

# WOBURN SANDS TOWN COUNCIL

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RECEIVED  
16 APR 2012

10<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Dear Mr Stewart

## Neighbourhood Plan Woburn Sands

Woburn Sands Town Council wishes to apply to Milton Keynes Town Council for permission to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan for the parish of Woburn Sands.

Woburn Sands is an attractive town on the edge of the city and there is significant pressure from developers who wish to build in both Woburn Sands and the wider area despite the fact that there is a designated expansion area for the city immediately to the north of the parish. We therefore think that it is extremely important for the town to have a Neighbourhood Plan.

Enclosed with this letter is a plan of the area; the boundary of the parish is marked in red. However the Woburn Sands retail and community facilities serve a much wider area – for example it is known that approximately 25 – 30% of the users of the Woburn Sands Library do not live in the parish; many of them live in the parishes of Aspley Guise and Aspley Heath which, as you will be aware, are in Central Bedfordshire.

The Town Council has therefore consulted both the residents of the town and the adjoining parish; an Issues Meeting was held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 2012 which was attended by representatives of all the key organisations in the town and from the Parish Councils of Aspley Guise, Aspley Heath, and Wavendon. There was strong support for the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan and a consensus that the plan should cover the parish of Woburn Sands and be prepared by the Town Council; however, it was also agreed that the Town Council should consult closely with the adjacent parish councils; there is already a mechanism to facilitate this consultation process, the Parishes Liaison Group. In arriving at this decision it was noted that it would be administratively difficult to prepare a Plan which could adequately reflect the strategic goals of two planning authorities although it was noted that Milton Keynes Council, in its draft Core Strategy, set out as one of its Objectives “to work jointly with neighbouring authorities ... on the planning of any development located on the edge of Milton Keynes”.

We propose to publish a draft Plan for discussion at the Town Meeting on 10 May; copies will also be sent to the adjacent parish councils and placed in the Library and on the website. A brief summary of the proposed policies to be adopted will be sent to every household in the parish. We hope to be in a position to finalise the Plan by the end of the summer.

We trust that Milton Keynes Council will authorise us to proceed as outlined in this letter.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Stapleton  
Town Clerk