

The Lib Dem *Focus* Team Working & keeping in touch all year round

Voter ID and Elections

Despite much opposition, it has now been confirmed by the government that photo ID will be required for voting in elections from now on. The first election these changes will impact will be the May 2023 Local Elections. Please email us if you'd like to know the full list of acceptable identification documents to ensure you can vote. Postal votes remain the same, so if you're worried you don't have correct ID we suggest applying for a postal vote to ensure you're not disenfranchised! Email/text us and we can help with applying.

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Wheelie bins are coming

The new waste collection system has been confirmed and will be rolled out in the autumn of this year. Houses that can accommodate wheeled bins will receive two recycling bins and one bin for residual waste. There's lots of information about this on the council's website here:

www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling/new-waste-collection-service-2023

Annual delivery of recycling sacks has started



This should be completed by end of April. The number of sacks provided has been reduced slightly to take into account the move to the new waste collection system in September. If you haven't received your sacks by the end of April, let us know within 2 weeks and we can request a "missed annual sack delivery" for you.

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Kerrie, Uroy & Sam The Lib Dem *Focus* team

We aim to reply to mails, text or calls within 48 hours. Texting's usually fastest. If we don't, please get in touch again in case we've missed your message.

Thank you !

Stronger Economy, Fairer Society Opportunity for Everyone

Special Edition

400th Edition!

Focus



Focus #400 on Willen
and Willen Park

9 issues a year since 1979, not just at election time.
Written by Kerrie Bradburn

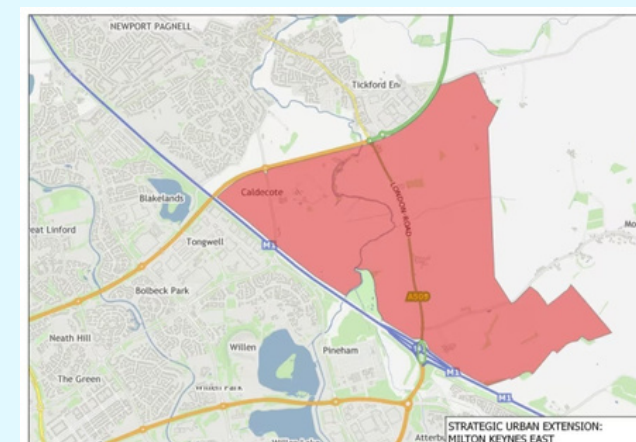
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Stop Press! MK East Update

Berkeley St James have told us that they have had to delay the start of their site clearance works for operational reasons. They are re-phasing their project schedule and won't now start removing the trees along the Willen side of the V11 Tongwell Street before the end of the bird nesting season in August. This won't affect the overall delivery of the infrastructure for MK East nor the agreed number and timescales of the housing. As ever we'll keep you up to date. Let us know if you want to sign up to Berkeley's updates and we'll get you added to their circulation list.



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Good news...

We're seeing if we can get a better surface and fewer steps on the new path from Lovat Fields into the Tree Cathedral.



We've asked for improvement works to the path from Lovat Fields to Willen Local Centre (subject to monies being approved)



Ward Budgets

Each year the Council gives every councillor £1,000 to spend on local organisations or activities in their ward. This year Uroy, Sam and I pooled ours so there was £3,000 to spend across the seven estates we represent. Here's what we spent in Willen & Willen Park:
The Willen monthly TTTT - £150
Help for a Ukrainian supplementary school - £250
Kinship carers - £300
The local Beavers, Cubs & Scouts - £450

Congratulations

To **Camphill MK** who have been rated 'Excellent' by Milton Keynes Council, recognising the highest level of care (Supported Living Services) for their residents.



And to local resident **Anna Ince** for becoming an MBE in the New Year's Honours List. Anna received the honour 'for services to the rail industry'.

Looking back...

1980s

1990s

Action in WILLEN

Liberal Democrat campaigner Sam CROOKS supported WILLEN school governors when their Chairman spoke to last month's Borough Council Traffic Committee about risks to children arriving at and departing from school. Sam gained the Committee's support to open urgent talks with the County. He is also hoping to win the support of two parish councils to help pay for a traffic-calming scheme outside the school. But the County's Road Safety officer John BOXALL has hit out at parents: "They stop on the pavement, dump the loved one and then drive off again—all without a sign or a look in the rear window. If parents really want to improve safety at schools, the way for them to do it is to leave their cars at home." What think? Phone Sam on 605763. Do other schools have any problems? Also in WILLEN, Chris PYM has been helping local residents with planning issues and dealing with requests for a bus to stop near centre and health centre (opening soon). Phone him on 6655



Sam was first elected in 1980 and has served on MK Council for more than 30 years.

Raising money for Willen Hospice.

Willen Hospice is in Pineham Ward, and on Sunday 26th September, the Mayor's Marathon is being run to raise money for the Hospice. Every bed costs £300 a week, and only one is financed by the NHS. That leaves 9 others for terminally ill patients, paid for by volunteers. Sam Crooks will be running in the Marathon and can be sponsored for as little as 1p per mile. Sponsorship forms are available from MK 653202 or MK 564375 (leave a message on the Answerphone) or from Sam Crooks, FREEPOST Stony Stratford, MK11 2BR (no stamp needed)

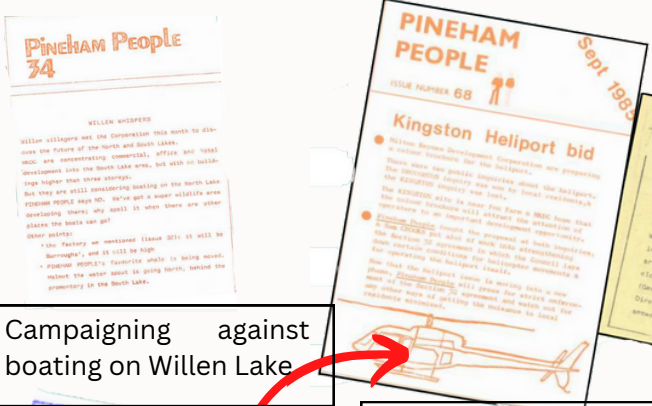
There were issues with Anglian Water back then too...



The late Chris Pym represented The Focus Team for nearly 20 years.

Three times residents had to fight against a helicopter services to Heathrow from Pineham. The Broughton Villagers won a public enquiry against all the odds.

Campaigning against boating on Willen Lake



Fighting for clearer verges in Harmans and Dormans Close, MK Village

2010s



In July 2019 Kerrie proposed that The Council trail wheelie bins and they're being rolled out this year.



2019 saw Kerrie elected and Sam became Mayor of MK



Kerrie sat on Countess Way to get the HGV ban imposed

Since the new estates have been built we've been campaigning for better road safety

Today



Kerrie, Uroy and Sam. Keeping in touch all year round and working for you.

The team from 2013 writing Focus 300...



The very first edition, then called 'Pineham People' back in 1979

2000s



We organised a petition against the Pagoda car park charges



Imagine if our campaign to save the V10 had failed...



After a resident outcry we got the Council's original plans for the re-configuration of the Japonica Lane / Brickhill St junction scrapped and then re-worked.



In 2002 we were right about the need for new schools

We supported the Pharmacy Action Group in their, eventually, successful fight for a pharmacy on Willen.

In 1991 we were working to improve parking outside Willen Primary. It was finally agreed that parents could use the surgery car park. Parking outside schools still present problems today...



Serving the local community for over 40 years

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