



FLITWICK TOWN COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes of the Flitwick Town Council meeting held on
Tuesday 18th March 2025 at the Rufus Centre at 7:45pm

Present:

Cllr J Roberts (Chairman)
Cllr A Snape
Cllr C Thompson
Cllr H Hodges
Cllr I Blazeby
Cllr T Harald
Cllr F Patterson
Cllr R Wilsmore
Cllr T Parsons
Cllr D Toinko
Cllr M Platt
Cllr L Bandy

Also present:

Cllr I Adams – Central Beds Council (CBC) Ward Member
Stacie Lockey – Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Stephanie Stanley – Deputy Town Clerk & RFO
0 – members of the public

5775. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **resolved** to accept apologies for absence from Cllrs Earles (unwell) and Connell (work).

5776. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive Statutory Declarations of Interests from Members in relation to:

- (a) Disclosable Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none.
- (b) Non-Pecuniary interests in any agenda item – none.

5777. Co-Option

It was **resolved** that Lorraine Bandy and Andrew Crawford should be co-opted into the Office of Town Councillor.

Cllr Bandy declared her Acceptance of the Office of Councillor for Flitwick Town Council and signed the paperwork.

5778. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor thanked Cllr Platt for chairing the February Council meeting.

He had attended the following civic events:

- Biggleswade, Dunstable and Ampthill Civic Services.
- Function at Keech Hospice.
- Garb event at the Rufus Centre.
- Antiques Fair at the Rufus Centre.
- ABC Business Breakfast.
- A meeting with the High Sheriff.
- Flitwick's Civic Reception. The Town Mayor thanked the Officers for helping with this event.

Cllr Platt, Deputy Town Mayor, had attended the Flitwick Civic Reception event and stated this had been a good evening. Cllr Platt also thanked the Officers for their efforts.

5779. Leader Update

Cllr Snape welcomed the two new Members and said he looked forward to working with them.

3 Station Road Update

Cllr Snape thanked Cllrs Wilsmore and Earles for accompanying him to visit the site of 3 Station Road. He reported that the Officers regularly met on site and that there would be future opportunities for other Members to see the progress. The building contractors' work was progressing on time and within budget. He thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her work on the project, and Cllr Snape was excited to see what happened next with marketing the space to prospective tenants.

5780. REPORTS FROM WARD MEMBERS

Members noted the report circulated, and Cllr Adams provided the following updates:

Flooding

The work in the High Street involved installing three gullies, with an anticipated completion date of 21 March. Similar work was being done at Hinksley Road and more would be done at Hornes End Road. Cllr Adams had chased the CBC Officers to find out when the work at Hornes End Road would be scheduled.

Roadworks

Cllr Adams commented on the problematic season with local roadworks in multiple areas. The roadworks for the gullies were due to be completed on 31 March.

Future roadworks were planned to accommodate City Fibre, UKPN, and Virgin Media connections. Works were also scheduled on the A507 towards Ampthill Park for ditch and tree clearing, involving traffic lights.

Cllr Adams was conscious of the recent occasions when traffic lights had been stuck on the red lights, causing gridlock for motorists. Ward Members had informed the Streetworks Team.

Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC)

Cllr Adams was due to meet the PCC with Cllr Townsend on 20th March and planned to discuss relevant Flitwick issues such as break-ins for residents' vehicles, 'car meets' happening outside Screwfix and speeding in Maulden Road. He asked for Members to send him other concerns to raise.

The Chairman commented that he had spoken to a member of the Local Policing Team over the previous weekend, who had advised that the Police were aware of the 'car meets.' The individuals had not been at the location the last Friday evening when the Police visited this area, but this situation was on their radar.

Questions & Comments

Cllr Thompson commented that she was pleased to read that CBC were in the process of consulting residents about the Inspiring Music Programme. Cllr Adams commented that it was important for people to participate in the consultation.

Cllr Wilshire asked why traffic counters were installed on Maulden Road. Cllr Adams explained that this was part of the work proposed to reduce the speed limits outside Ruxox Nursery and the section of road between the National Speed Limit and the 40mph section.

Cllr Adams left the meeting at 19:59.

5781. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No items.

5782. INVITED SPEAKER

No items.

5783. MEMBERS QUESTIONS

Cllr Toinko commented that he did not understand CBC's response to the Council's objection to the recently discussed street trading licence application for Station Road. He asked if the Town Council planned to respond to the email.

The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Toinko's comments were the first feedback she had received on the matter and that it was up to the Members if a further response was sent to CBC. She understood that CBC believed the Town Council had not shown evidence for their objections.

Cllr Snape believed that CBC needed to take responsibility for allowing permits to traders and any associated laws that needed to be followed. He added that adequate food safety and hygiene requirements were necessary with this location not having running water and toilet facilities and the detrimental impact previous traders had on the public realm. Cllr Snape had photo evidence he could send to the Town Clerk and believed CBC should be challenged on their response.

Action Town Clerk

Cllr Wilshire noted that there seemed to be a notion at CBC that any trader that applies would be given a permit.

5784. MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF MEETINGS

- a. For Members to approve the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held, on **Tuesday 18th February 2025**, this meeting was held at the Rufus Centre.

It was **resolved** to accept the minutes of the Town Council meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2025 at the Rufus Centre.

- b. For Members to receive and consider the resolutions and recommendations of the Community Services Committee meeting, held on **Tuesday 4th March 2025**, this meeting was held at The Rufus Centre.

Cllr Thompson advised that the resolutions presented two errors:

- Item 1265b – Community Fridge – to be corrected to say that the Committee adopted the Terms of Reference and the Role Responsibilities document.
- Item 1265d – VE Day – correct typo to state ‘vintage singer. ’

The Community Services Committee resolutions from Tuesday 4th March 2025 were noted.

5785. MATTERS ARISING

- a. **Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th February 2025** - no items.

- b. **Members to receive any updates from Officers**

The Town Clerk reminded Members to respond to the Doodle poll about the residents' survey sessions at the Village Hall and said that any help would be appreciated.

5786. OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Snape asked Cllr Platt if he could summarise discussions held at the Beds Association of Town & Parish Council meetings at some point by perhaps supplying copies of the minutes so that Members could understand the business being transacted there. Cllr Platt agreed to do this.

Action: Cllr Platt

5787. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

- a. **Governance Review**

Cllr Snape believed it would benefit Members to discuss this topic at the meeting and make a more formal decision in April. He had consulted with Ward Members as they needed to be on board with what the Town Council proposed. Cllr Snape highlighted four areas for discussion:

- Abolishing the two wards (East & West) – Cllr Snape believed this divide was divisive and enabled negative connotations for the East Ward. It was not in keeping with how the Town Council worked – the Members worked to serve a single town. Cllr Snape advised that the East and West Wards were historically implemented in line with the Mid Beds District Council's set-up, which had no relevance today.
- Reducing the Town Councillors for Flitwick from 17 to (at least) 15. Cllr Snape advised that over recent years, it had been challenging to retain 15 Members and that residents should be allowed to vote via an election.
- Review of the parish boundary – two areas:
 - To incorporate Flitwick Cricket Club within the parish boundary because it has Flitwick in its name, the building is marketed as part of the town, and the organisation has benefited from Section 106 funding as part of Flitwick's allocation. Cllr Snape commented that a discussion with Westoning Parish Council would be required if this approach was taken.
 - To look at the parish boundary between Flitwick and Steppingley - the boundary was in the middle of Woodside Field. Cllr Snape commented that there was a high probability that CBC would look to offer the land immediately

north of Froghall Road as a grey site for housing. Cllr Snape did not think this suggestion would be well-received by Steppingley Parish Council, but he believed there was an argument to have this conversation.

Comments from Members

Cllr Thompson agreed with pursuing the reduction of Members and abolishing two wards for Flitwick but commented that the Council needed to remain conscious of the challenges faced by the East Ward. She added that recruiting Members from the town's West Ward was easier. Cllr Thompson agreed about the parish boundary line between Steppingley and Flitwick because if development did go on this site, the residents would access Flitwick amenities, but she was indifferent about the Cricket Club aspect due to the lack of value this would bring.

Cllr Patterson also agreed with abolishing two wards but raised questions about reducing the number of FTC Members because he did not see any benefit. He commented that over time, as the town grew, it could attract more Members. Cllr Snape responded that the Council was obliged to try to fill any vacancies; however, the Deputy Returning Officer at CBC had agreed to turn a blind eye to the current situation. Cllr Snape stated this was a grey area and that CBC could try to recruit the Ward Members to be Town Councillors as well.

Cllr Patterson asked the Town Clerk if filling the vacancies was required. The Town Clerk stated that the Council should be filling the vacancies. Cllr Patterson sought clarification about the benefit of an election and its mid-term cost. He was advised that there would be a cost for a contested election.

Cllr Blazeby asked if there was any impact on the General Power of Competence, and he was advised that it was not necessarily an issue. Still, it would occur every four years when the elections happened.

Cllr Harald asked if there was a legal minimum number of Members. Cllr Snape stated that there was not, and the Town Clerk agreed to check this in the Standing Orders.

Action: Town Clerk

Cllr Snape commented that operationally, the Council would struggle to transact the business of its committee structure with less than 12 Members. Cllr Roberts commented that sometimes the number of Members assisting with events was a struggle, and therefore, he would resist going lower than 15 Members.

Cllr Wilsmore was in favour of abolishing the two wards. He disagreed about the boundary change to incorporate the Cricket Club because the logical boundary was the River Flit. Cllr Wilsmore commented that CBC had to do a lot of work to conform to Section 5 of the Crematorium Act (proximity to housing), but he did not think the same rules applied if housing was built after a crematorium. He added that the Steppingley Parish Council meeting minutes often state aspirations for a Performing Arts Centre at Froghall Farm. He did not believe this location would become a housing development because it was on a floodplain.

Cllr Blazeby favoured reducing the number of Members as this would simplify the recruitment process. He reinforced that the Council had struggled with vacancies over the years and that the recruitment process took up unnecessary Officer time. He agreed with being cautious about reducing the numbers too far due to the Council's operational needs. Regarding the boundaries, Cllr Blazeby was unsure of the benefit of incorporating the Cricket Club, and he did not think Steppingley Parish Council would agree to this due to the potential revenue this site could achieve.

Cllr Toinko had an alternative view and did not see the benefit of reducing the number of Members. He understood the reasons for abolishing the two wards but wanted to ensure the Council maintained its efforts to understand the different needs of the East Ward. He did not see the benefit of incorporating the Cricket Club into the boundary but favoured including the farmland on the other side of Froghall Road.

Cllr Parsons asked if the Council knew Steppingley Parish's view on the land idea. He considered whether the Parish Council might be in favour if they saw themselves as a rural community and, therefore, would not want a future housing development. Cllr Snape pointed out that the Town Council would be consulted on any developments if the land were included in the Flitwick boundary.

Cllr Harald asked for the background as to why the Cricket Club had Flitwick in its name if it was not in the parish boundary and he was informed that this was because the Club was formally located at the Tesco site.

Cllr Snape commented that the movement of the boundary line to incorporate the Cricket Club would stop the Section 106 funding. He advised that as a Sports Club, the organisation were eligible to receive funding from Sport England, whereas other groups in the town were unable to do this.

The Chairman reiterated that the Governance Review position would be discussed formally at the April meeting.

b. Information & Data Protection Policy

Cllr Blazeby asked if it was possible for CBC to monitor any additional CCTV the Town Council may install in the Hub/Village Hall area. He mentioned that this site was the biggest town centre area not covered by CCTV. The Town Clerk commented that this idea had been pursued previously, but the Council would be required to upgrade its cameras for this to work.

Cllr Harald mentioned that the policy needed to be more specific about how long data was retained. Clarifications were also required relating to how permissions could be withdrawn.

Cllr Snape mentioned that the Council needed to make sure it could implement the planned membership scheme for the Community Fridge as people's data would be retained as part of this initiative since it was a direct service provided by the Council. This required the policy to be explicit with clear definitions about data handling and responsibilities.

It was agreed that Cllrs Harald and Snape would discuss this policy with Officers and that Members would reconsider the revised policy at next month's meeting.

Action: Town Clerk & Cllrs Harald/Snape

c. Flitwick Scout Group Building Plans

Members had an extended discussion about the plans. Cllr Snape emphasised that there was no legal reason why the Scouts could not progress with the plans. He mentioned that since the last time the Group presented the plans, Officers had looked at the lease, and they are not required to consult with the Council.

Conversations with the Scouts had taken place regarding the breach of the lease should the Scouts knock the existing building down to create hard standing. The Scouts had reassured Members that this was not their intention and that the Group wanted to re-purpose the existing structure for a meeting room and essential storage. Cllr Snape stated that the plans were within the existing footprint of the land.

Cllr Snape advised Members that this item concerned providing permission for the planning application to be submitted under the Council's name, as there was a discounted fee.

Cllr Hodges commented that it was a shame that the site could not be cleared and the whole building could be rebuilt, but it was understood that the Scouts did not have the financial resources to progress this route. Cllr Hodges praised the Scouts for the service they provided young people of Flitwick and surrounding parishes.

It was **resolved** to agree for the planning application to be submitted in the Town Council's name.

d. Standing Orders

It was **resolved** to adopt the revised standing orders as circulated.

e. Co-Option Policy Review

It was **resolved** to adopt the co-option policy as circulated.

5788. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

a. Finance Reports

- i) Balance Sheet – noted.
- ii) Projects Fund – noted.

5789. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

No items.

5790. EXEMPT ITEMS

The following resolution will be **moved** that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item issue is discussed.

- a. Confidential Report – noted.**
- b. Land at Steppingley Road – noted.**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

The meeting closed at 20:53.

Signed (Chairman)



Flitwick Town Council

Report to Town Council on 9th April, 2025: Land south of Steppingley Road

Implications of recommendations

Corporate Strategy: There are no direct implications from this report

Finance: There are no direct financial implications from this report.

Equality: No equalities implications have been identified from what is discussed in this report.

Environment: There are no direct environmental implications arising from this report.

Background

The Planning Improvement Working Group (PIWG) was tasked with the consideration of planning applications made within the town boundaries, or at other locations where there will be a direct impact on the Town. The Group may make observations or recommendations to Flitwick Town Council as appropriate.

This report concerns the planning application for the development of the site informally known as 'Steppingley Road,' but formally known as Land south of Steppingley Road. Councillors can view the application documents online on the [Central Beds Planning Portal](#), citing planning application reference CB/22/04108/FULL.

The Town Council has previously considered responses to this application at its meetings on 15th November 2022, and in June 2024. ***This application is being reviewed because there have been changes to the proposals since it was previously considered.***

It should be stressed that this report, and the recommendations contained within it, are the considered opinion of the PIWG. During the discussions within the group, arguments were put forward both in favour of the development and against it, with a particular focus being whether previous concerns of the Council have been raised. This report reflects the agreed position of the group following these discussions.

As previously, this revised application has generated significant local interest from the residents of Flitwick. The PIWG has noted the matters raised by local residents in its deliberations, but in line with the Planning Guide has reviewed and determined its view on the application based on the applications own merits.

Please also note that at this time, 2 of the 3 elected Central Bedfordshire Council members representing Flitwick have publicly voiced their opposition to the revised application.

Recommendation

That the Council **objects** to the application for the Land south of Steppingley Road on the following grounds:

- **Highways.** We acknowledge that a more recent traffic survey has been undertaken. However, it is our view that the proposal does not demonstrate that the highway network could safely accommodate traffic associated with the development, especially at junctions in the town centre, but also at junctions to the north of the town at Froghall Road and the Millbrook roundabout. Nor does it contain proposals to reduce the amount of traffic associated with the development through demand management measures. This makes this development contrary to the requirements of Policy T1 of the Local Plan.
- We acknowledge a proposal to enhance the junction of Steppingley Road and the A5120 (the 'Tesco' roundabout), but there is already limited space at the junction, and no detailed plans have been provided.
- The planned junctions from the proposed development joining Steppingley Road from the west are close to, or opposite, existing junctions for the east of the road (Leisure Centre, Ryder Way), and it is the view of the Council that this will have a negative effect on the safety of the road at those points.
- No consideration appears to have been given to potential improvements between the development and the Town Centre, for example, the introduction of mini-roundabouts at the junctions of Windmill Road and Manor Way, which would aid traffic flow.
- The Council remains concerned for pedestrian safety for those required to cross the planned new junctions. There will be increased pedestrian usage by children from the new development attending schools in the Town, as well as others proceeding to use retail facilities, the Doctors etc.
- On 9th April, it was announced that Universal Studios will be creating a theme park on approx. 700 acres to the east of Wixams, with an estimated workforce of 28,000 people, and a potential for *many millions* of visitors annually. Inevitably, some of the vehicle traffic for this attraction will pass through the Flitwick area.
- **In conclusion on the subject of *Highways*, it is the view of Flitwick Town Council that the revised application does not overcome previous objections, and that the development of the Universal Studios theme park will add further to existing traffic in the area.**

Previous objections made by the Town Council include

- **Extent of development.** The proposed development does not maintain a clear boundary on the north west and south western edges. *We believe this to still be the case. At this time, we have not seen the results of the recent 'call for sites' made by Central Bedfordshire Council, and are concerned that there may be the release of more land for development to the north or north west of the proposed development.*
- **The loss of Grade 2 agricultural land.** *This has become more relevant with changes to the international situation. The UK Government is currently formulating it's response, however there are indications that the UK (and other European nations) should be increasing their level of food security, i.e. the ability to produce food for themselves and reduce the reliance on imported produce.*
- **Affordable Housing.** *We regret that the proposed development appears to fall short of the requirements of the national framework requirements with the regard to the provision of affordable housing. Are CBC able to advise us why this is?*
- **Infrastructure development.** The revised application contains no guarantee that any 106 funding generated will be 'ring fenced' for Flitwick, or that any funding will be released upon the commencement of construction (or earlier). Services such as healthcare, education and access to public transport in the Town remain under pressure, and additional resources would be welcomed to improve the experience of service users.
- **In conclusion, it is the view of Flitwick Town Council that these objections remain relevant or have become more pertinent due to developments in recent months.**

At this stage, Flitwick Town Council would like to provide additional information regarding the egress of rainfall from the proposed development area. This information has been compiled from the experience of the Town during an 'extreme' weather event occurring in September 2024.

Impact on drainage issues in the Town

In September 2024, parts of Bedfordshire experienced an unprecedented rainfall event when an estimated one months rainfall came in a period of approx. 36 hours. Readers will recall flooding damage to residential and commercial properties in many areas, as well as significant disruption to transport. The A421 near to Junction 13 of the M1 was closed for some weeks to carry out removal of standing water and subsequent highways maintenance.

It should be noted that rainfall runoff from the Steppingley fields area (including the proposed development) feeds into the drainage network within the Town before flowing in a generally eastwards direction to join the River Flit.

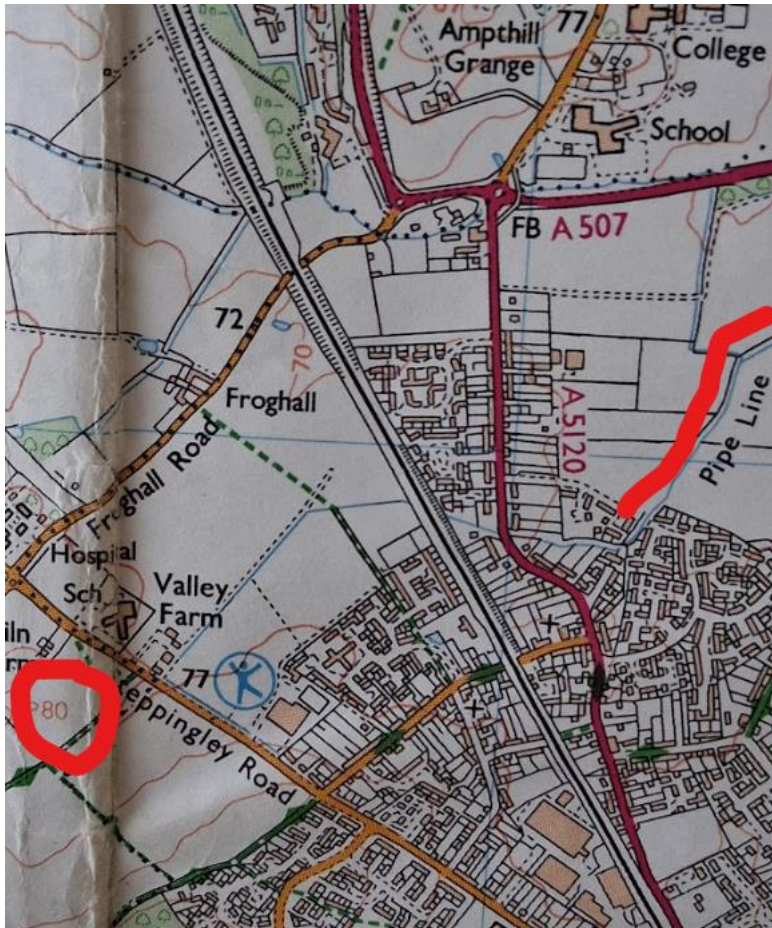
In the September rainfall, flooding was experienced to FTC owned allotments situated adjacent to Steppingley Road as a drainage ditch overflowed. Additionally, other residents in Flitwick east had gardens flooded as a result of the rainfall runoff from the area around the proposed development.

(Flooding damage also occurred to some properties in the south of the Town *not* impacted by the proposed development, and CBC have an ongoing programme of works to address the issue.)

A Flitwick Town Council member has been following up the issue of drainage in the north east sector of Flitwick. They have found that a drainage ditch between Flitwick east and Maulden Road is partially blocked, and this caused a large volume of water to back up towards housing in the Trafalgar Drive and Canterbury Road areas, and further back towards Ampthill Road. The FTC member is currently arranging a visit to the affected area with **Cllr. Ian Adams** from Central Bedfordshire Council, to assess the situation and discuss options for action.

It is the view of Flitwick Town Council that any development which results in increased rainfall runoff into the affected area will place residential properties and roads at increased risk of flooding, and this is an additional factor for FTC to oppose the proposed development.

The map and photographs below, show the affected area, and examples of the condition of the ditch. Photographs 3 to 6 were taken in February 2025.



Map 1. Extract from Ordnance Survey Explorer Sheet 193. The proposed area of development is shown as 80 – 85 metres above sea level. The area of the drainage ditch (Pipe Line) is approx. 65 to 68 metres above sea level. There is a drop of 15 to 20 metres for rainfall runoff across the northern part of Flitwick.



Photo 1. The red lines are drainage ditches which take water from the North West area of Flitwick towards the River Flit. The large **RED asterisk** is the area proposed for the development. (with thanks to Google Maps).

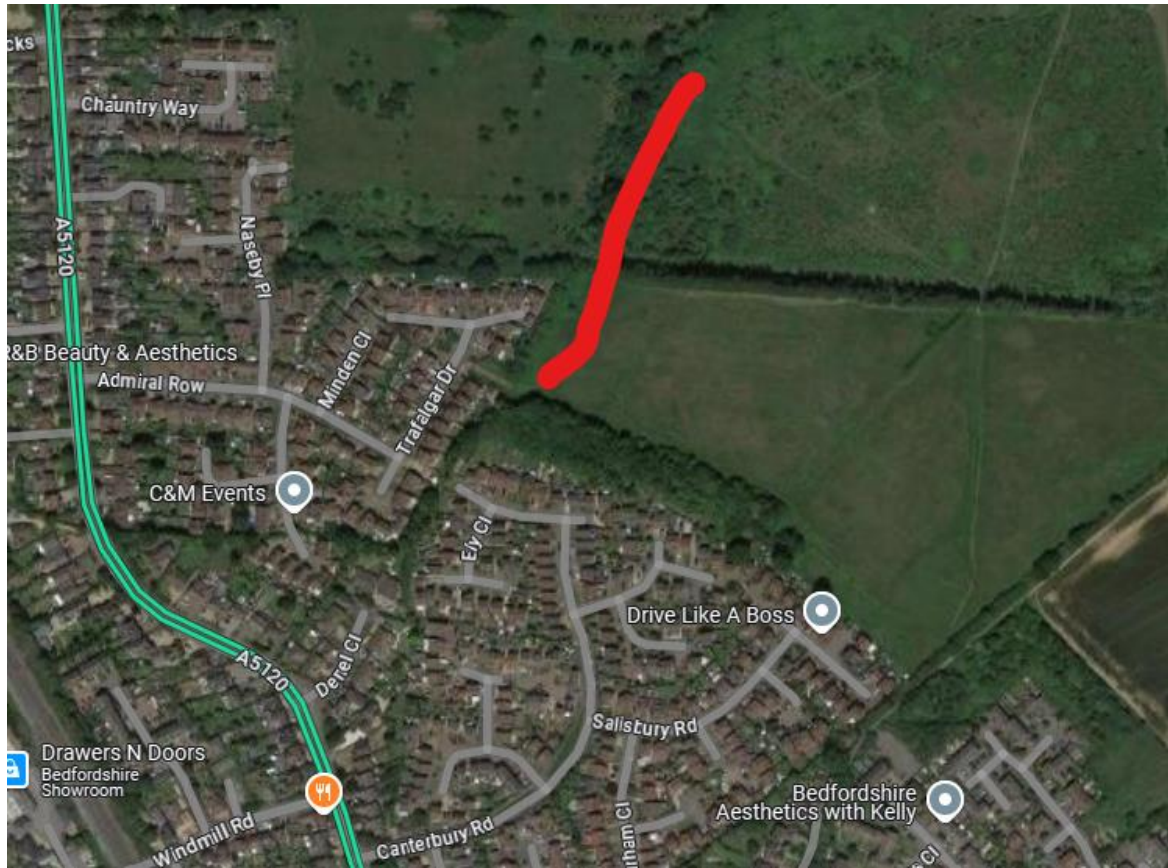


Photo 2. The **red line** shows the area where the drainage ditch is partially blocked at various points, causing the water to back up *into residential areas* during heavy rainfall in September 2024. (with thanks to Google Maps).



Photo 3. An ad-hoc crossing point from land owned by Central Bedfordshire Council created in the drainage ditch, resulting in partial blockage. The direction of water flow is from left to right.



Photo 4. An example of garden waste being fly tipped from a property into the ditch, and it appears that earlier tips of waste have fallen into the ditch.



Photo 5. General waste, possible storm damage or fly tipping at a location in the drainage ditch. The direction of water flow is upper left to bottom right of the photograph.



Photo 6. General vegetation blockage in the ditch. The direction of water flow is from the bottom left towards the centre of the photograph.

----- ends -----

**Councillor Howard Hodges,
Chair, Planning Improvement Working Group.**

(Please note, some text in this document is taken from a previous document prepared by Councillor James Gleave in response to the earlier phase of the application.)

April 2025



Community Governance Review 2025 – Proposal

Background

Central Bedfordshire Council has notified town and parish Councils of its intention to begin a Community Governance Review (CGR) on June 30, 2025.

The review will consider:

- the creation, merger, alteration or abolition of parishes;
- the naming of parishes and the style of any new or revised parish;
- electoral arrangements for existing parishes, including council size, the number of councillors to be elected to the council, parish warding, and
- grouping parishes under a new common parish council with their surrounding areas.

There is an expectation that any parish council proposing boundary changes between neighbouring parishes will have had formal discussions with the appropriate council(s)/residents before submitting a response to the consultation.

Options to explore

Members discussed several options at the last Council meeting on Tuesday, 18th March, including:

- abolishing the two parish wards of Flitwick Part (East) and Flitwick Part (West);
- reducing the number of councillors from 17 to 15 or fewer;
- incorporating Flitwick Cricket Club into Flitwick Parish from Westoning Parish, and
- exploring the option of a formal discussion with Steppingley Parish Council to review the boundaries to the north and west of the parish.

Written proposal

I propose that the Council responds to the CGR consultation with the following requests:

1. to abolish the parish wards of Flitwick Part (East) and Flitwick Part (West), with all future councillors representing Flitwick Parish, and
2. to reduce the number of councillors from 17 to 13.

I also propose that the Council require the Town Clerk, Chief Executive, and Leader to meet with Steppingley Parish Council to discuss the parish boundary between Flitwick and Steppingley Parishes.

Cllr Andy Snape

Leader of the Council



Flitwick Community Fridge – Van Proposal

The Flitwick Town Mayor's Charity CIO has been raising funds to purchase a panel van for the Council's Flitwick Community Fridge service. The Charity has now met its funding target, and this proposal seeks approval from the Council to proceed with the project.

Why does Flitwick Community Fridge need a van?

The volunteer team of 40 members working on the Flitwick Community Fridge service collected 44,000kg of food in 2024, with collections scheduled every day of the week. The Council's pickup trucks have been used on weekends. These trucks are primarily for the Public Realm Team and are unsuitable because they are open to the elements, require cleaning each time, and the trays of food must be strapped down.

Our volunteers must use their cars during the week, which is highly problematic because the volumes of food no longer fit in a single vehicle.

Van Ownership

Flitwick Town Council will own the van and be responsible for the running costs. The Flitwick Town Mayor's Charity CIO will make a grant to Flitwick Town Council to fund the capital costs of acquiring the van.

Where has the funding come from?

There is £14,668 funding ringfenced for Flitwick Community Fridge:

- £1,000 from SPP Foundation
- £10,000 from Techcite Ltd
- £3,668 from donations in the Food Hub during FY2024/25

In addition, we have secured grant funding of £5,500:

- £5,000 from the Wixamtree Trust
- £500 from Cllr Heather Townsend's Ward Councillor Grant

What type of van are you proposing?

We propose buying an electric panel van, likely a Vauxhall Vivaro e or Peugeot E Expert, which will likely be 2-3 years old:

- These vans have an as-new range of 140 miles, which more than meets our requirements.
- These vans come with a battery guarantee of 70% capacity at 8 years or 100,000, whatever is sooner.



- We will need to install a trickle charger at The Rufus Centre; the van will be set to charge on the weekend when the building is closed to take advantage of the solar panels.

Why an electric van?

Local authorities should use electric vehicles because they are environmentally friendly, reducing carbon emissions and improving air quality. They also offer long-term cost savings through lower fuel and maintenance expenses. Leveraging the Council's investment in solar panels and using spare capacity to charge on the weekends will further reduce running costs.

Estimated Budget

The Charity is proposing a maximum budget of £18,000, which includes a vinyl wrap:

Van Purchase	Up to £16,000
Vinyl Wrap	£500
Electric charging point installation	£1,500
Total	£18,000

Proposal

Members are requested to authorise the purchase a pre-owned electric van and install an electric charging point at The Rufus Centre for the Flitwick Community Fridge.

The project budget will be set at £18,000 with up to 10% contingency. Any contingency will be funded from the Project Fund.

The insurance and maintenance expenses will be funded from the Cost of Living EMR in FY2025/26 and incorporated into the revenue budget for subsequent years. The final decision will be delegated to the Town Clerk & Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader.

Cllr Andy Snape