

Walton Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Walton CC Council Tax Insert

My name is Stuart Copeland and I have been a resident of Shuttleworth Grove in Wavendon Gate for over 20 years. I live here with my wife and two teenage sons, who were both born in Milton Keynes General Hospital, and we enjoy Milton Keynes very much and have very deep roots here.

We have seen Walton parish grow sustainably and sensibly with house and industrial building and new community facilities. All of this development was driven by the Milton Keynes Master Plan that had 'infrastructure before expansion' built into it.

Things have moved on now so Milton Keynes Council is responsible for planning. In my opinion, MKC has made some errors along the way as they moved away from some of the principles about the Master Plan that created such great communities.

Luckily, the residents of Walton have a new opportunity to ensure that our voices are heard when planning decisions are taken. The Localism Act enables local communities to establish a 'Neighbourhood Plan' which will allow us to set out development plans and principles for our area to meet our community needs.

As a resident, I am convinced that this is a way to increase our say in the future of this area. I have, therefore, agreed to chair the Walton Neighbourhood Plan Working Group which includes a number of other residents drawn from all areas of Walton. We are supported by Walton Community Council and our Ward Councillors.

We are looking at the following subjects as a starting point:

- Research your views via a questionnaire to understand community need
- Consider the impact of planned developments in the area on our existing facilities, e.g. the Towergate development
- Consider the impact of developments that border our area, e.g. Church Farm behind Wavendon Gate and Old Farm Park
- Research the effect the upgrade of the Bletchley to Bedford rail line will have on us, e.g. level crossings, noise, etc.

This will allow us to consider the options for facilities here to ensure that we maintain and improve the quality of life in this area.

If you want to find out more, or want to help, you can find more details here:

Website: <http://www.waltoncommunitycouncil.gov.uk/page129.html>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WCCMK?fref=ts>