell

liz.campbell@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Eaton North

ClIr Samantha Browne

samantha.browne@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Andrew Palmer

andrew.palmer@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Ed Hume

ed.hume@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Fenny Stratford

ClIr E'Amonn O'Rourke

eamonn.orourke@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Sean Porter

sean.porter@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Axel Segebrecht

axel.segebrecht@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



Eaton South

ClIr Mariee Wymer

mariee.wymer@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Michael McDonald

michael.mcdonald@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk



ClIr Gavin Bedford

gavin.bedford@

cllr.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk





Bletchley and Fenny Stratford Town Council
Sycamore House
Drayton Road, Bletchley
MK2 3RR

Telephone: 01908 649 469

Email: info@bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.bletchleyfennystratford-tc.gov.uk