

FOCUS

On Monkston Ward Iss 397

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Covering Monkston Park, Monkston, Kents Hill, Walnut Tree and the Waltons. Delivered by volunteers.

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Norovirus Peaks

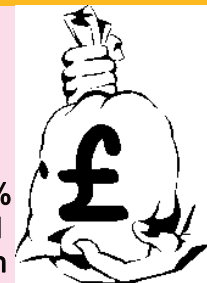
The Norovirus is peaking in the UK at present, causing sickness and diarrhea, headaches, body and tummy aches and pains, and putting many vulnerable people into hospital.

It transmits very easily by air or touch, so please take basic precautions - keep a little distance from others if possible, clean toilet seats, basins, bathroom door handles etc. frequently, and wash your hands frequently in soap and water - gel-based cleansers do NOT work against Norovirus.

If you get it, please isolate yourself from others as far as you can until 2 days after the symptoms stop.

Council Budget

The Labour Council forced through their budget, rejecting most amendments. Council tax will rise by 4.99% including 2% for Adult Social Care. Other authorities such as the Police and Fire Authority are raising their precepts higher, so you'll see a bigger increase in your bills in the coming year. A Lib Dem amendment to provide more help for parish councils wanting to make flood response plans, which unlock government aid, was accepted.



Cover that Hole

The Council acted swiftly when **Duncan** and the Parish Warden reported a damaged drain on **Fyfield Barrow** leading to **Walnut Tree**. The manhole had a 3 ft drop below it! The surround and manhole were repaired the next day.



Duncan at the repaired drain on Fyfield Barrow.

Beware - Lamp Post!

Jenni has asked the Council to fix this lamp post by the roundabout at Frithwood Crescent before it falls onto pedestrians and traffic below!



Jenni at the dangerous lamp post on Frithwood Crescent roundabout, Kents Hill.

The Loop Bus

Details have been published of The Loop bus service that connects CMK, Kingston, Woburn Sands, Caldecotte, the OU, the hospital, Bletchley and Westcroft. They're difficult to find on Arriva's website so details of maps, stops and timetables are on our website at www.monkston-focus.org.uk

Can you help Care Leavers?

Children end up in Council care for a variety of reasons, but at the end, they need to find work. Could your company or organisation help by offering an apprenticeship to a young person leaving care? Please contact us to be put in touch with the Council if you may be able to help.

Lib Dems - Listening - Caring - Working

V11 Roundabouts

Following the consultation last autumn, the Council is going ahead with signalling Brinklow roundabout (V11/H8) over Easter. They will also be going ahead with the "hamburger" option for Monkston roundabout - V11/H7, with prep work over next winter and main work starting in spring 2026.

Walton Manor Plans

Detailed plans for the 174 homes at Walton Manor are in at last so have your say - search for Planning Applications on the Council website and then for application ref PLN/2024/2763. There's little change since the outline planning application, and there will be play areas sufficient to serve the north part of Walton Park and Walton Grange as well as the new housing.



Duncan at WCC at SNAP, Walnut Tree

Local Councils on the Move

After many years at their base at SNAP in Walnut Tree, Walton Community Council will move to new offices at the OU on Walton Hall in April, saving around 50% of their rent.

And Kents Hill and Monkston Parish Council are negotiating to take over Monkston Pavilion and playing fields from 1st April.

Contact the Parish Clerks for more details.



Jenni at Monkston Community Centre

Prune that Hedge

Many thanks to the resident who cut the hedge back from the pavement on Hullwell Gate, Walton Grange. Duncan and the Parish Warden had both reported it to MK Council, but the process to force a landlord to prune takes some time, so please tell us quickly if a hedge blocks footpaths or roads.



Duncan shows the pavement edge on Hullwell Gate, Walton

Support for Users of BSL

Residents who use British Sign Language can now get help with interpretation of conversations with the Council over a video call using the SignLive app. The app can also help deaf customers with phonecalls to the Council. See Contact Us on the Council's website for more information.

Yellow Lines on Kingston

The Council is consulting on double yellow lines around Winchester Circle in Kingston to stop HGVs blocking the road for much of the day. Details are on MK Council's website. Closing date: 20th March.

Tree Pruned

After Duncan told the Council that they'd got the wrong owner, the tree on **Pettingrew, Walnut Tree** has been pruned back to clear the highway and return the tree to a safe state.



Duncan under the pruned tree on Pettingrew, Walnut Tree

Lib Dems help where YOU Need it

The local Lib Dem team want to hear from you on any issue, big or small, that you'd like help with.

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Lib Dems - Action and Service All year Round

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