

City Councillors' Report for public session at the Parish Council meeting 19 July 2024

Please accept our apologies for not attending tonight to give this in person, but we have conflicting meetings.

There have been a few significant developments over the past few weeks.

First Labour won the local election overall, and now have majority control of the Council and form the whole Cabinet. Early indications are that they are not intending to work with ward councillors as closely as in the past but we will continue to represent residents interests at every opportunity. Duncan Banks (Lib Dem) was elected as the third councillor for Monkston ward alongside Jenni and Ben.

Second, we were briefed last week on the proposals to change the two V11 roundabouts in the parish - with the H7 and the H8.

The H7/V11 roundabout the proposal is a major change, introducing a "hamburger" roundabout - one where there is a through lane across the middle of the roundabout to take the east-west traffic, in addition to a third lane all round the roundabout. The third lane entry to the roundabout in most directions would be slightly extended. This also necessitates 24 hour traffic signals to prevent conflict between the through lane and the roundabout, but they will be intelligent signals, responding to traffic.

An alternative option to just signalise the H7 roundabout is being consulted on, but the Highways staff are definite that this is not as good, and they would probably have to come back in a very few years time to do the hamburger. As a result, they don't think it is cost-effective and are recommending going straight to the hamburger.

The H8 (A421)/V11 roundabout is very constrained by the underpasses all round it, so extra lanes and a hamburger option are not available. The proposal is simply to signalise it. Again these would be intelligent signals, and the option would exist to have them part time. Traffic modelling indicates that both these options would drastically reduce queues at each roundabout.

Signalisation of the V11/H8 (Brinklow) roundabout would probably happen before Christmas. The work on the H7/V11 (Monkston) roundabout would probably happen next spring, but would depend on supply times.

A planning application will apparently NOT be required for these changes, as all the land is already highways land, so this is the ONLY consultation. There will be an exhibition on Tues 23 July at Monkston Community Centre from 4-7pm and you are strongly encouraged to attend and to publicise it on Parish Council noticeboards, website, facebook, etc. We have got the deadline extended to 14 September to allow the Parish Councils involved to comment at their meetings.

3. The OU have put forward their site as a long term development site for the City Plan, and MK City Council has assessed that it would take 1600 homes. There are very, very few details of their related assumptions, such as density, facilities to be included, infrastructure improvements required, etc. available at this stage. Its unlikely that there would be many, if any, new residents before 2030. The basic proposal is part of the City Plan consultation.

4. The City Plan goes live for its first stage consultation today (17th). (Note the website is up but I don't think it's fully functioning yet.) There will be a number of exhibitions around the city,

including one at Kents Hill Conference Centre on Tues 10 September 2pm-8pm so do go and visit the website in a day or two when they've got the glitches out, and staff will be available at the exhibitions to answer any questions you may have.

Please email me if you have any questions on the report or any other matters you want the city councillors to assist with.

Thank you

Jenni Ferrans (Cllr) on behalf of
Monkston ward Councillors, Milton Keynes City Council