

# WHITEHOUSE IN JANUARY



(Courtesy of N Lush)



(Courtesy of J Fuller)



(Courtesy of R Kitshoff)

**The Whitehouse Community Council**

**Newsletter Issue #3 - Winter 2021**

**[www.whitehouse-pc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehouse-pc.gov.uk)**



# News from your local Community Council

Welcome to the first edition of our Community Council Newsletter for 2021! We aim to keep the Whitehouse Community up to date with the latest information impacting our community and updates from Milton Keynes Council that will impact Whitehouse.

In this Newsletter issue we will focus on the following:

- News regarding our budget / precept planning for 2021 / 22 and the impact on your Council Tax
- Feedback regarding the Community Council survey we ran throughout December 2020
- A centre-spread 2-page section on the origins of our Whitehouse street names
- News from the Whitehouse Health Centre

We look forward to hearing your feedback regarding the content of this Newsletter and input on information you may want to see in future Newsletters. Happy Reading !

## **Vacancy for a Parish Clerk – Part Time**

The Whitehouse Community Council is seeking to appoint a highly motivated, self-starting and pro-active Parish Clerk, with the relevant experience and qualities to undertake the varied responsibilities of this key position. The role is part-time and will require a flexible approach to working hours to fit in with the business of the Community Council. The successful candidate will be expected to demonstrate leadership, administrative, IT, financial and interpersonal skills. They should have a good level of computer literacy, together with an ability to forge strong partnerships within the community and business sectors. The successful candidate will manage the Community Council's statutory requirements in accordance with best practice and ensure the effective implementation of Community Council decisions and adhere to the duties of the *responsible Financial Officer*. The successful candidate should have sound knowledge of current local government legislation and governance along with experience of working with Council members and its Committees. Ideally, candidates will hold a Certificate in Local Council Administration (CiLCA) or be prepared to achieve this within two years.

For more information, please reach out to Cllr Eileen Card at [Recruitment.Whitehouse@gmail.com](mailto:Recruitment.Whitehouse@gmail.com) or visit our website at <https://whitehouse-pc.gov.uk/>



## **Updated Website**

Our new and improved website is up and running! The functionality and ease of navigation is a vast improvement on the previous site. In addition, it is now suitable for all platforms e.g. desktops, laptops, tablets, mobile phone devices, etc.

The website is predominantly a website for the community, containing details of current and future events with a handy calendar, as well as providing information about your Community Council. Visit our website frequently to get the latest information from the Whitehouse Community Council. The website address is: <https://whitehouse-pc.gov.uk/>

# WE NEED YOU!

## Whitehouse Community Litter Pick

Cllr Eileen Card would like to send a massive THANK YOU to all those who joined the Community Litter Pick sessions during 2020 and so far in 2021! It's great that we have so many volunteers who want to help keep Whitehouse clean & tidy. However, it would be appreciated if we could get even more volunteers to help us with litter picks in the future. Whitehouse covers a large area, so it would be great if we could get as many residents as possible to help support the litter pick programme going forward. Litter picks take place monthly and the dates and details will be posted on our Community Council Facebook page (@WhitehouseCommunityCouncil).

If you would like to get involved, we look forward to seeing you at our next litter pick. All events are managed with COVID-19 regulations in mind, so please follow all rules and guidelines to ensure our volunteers are as safe as possible. We have litter pick kit for all ages, so please bring your children along as well !



## Useful links regarding Waste and Recycling in Milton Keynes

Milton Keynes council Website

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/> -

Information about Waste and Recycling in MK

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling> -

Waste and Recycling days for Whitehouse  
[collection-days](https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/collection-days)

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/waste-recycling/collection-days>

## Community Notice Boards

Friendly reminder that we have 3 Community Notice Boards around Whitehouse that the community could use to place any notices, adverts, etc. The left hand parts of the notice boards are unlocked and open for use by the public. We kindly ask that you are considerate in terms of the size of poster and content that is posted.

The Notice Boards are located at the entrance to the balancing pond of Randal Ave, the entrance to the Health Centre, and at the play park on Longhorn Drive.



# COUNCIL TAX BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2021 / 2022

## What is the 'Precept' and what is it used for?

The 'Precept' is the Community Council's share of the annual Council tax bill. The Community Council prepares a budget of income and expenditure for the new tax year and forwards that on to Milton Keynes Council, who then collects the tax on behalf of the Community Council. The 'Precept' is converted into an amount per Council Tax Band, that is then included in the annual Council Tax bill.

## How is the precept for the next year calculated?

The Whitehouse Community Council has prepared a budget for money that we are going to need for the upcoming tax year. This is then divided by the number of households in the Community and for Whitehouse in 2021 / 22, the tax base (amount of households) used for the calculation is **1,048**.

## How much will we pay more in the next tax year?

Being well aware of the current challenging economic situation due to COVID-19, the Whitehouse Community Council has planned a budget that will allow us to deliver a variety of services to the Whitehouse community, whilst focusing on the community's limited resources. Through careful planning, we have prepared a budget that will not require an increase for 2021 / 22. The Band D tax equivalent therefore remains at **£58.00 per annum**, which is a **0%** increase from the previous tax year.

The Whitehouse Community Council's 2021-2022 budget was agreed at the Full Council meeting held on 9th December 2020. The agenda and papers for meetings can be found on our website at <https://whitehouse-pc.gov.uk/>

Overall, the Whitehouse Community Council's budget for 2021-2022 is **£ 60,784**.

The detailed breakdown of the budget for 2021-2022 is as follows:

Whitehouse Parish Council		
		Year 2021 / 2022
Cost heading	Budget	Comments
<b>PERSONNEL</b>		
Salaries	£10,679.00	Annual Salary for the Clerk including National Insurance & Pension contributions
Chair's Allowance	£250.00	Discretionary expense allowance for the Chair
Councillors' Allowance / Expenses	£1,500.00	Discretionary expense allowance for the Councillors
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£12,429.00</b>	
<b>OFFICE</b>		
IT software	£2,600.00	New Software for Finance, Facilities and Allotment Management
IT support	£1,000.00	
Office Equipment	£600.00	New printer, monitor, mouse & keyboard for the Clerk
Postage	£100.00	
Mailbox	£500.00	Mailbox for Council mail correspondence
Printing	£100.00	General printing - not for leaflets and flyers
Telephone/Broadband	£750.00	Mobile phone for Chair & Clerk
Stationery	£200.00	
Utilities	£100.00	
Consumables	£300.00	Clerk documentation and general consumables
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£6,250.00</b>	



# COUNCIL TAX BUDGET & PRECEPT FOR 2021 / 2022

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	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£6,250.00</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>		
Training - Cllr	£750.00	Training courses for the Councillors
Training - Staff	£1,000.00	Training courses for the Clerk
Insurance	£450.00	Public Liability insurance
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£2,200.00</b>
<b>SUPPORT</b>		
Audit Fee Internal	£250.00	
Audit Fee External	£350.00	
Subscriptions BMALC	£480.00	
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£1,080.00</b>
<b>OPERATIONAL</b>		
Meeting Room hire	£500.00	
Allotments	£200.00	
Dog bin servicing	£840.00	
Litter Bin servicing / litter picks	£400.00	
Grit Bin servicing	£100.00	
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£2,040.00</b>
<b>COMMUNICATIONS</b>		
Communications / Newsletter print	£2,600.00	
Publications	£200.00	
Website	£2,000.00	Website Support, plus other Social Media subscriptions
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£4,800.00</b>
<b>COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES</b>		
Project Dog bins install	£150.00	
Project Litter Bins Install	£150.00	
Project Grit Bins Install	£150.00	
Outside Grants (s.137)	£500.00	
Community Events	£3,000.00	Community events, e.g. Christmas celebrations
Play schemes	£3,600.00	
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£7,550.00</b>
<b>RESERVES</b>		
Ring fence for future use***	£45,000.00	Speeding & Welcome signs, Community Centre furniture, Festive lights & landscaping
General Reserves	£40,000.00	
De Minimis Reserves	£9,435.00	
	<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>£94,435.00</b>
Estimated Bank Balance at 31 March 2021	-£70,000.00	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£60,784.00</b>	Additional budget required from MKC

The Council's budget for this year prepares for the completion of the new Community Centre, with our responsibility to supply furniture and "kit out" the new centre to be ready and available for community use. We are also including money in our budget to prepare for the new allotments that will be made available during 2022 / 23, but some initial cost will be required for the planning & management of community interest in the new allotment plots.

The Council takes a cautious approach to our expenditure plans and have ensured sufficient reserves as a sensible contingency for these uncertain times. We will continue to make use of the Council's quarterly surveys, to ensure we stay in tune with the "Voice of our Community".

# WHERE DO THE WHITEHOUSE STREETS GET THEIR NAMES FROM? (Issue 1 of 4) (Other street names will appear in the upcoming 2021 Newsletters)

Can you find the street names in the grid below?

A	B	I	G	A	R	N	A	R	O	B
N	E	W	L	A	B	N	B	A	Z	E
I	U	Q	H	N	A	L	G	N	C	R
L	L	R	T	M	Z	F	N	G	T	R
R	A	V	H	X	U	I	E	U	B	I
U	H	A	P	M	O	N	T	S	A	C
B	R	Y	T	S	J	A	N	B	R	H
B	E	R	R	E	N	D	A	P	R	O
C	B	L	U	E	A	L	B	I	O	N
K	C	O	N	K	C	E	R	B	S	C
L	E	R	I	H	S	E	R	Y	A	A

Abigar	Angus	Anjou	Ayreshire	Balwen
Banteng	Barrosa	Berrenda	Berrichon	Beulah
Blue Albion	Boran	Brahman	Brecknock	Burlina

## ABIGAR

**Origin:** Ethiopia / South Sudan

**Used for:** Milk (3L—5L per day)

**Characteristics:** Tall, heavy built and with long horns. White or grey in colour.



## ANGUS

**Origin:** Scotland

**Used for:** Beef production

**Characteristics:** They do not have horns and are usually solid black or red.



## ANJOU

**Origin:** France

**Used for:** Beef production & milk

**Characteristics:** They are traditionally red with white markings. Bulls usually weigh 2000—2500 lbs.



## AYRESHIRE

**Origin:** Scotland

**Used for:** Milk

**Characteristics:** They are typically red with white markings and can survive in very tough environments



## BALWEN

**Origin:** Wales

**Used for:** Meat

**Characteristics:** Easy to take care of and they produce excellent meat. Their wool is usually very soft.



## BANTENG

**Origin:** Cambodia / South East Asia

**Used for:** Beef

**Characteristics:** Typically live in herds of up to 40 cattle. They can survive very long without water.



# WHERE DO THE WHITEHOUSE STREETS GET THEIR NAMES FROM? (Issue 1 of 4) (Other street names will appear in the upcoming 2021 Newsletters)

## BARROSA

*Origin:* Portugal

*Used for:* Beef

*Characteristics:* They have big distinctive horns, which can grow longer than 1m!



## BERRENDA

*Origin:* Spain (Andalusia)

*Used for:* Beef

*Characteristics:* They are usually either red or black and are often used in bull fights in Spain.



## BERRICHON

*Origin:* France

*Used for:* Meat

*Characteristics:* They are very popular in the UK and there are 5 key sales markets across the UK each year.



## BEULAH

*Origin:* Wales

*Used for:* Milk & wool

*Characteristics:* Named for its distinctly patterned black & white face which is free from wool.



## BLUE ALBION

*Origin:* English Midlands

*Used for:* Milk & beef

*Characteristics:* They have an unusual blue roan coat, but sadly became extinct following a foot-and-mouth outbreak in 1967.



## BORAN

*Origin:* Kenya & Ethiopia

*Used for:* Beef

*Characteristics:* They have lived in Africa for more than 1.000 years and are easy to breed and used to living in tough environments.



## BRAHMAN

*Origin:* USA

*Used for:* Beef

*Characteristics:* They have a good tolerance for heat and live widespread in tropical regions. They are resistant to insects due to their thick skins.



## BRECKNOCK

*Origin:* Wales

*Used for:* Meat

*Characteristics:* Their ears are erect and they have a white face and legs. They have no wool on their faces or legs below their knees. They have no horns.



## BURLINA

*Origin:* North-East Italy

*Used for:* Milk

*Characteristics:* They are small with a black & white coat. They are adapted to graze on mountain pastures.



# Q4 2020 SURVEY RESULTS WITH SOME KEY RESULTS INCLUDED HERE (PAGE 1 OF 3)

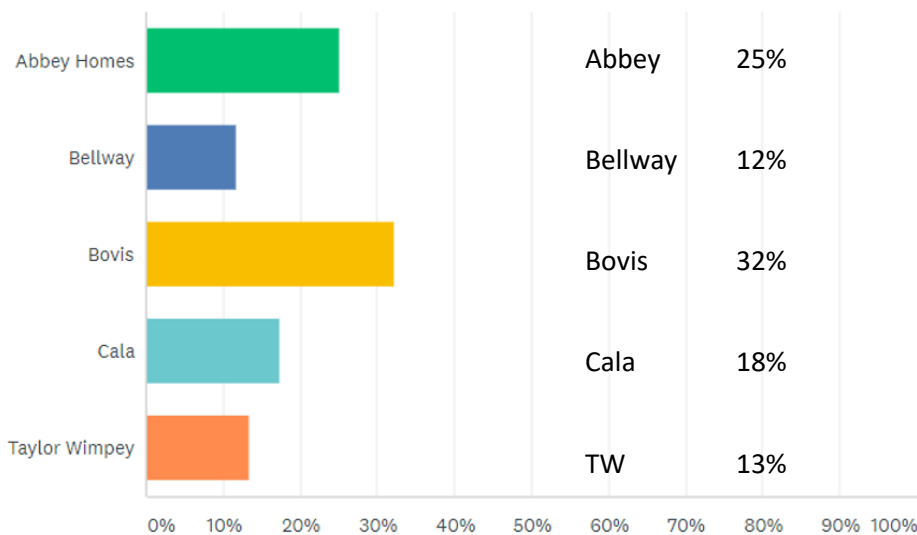
The Whitehouse Community Council issued a survey during December last year to receive feedback and input as part of our drive to hear the “Voice of the Community”. The online survey was advertised via Facebook, as well as the Community Council website.

The survey was also made available for manual completion and included in the Q4 Newsletter, which was distributed to all Whitehouse homes by 11th December. This gave the Whitehouse community almost 3 weeks to complete and return the surveys.

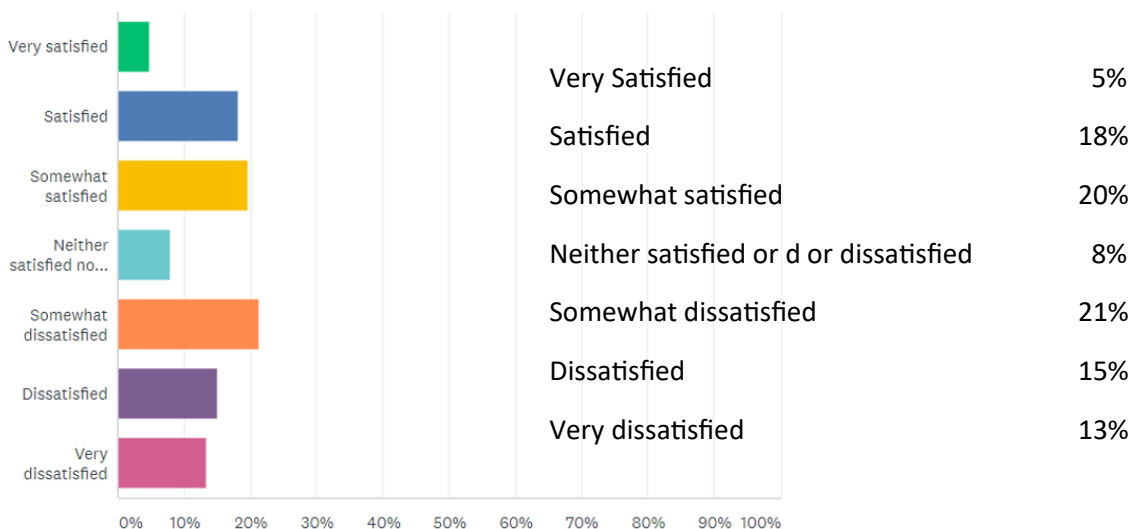
127 online and 2 manually completed survey responses were received and included in the analysis. (Some surveys had to be excluded unfortunately as they were not completed in full).

Some of the survey results are included in this Newsletter. All survey answers and results are available on the Community Council’s website (<https://whitehouse-pc.gov.uk/document-category/surveys/>)

## Q1 Which “development area” are you currently living in ?



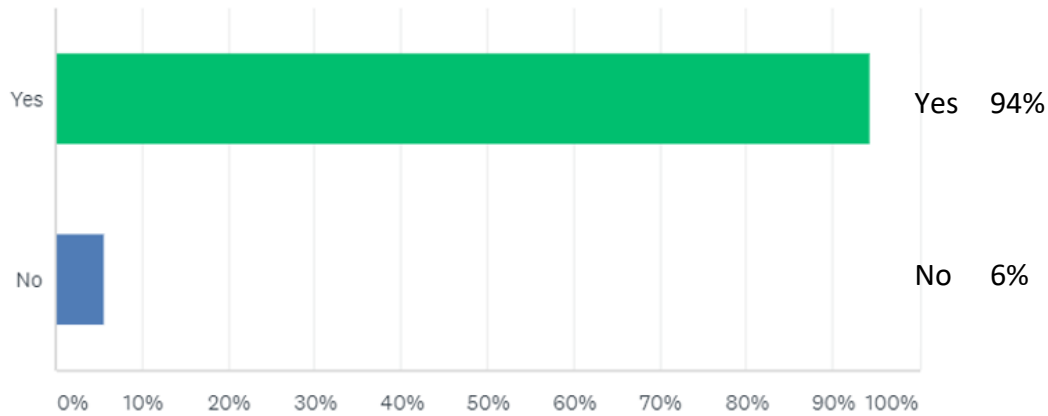
## Q2 What is your current view of the “state of the estate”, e.g. cleanliness, quality of living, etc.?



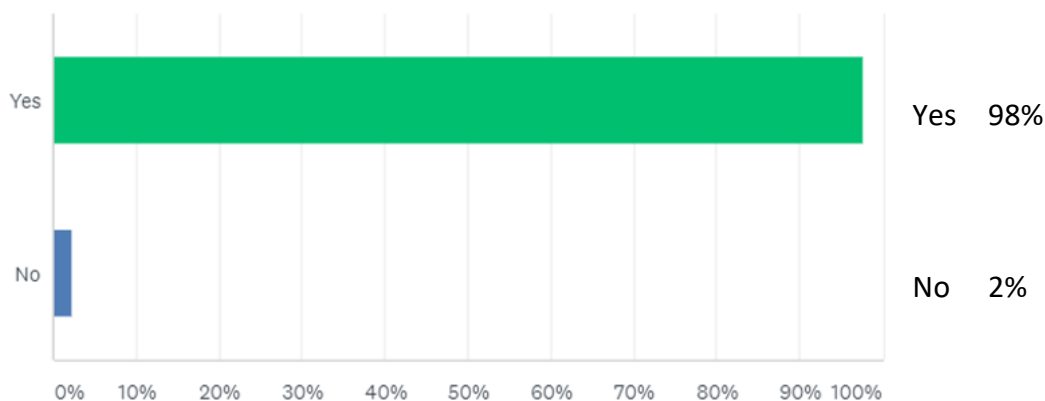


# Q4 2020 SURVEY RESULTS WITH SOME KEY REPLIES INDICATED (PAGE 2 of 3)

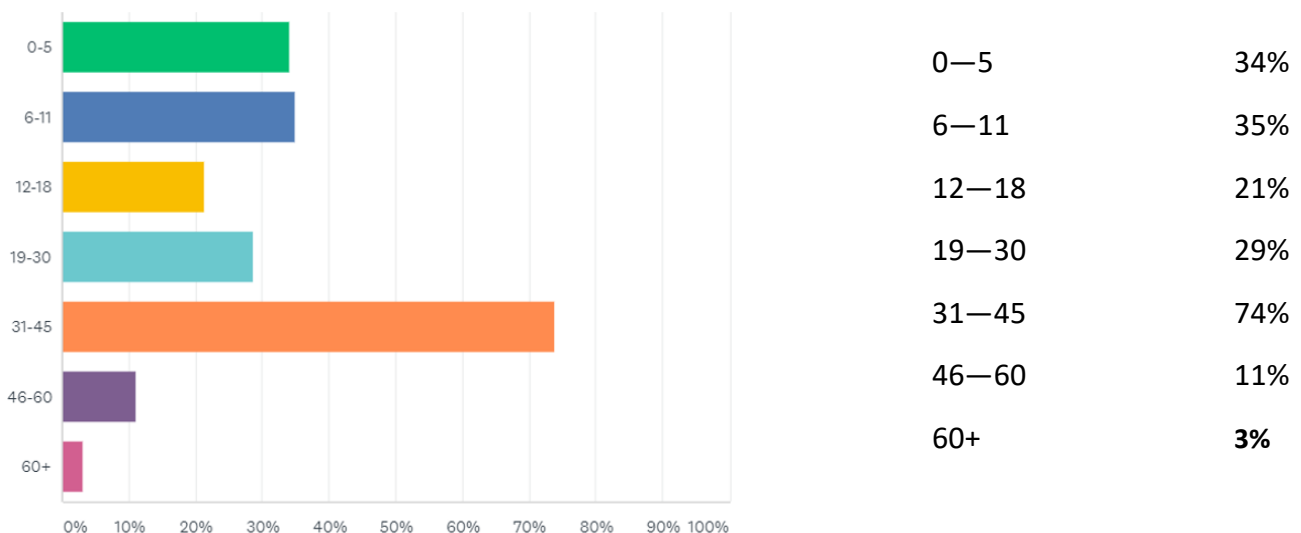
**Q6 Would you like to see locally managed landscaping of the entire Whitehouse estate ?**



**Q7 Would you appreciate seasonal decorations being used throughout the main streets in Whitehouse, e.g. Longhorn & Barrosa, for example Christmas lights, spring flower baskets, etc?**

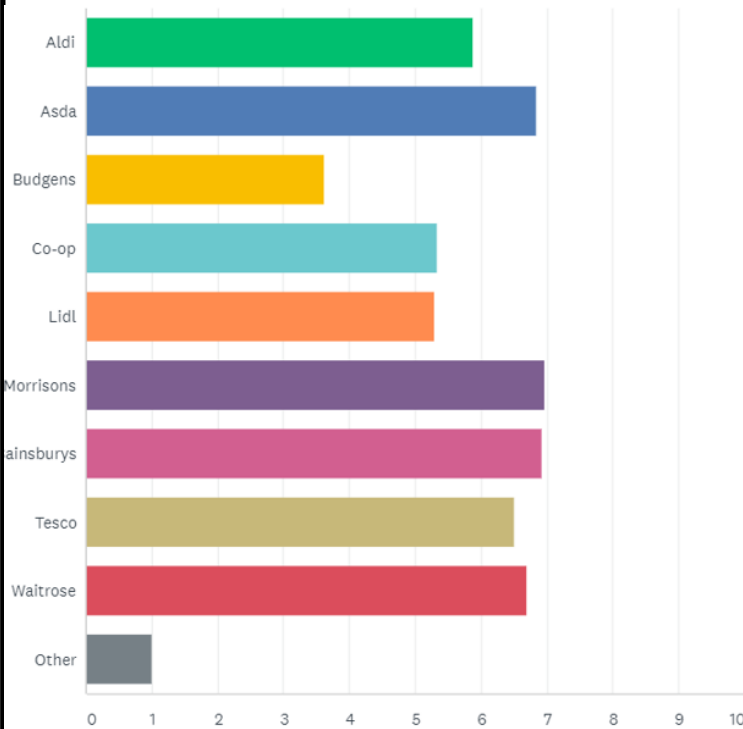


**Q8 What are the age ranges of people living in your household?**



# Q4 2020 SURVEY RESULTS WITH SOME KEY REPLIES INDICATED (PAGE 3 of 3)

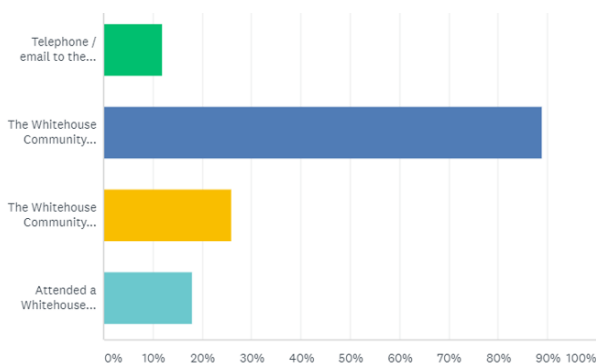
**Q11 Please rate the shops below in order of preference with number 1 being your most preferred through to number 9 being your least preferred.**



Based upon the 127 unique survey responses received for this question, the rating from most preferred to least preferred are as follows:

- 1) Morrisons
- 2) Sainsburys
- 3) Asda
- 4) Waitrose
- 5) Tesco
- 6) Aldi
- 7) Co-op
- 8) Lidl
- 9) Budgens

**Q12 What contact have you had with the Whitehouse Community Council during the past 12 months**



Telephone / email	12%
Facebook Page	89%
Website	26%
Community Council meeting	18%

Based upon the survey results, the Community Council will define strategies for 2021 to address the key items highlighted in the survey. Some of these may include:

- cleanliness of the estate & litter picks
- community activities, e.g. through the new community centre
- communication with the community, e.g. through Facebook, website, mobile app, etc.

## Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) - All change!



Since the pandemic began, use of public transport (“ridership”) has changed. The Department for Transport stats show that during the first lockdown, rail use dropped as low as 4% of typical, and bus use dipped to 11%, recovering only to 47% on average in October and into November 2020. With buses having under half of the pre-pandemic ridership and a forecast that will not be recovering any time soon, “the way things are done” needs to change.

### **Enter Demand Responsive Transport (DRT) – Trialling the No 28 Route**

While Milton Keynes was growing back in the 1960s, the population was too spread out for scheduled bus services, but residents could call up and order a minibus – “Dial-a-Bus”, which would then group people together and go. There is a similar challenge being faced today as current bus use and subsidies are unsustainable.

Milton Keynes Council has been looking to our heritage, and the Milton Keynes Vision for Inspiration and came up with DRT - Demand Responsive Transport – an updated version of “Dial-a-Bus”

From April 2021, MK Council wants to introduce DRT to replace unprofitable bus routes.

DRT is a (12 person) minibus service that comes to meet you. Designed to pick up at existing bus stops, it can divert “off route” if needed. You can book your journey via an app or over the phone and you will be matched with other passengers heading in the same direction within a maximum “wait time”.

There is a current trial of DRT covering the number 28 route (which travels along Danstead Way). All single trips cost £2.50, but the service is free for Older Persons and Disabled Persons or Bus Pass holders. For live help creating an account on your smartphone, you can call 01908 410305 and if you are a Bus Pass holder, please call 01908 252526 (lines are open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9am to 5pm, and on Wednesdays from 10am to 5pm) to book a ride.

Anything learnt during the trial period will be included in the main roll-out.

In the future, DRT would also feed into the proposed mass rapid transport “MRT” network. There would be several hub “stations” around MK where high speed buses or trams can whizz people to major destinations.

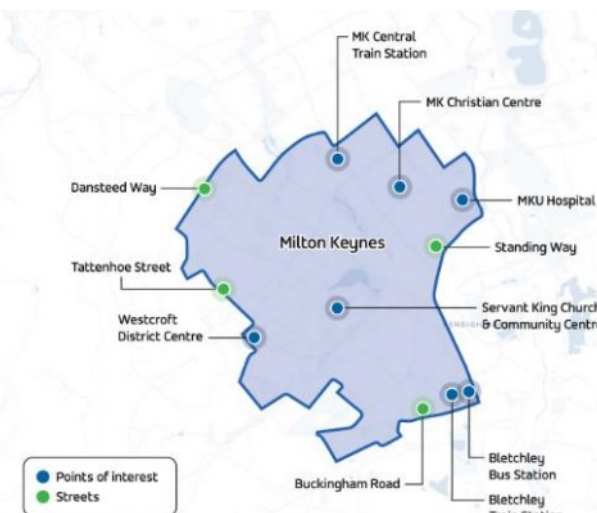
### **What about now?**

We would love to hear your comments or concerns about how this might impact or benefit you.

Come along to our Council meeting on 18 March 2021 to hear from your Ward Councillor, Jenny Wilson-Marklew (also Milton Keynes Council’s Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport) who will be presenting the scheme with an opportunity to ask questions about future bus services and accessibility.

For further information visit the ViaVan website:

<https://www.viavan.com/milton-keynes/>



## Whitehouse Surgery Update



Whitehouse Surgery is located within the Whitehouse Health Centre. Opening on the 1<sup>st</sup> December, the team started with zero patients and we now have over 2,000 fully registered patients and rising - this is despite opening in the middle of a Pandemic, Christmas holidays, a second National Lockdown and the launch of the COVID Vaccination Programme!

As we find ourselves moving into our third month of operation, we wanted to take a breath and share our most recent challenge, the roll out of the COVID Vaccination Programme.

Due to the location of Whitehouse and the huge amount of parking we are lucky to have, we stepped forward as the nominated hub for our Primary Care network, working with the other three established Medical Centres, all of which are neighbours on the western development area of Milton Keynes.



For eight consecutive days we opened our doors to over 4,000 visitors, numerous clinicians, 38+ wonderful volunteers, endless teas, coffees and biscuits and Whitehouse Health Centre even featured on the front page of the MK Citizen.

We had horizontal rain, snow, ice and sunshine, but a fantastic team spirit kept everyone going.

The positive patient feedback was overwhelming, from the marshalling of the car park to the almost non-existent queue for the vaccine itself (we often ran 15 minutes ahead of appointment times) to the waiting room volunteers, who made each and every one of us extremely proud.

In total, as a collective of four surgeries, by the time this article is printed we will have given over 4,500 vaccinations on site and nearly 350 vaccines to local care home residents and housebound patients. As a healthcare team and combined with incredible community spirit, together we have vaccinated over 70% of the government-approved groups in our areas.

There is still much to do with the vaccination programme and while we await our next delivery of vaccines and start planning our next clinics, Stony, Watling Vale and Hilltops Medical Centres and Whitehouse Surgery would like to pass on our thanks to all the wonderful volunteers, to local residents and building contractors that gave endless directions to visitors and to Whitehouse Primary School for the loan of waiting room chairs.

Stay safe everyone.

Best wishes from the Whitehouse Surgery Team and the Stony, Watling Vale and Hilltops Medical Centres.

All relevant credit is given to the owners of the pictures, drawings and logos used in this newsletter.