



## **BOW BRICKHILL PARISH COUNCIL – ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25**

We bid farewell to our Chairman in February 2025, Julian Price, stepped down after generously contributing over ten years of service to the Parish Council. We extend our sincere thanks to him for his commitment and leadership.

We are also grateful to our Councillors for giving up their free time and for their continued contributions to the work of the Parish Council. Special thanks go to our Ward Councillors, David Hopkins and Tracey Baily, who regularly attend our meetings and represent our interests to Milton Keynes City Council.

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### **SPEEDWATCH GROUP**

We are pleased to report that Julian Price, who originally set up the group, continues to support its operation. The Parish Council are very thankful to all the residents who volunteer their time to help with this important initiative.

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### **PAVILION**

#### **Solar Panels**

With the help of a carbon offset fund from Milton Keynes City Council, which covered 50% of the cost, solar panels were installed in May 2024. Alongside a change in energy supplier, this has helped reduce the electrical running costs.

#### **Pavilion 2025 – Upgrade Project**

The ongoing renovation project which aims to enhance the Pavilion's appeal and income-generating potential. The committee explored reconfiguring the kitchen and adding a bar area at the viewing end to improve accessibility and flexibility for events and after extensive brainstorming, consultants have drawn up plans. The next step is to appoint a Quantity Surveyor to cost the proposal, enabling the Parish Council to apply for funding from various sources, including Milton Keynes City Council.

A special thank you goes to Alan Preen for his valuable assistance with this project.

#### **New Fencing**

The deteriorating fence near the Pavilion was replaced in August 2024.

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### **COUNCIL PRECEPT**

Considering rising operational costs and the need for planned maintenance and improvements to the Pavilion, the Parish Council agreed to only set the Precept at £57,377.94. This represents a 2.75% increase, equivalent to £4.72 per annum for a Band D Council Taxpayer.

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### **TREE MAINTENANCE**

Maintenance work was carried out on trees owned by the Parish Council last year. Additionally following feedback from residents, the Christmas Tree was tidied up in February 2025.

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### **DEFIBRILLATORS**

Last summer, East West Rail ran a defibrillator training session at the Pavilion and kindly donated a portable unit. We later received a £500 donation from Milton Keynes City Council to install it in a cabinet at the Wheatsheaf pub. This brings the total number of defibrillators cared for by the Parish Council to four.

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### **DONATIONS**

The Parish Council continues to support the monthly newsletter, recognising its importance for many residents, especially those not online.

The Parish Council also contribute toward the Three Villages coach trips and to Woburn Sands Library.

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### **VILLAGE FETE**

Bow Brickhill Parish Council provides the Pavilion free of charge to the organisers of the village fete and contributes toward the cost of some attractions and licences. Thanks are given to those who organise this event for our village.

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### **MARSTON VALE/EWR BOW BRICKHILL STATION**

Marston Vale line has seen the restoration of services during 2024 following the hiatus when the updated rolling stock was withdrawn. The service continues to have reliability issues mainly due to driver availability. East West Rail conducted the non-statutory consultation during 2024 to which the Parish Council sent its view that the station should remain open, and ideally a bridge should be provided across the line. The Friends of Bow Brickhill Station planted up containers on each platform and they aim to continue this with support from London Northwestern Railway.

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