

Petitions and Public Questions – Full Council (19 July 2023)

Item 2(a) Petitions

- (a) Councillor Hussain to present a petition on behalf of residents of Wolverton who request a 20 MPH speed limit in Wolverton town (the residential area centred around the Victorian streets).
- (b) Councillor Muzammil to present a petition on behalf of residents of Oxley Park who request a 20 MPH speed limit on Harlow Crescent, Hepburn Crescent and Fonda Meadows, additional safety measures on pavements and a zebra crossing close to the children's park.

Item 2(b) Public Questions

(a) David Lee to Councillor Darlington (16/07/23 – 18:31)

"I understand that

- Renewal aims to improve employment levels and skills
- A major labour-intensive section of work has started under the SHDF
- There is a commitment in that contract to take on apprentices and local people
- There are a series of qualification on domestic retrofit supported by the [NOCN at levels 2 to 6](#) which appear very relevant to the SHDF work

Therefore, how many apprentices have been taken on so far on this project, and how many local people are expected to gain some of these domestic retrofit qualifications as part of the phase 1 SHDF work??"

(b) Mick Allsopp to Councillor Middleton (17/07/23 – 17:37)

"In Jan 2023 MKCC proposed a new lease with the Church at the Galley Hill SMP. They had taken your word in good faith and believed you. Now you've reneged on your word - they will NOT have a new lease. You were also having talks with GHRA up until June 2023 regarding the new Arts centre with potential use by the Galley Hill community - this seems to have disappeared as well - you have also let us down. I say this because I now understand the new plans are contrary to what was discussed with members of the GHRA committee up until June 2023 - you already had these new plans concluded in Dec 2022. Why have you led us up the garden path for so long?"

(c) Simon Palmer to Councillor Middleton (17/07/23 – 17:48)

"In February 2021, Milton Keynes Council announced that they would allocate funds, (at that time of £390,000) to renovate the Galley Hill Community Centre to return it to community use following years of neglect. Since then the council has in fact spent around £500,000 gutting and carrying out works to the walls of the former Arts Centre part of the building, leaving that part a huge empty shell without a proper

damp course and a weak leaky roof, that apparently would not be able to support solar panels, leaving that part of the building completely unsuitable for any community activities. At the same time no work has been carried out on the rest of the building. Will the council arrange an investigation into the costs of the poorly carried out, expensive, farcical renovation before any further taxpayer's money is wasted?"

(d) Parish Councillor Roy Adams to Councillor Middleton (17/07/23 – 18:15)

"Why is the council discussing a placemaking proposal for a significant development in the Stony Stratford Town Council area without notifying the Town Council and making proposals that are contrary to the Stony Stratford Neighbourhood plan which was accepted and agreed by Milton Keynes council in 2018?"

(e) Parish Councillor Paul Randall to Councillor Middleton (17/07/23 – 18:26)

"As a Town Councillor for Galley Hill, I have been in conversation with the couple who run the small supermarket, post office and a takeaway outlet on Galley Hill. The councils Placemaking proposal appears to be looking at building another supermarket and a drive thru takeaway just a few hundred yards away from the current premises. The proposal for bringing a "low cost " supermarket will definitely adversely impact on this family run business.

As you already know that the name itself indicates that this is a low - price business model which will be in a direct price war with the existing business. Thus it would negatively impact on sales turnover.

Why does the council appear to be looking to take away this couples livelihood and why did they only find out about these plans from a chance conversation with one of the estates residents?"

(f) Colin Wiginton to Councillor Middleton (17/07/23 – 18:32)

"Under the proposals there would be a new road coming into the corner of the Galley Hill RESIDENTIAL estate to access the proposed shop and takeaway.

We are extremely concerned at the level of traffic this new proposal will bring onto the estate. The concept sketch is not detailed enough for decisions to be made on all accesses to the sites.

At the moment access to the Walnuts Centre, the proposed school (previously MKPDC), and St Mary and St Giles school is from the housing estate itself.

Has the council taken into account the additional traffic problems which will arise for the residents of the local area?"

(g) David Tavener to Councillor Middleton (17/07/23 – 19:09)

“In good faith GHRA had been pressing Peter Marland and MKCC for several years to restore the derelict and vandalised former Arts Centre to Galley Hill residents for community use.

MKCC embarked on a £500,000 refurbishment which has resulted in a building with a leaking roof, damp ingress through walls as well as a huge space not partitioned or with any heating that would allow us to use as a functioning Community Centre.

Just prior to our June residents meeting we were asking MKCC for an update on the lease to be advised in confidence that negotiations to lease the property were cancelled and MKCC had alternate proposals. GHRA agreed to have the MKCC proposal presented by Rob Middleton and Bee Lewis on 15th June 2023 at the residents monthly meeting.

Residents were shocked by what was presented in the MKCC 16 page presentation. We consider the selling off of land to obtain developer funding to undertake overdue repairs to a neglected building is unsustainable and obviously unrepeatable. MKCC need to find a sustainable methods to fund essential maintenance that they have neglected for so long.

GHRA undertook to get residents feedback on the proposals and had to print their own short form of the presentation as MKCC brought only 20 copies of the presentation to the meeting and were unwilling to print more, they were however prepared to leave one copy in Stony Stratford Library.

GHRA have consulted ALL residents regarding the MKCC proposals and the outcome from this survey emphatically rejects MKCC proposals.

Survey Questions and results from over 200 respondents. 16/7/23

1) Are you happy for GHRA to represent you whilst negotiating this with MKCC? Yes 96%

2) Do you agree with change of occupancy for Arts Centre and Small Meeting Place to accommodate two charities for use as distribution centres? No 97%

3) Do you agree with change of use to the Professional Development Centre as a new school for teenage pupils with High Complex Needs? No 82%

4) Do you agree with redevelopment of the Watling Way Centre (currently occupied by Walnuts Care) and demolition of the swimming pool? No 86%

5) Do you agree with the new retail park consisting of a low-cost supermarket and drive thru being inserted onto green space between the school playing field and H1 Ridgeway? No 95%

In light of the Galley Hill residents and stakeholders rejection of the proposals will MKCC now withdraw them and enter into round table discussions with stakeholders on alternative options to present to residents?”

(h) Anu Chundur to Councillor Middleton (17/07/23 – 19:18)

“I note from the recent proposed placemaking document for Galley Hill, that neither the residents nor the Champions Ministry Church would be able to use any part of the building. Before this strategy was drawn up did the council realise the amount of good works that currently takes place such as:

- Weekly coffee mornings with a quiz and a book and puzzle swap;
- The MacIntyre charity & shop staff do gardening at the shop front & the street planters;
- Ad hoc day time meetings such as the recent one with the RHS In Your Neighbourhood judges;
- Music sessions for all arranged by the church, a church youth group, gardening activities with church & gardening club and Sunday barbecues;
- or that various activities were planned for the refurbished arts centre including board games for teenagers; fortnightly film sessions for children; Plot-to-plate gardening and other activities with groups such as Scouts , Guides and "Sit and Fit" who are very interested in using the refurbished premises, if residents had obtained these in a usable condition?”