

Ward Councillor's Report May 2022

The main thing that's happened at MK Council is of course the election in which I was elected for Monkston ward.

Overall Labour and Lib Dems each gained one councillor and Conservatives lost one and an independent lost his seat.

The Progressive Alliance of Labour and Liberal Democrat continues. to run the Council and a new council Plan will be issued in June.

In the ward we continue to have small-scale casework eg on hedges litter etc and increasing casework on benefits entitlement as poverty starts to hit. Please take advantage of the MKMoneyLifeline advice service if you think you may struggle financially.

I have finally got someone to agree to remove the fallen fencing in Harlesden Monkston Park but they are checking boundary ownership and Land Registry is very slow at present.

We have a pigeon feeder at the Monkston-Monkston Park underpass at Tewkesbury Lane who is attracting rats. We have requested enforcement action.

The No 11 bus service down the V10 has stopped. Other services remain for our parish but at reduced frequency. If residents are affected please fill in our survey about the use you made of it.

We got ward budget approved to install a bench at the site requested in Eridge Green and are chasing it happening now.

Annual recycling sack rolls should have been delivered to all homes in the parish, so please contact us if yours haven't arrived. We continue to have problems over which flats are on wheelie bins which on eurobins and which not, but they are now being addressed and otherwise things seem to be going smoothly now. A complaint has been registered about rough handling of blue boxes leading to broken glass and boxes.

A group of travellers at the Kents Hill Park site was removed as promptly as the law allowed and the mess cleared up. Proposed tightening of the law was consulted on but has not been implemented.

The Parks Trust insurance company has given them an ultimatum - "remove all trees within 10m of homes or we will stop insuring you". They have no option but to comply. I don't know how many trees are affected in this parish. MK Council is doing a tree survey to identify whether any of their trees present a risk. I think they are in a position to make a more nuanced judgement.

The plans for Kents Hill Park residential are still in pre-planning discussion, but are expected to be submitted soon and there will be public consultation at that stage.