

# **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

**ANDREW TUBB**

**ALINE DELAWA**

**CLLR TERRY BAINES**

# Partnership Working

**Kay Pettit**

**(Programme Manager – Parish and Town Councils)**

**[kay.pettit@milton-keynes.gov.uk](mailto:kay.pettit@milton-keynes.gov.uk)**

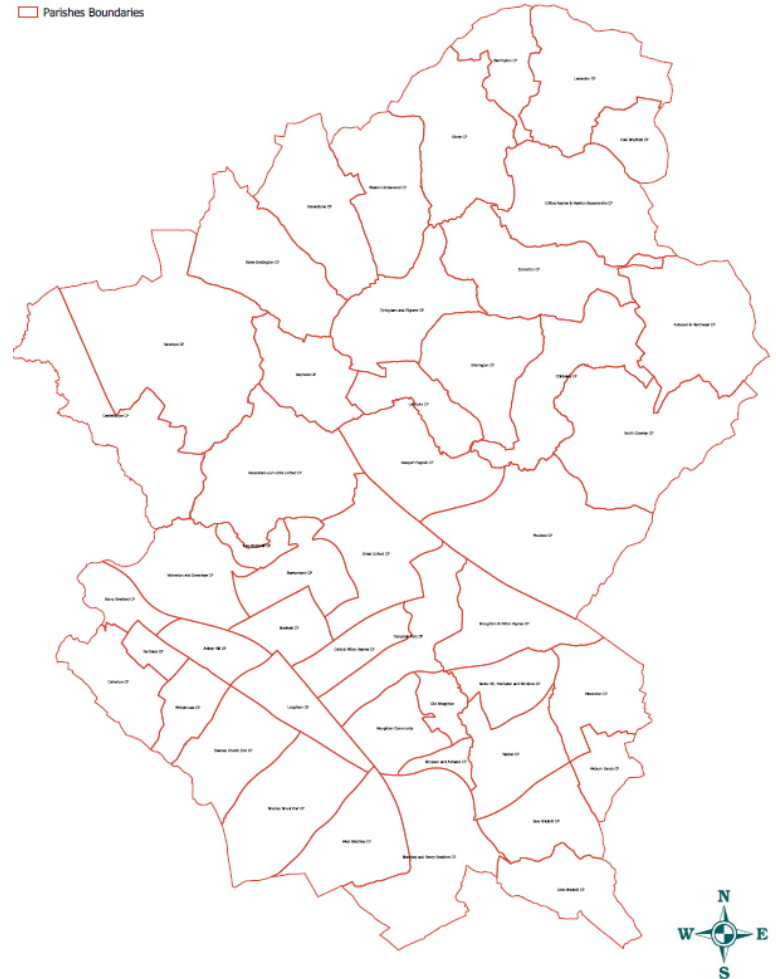
# Very lucky – fully parished

**48 Local Councils**


**29 Parish Councils  
8 Town Councils  
2 Community Councils  
9 Parish Meetings**

**circa 375  
Councillors**

**All very different in style, scale, approach,  
appetite, ambition, leadership,  
number of councillors, culture, resource,  
capacity and technical knowledge**



# One Community - A guide to effective partnership working between principal and local



## One Community

### A guide to effective partnership working between principal and local councils

- Why work together?
- Different perspectives
- How to navigate the guide
- Partnership and community influence
- Partnership and local participation
- Partnership and service delivery
- Asset library

#### How to design channels so that principal and local councils can liaise

Part of the challenge with partnering towards a shared goal is that every relationship between councils is different.

Often, the role of individual relationships is essential in coordinating between tiers. Too often a member of staff leaving or a politician retiring results in partnerships withering away. Getting clear 'point people' in place, whose responsibility it is to liaise between the two, is therefore vital. Having individuals with set roles can help bridge the gap between principal and local levels.

In particular, a strong and flexible point person can help to cater to local councils' immensely varied levels of capacity, resource, and ability to navigate issues. It is no use relying on a single system or process; in a situation where one council is on the front foot and another needs to build its basic capacity, it is vital that there is a point of contact, or a single team to liaise with.

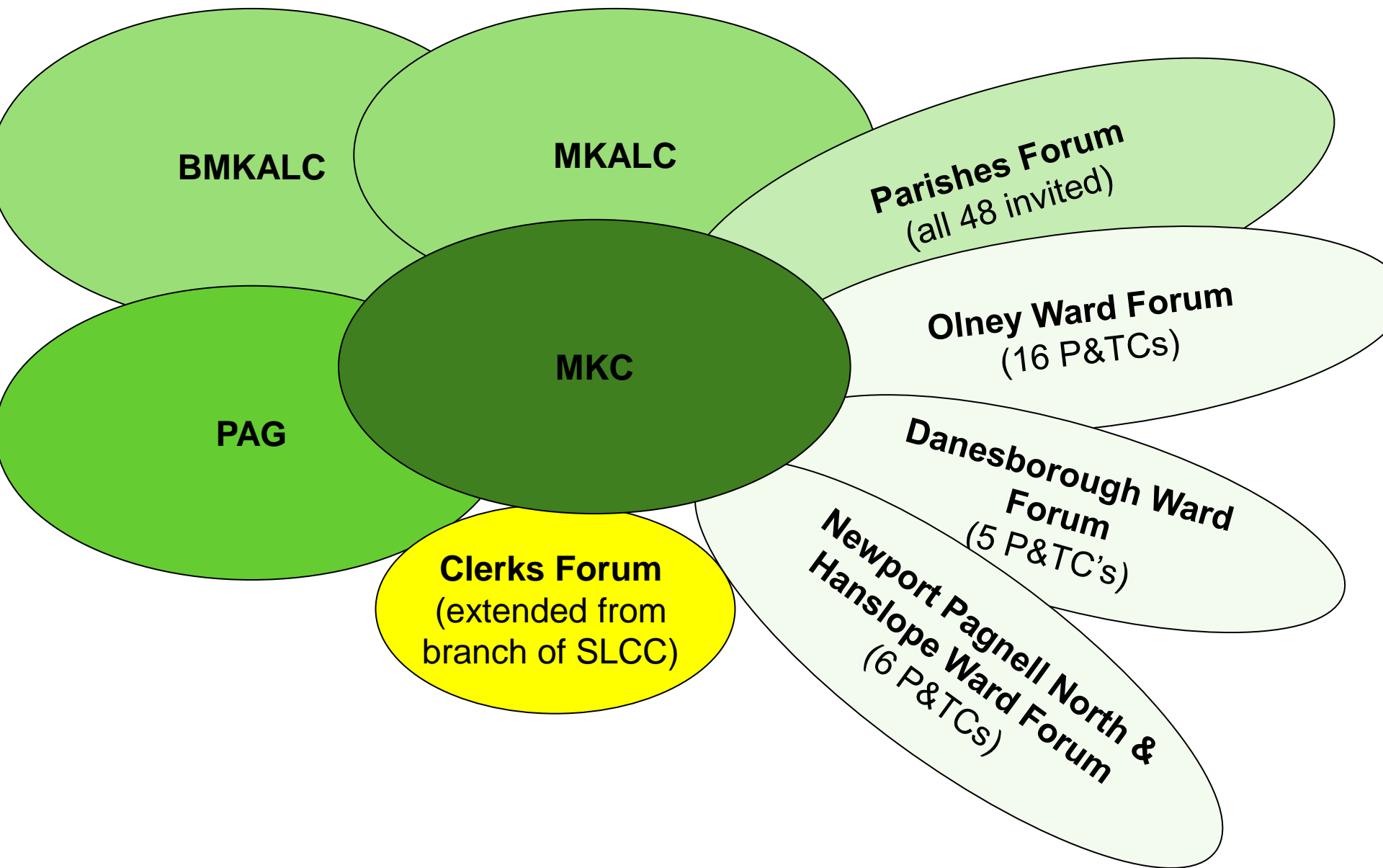
There are many different ways of going about this, depending on the structures in place. In some instances, it may be that councillors can play bridging roles – especially if they are a councillor at both the principal and local council have roots in the community.

Including responsibility for local councils within a Cabinet portfolio at the principal council can be another effective way of creating direct channels and responsibilities. And other principal councils deploy a parish liaison officer scheme, whereby each member of senior management has set roles. North Somerset council in particular has pioneered this.

Running alongside this, it is important for principal councils in areas with a number of town and parish councils to have dedicated officers or teams who hold responsibility for partnership. This helps to build capacity and realise potential in a more coordinated way.

However the channels for liaison are structured at a council, the important thing is to develop clear responsibilities and point people, who know the area sufficiently well that they can work with a range of different local partners.

# Relationships and communications



# Liaison

## **Parishes Advisory Group (PAG) – meets on average 6 weekly**

Made up a set of parish councillors, a ward councillor, from each of the main parties, MKC link / liaison officers and the Cabinet Member (Chair) with responsibility for Economic Growth and Community Partnerships. Determines agenda for Parishes Forum and over recent times has been more involved with other issues i.e. the MKC parish conference in March 2017, joint working on approach for devolving services and assets, building on relationships, etc

## **Parish Forum – quarterly meeting**

48 P&TC's invited to send 2 representatives - a meeting for the parishes. MKC link / liaison officers organise, administer and minute / arrange for speakers / officers to attend. Agenda determined by PAG

## **Ward Forums – frequency varies**

Three Ward Forums – that we support.

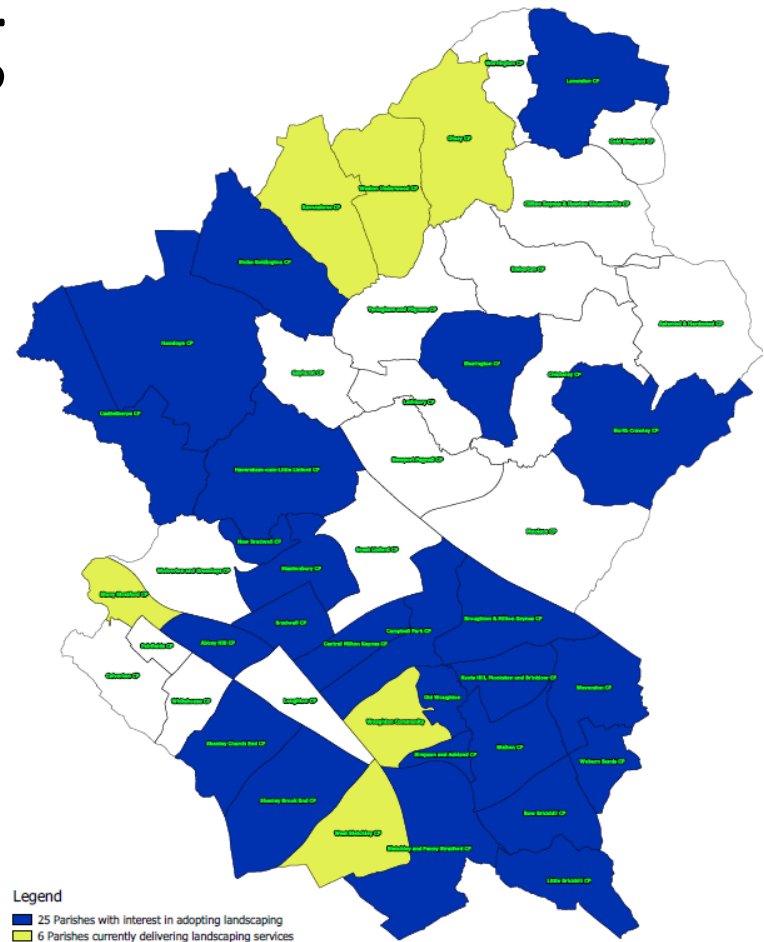
1. **Olney** - Organise and minute / arrange for speakers / officers
2. **Danesborough** - Arrange for speakers / officers
3. **Newport Pagnell and Hanslope** - No meetings in recent times, but happy to support if resurrected

**MKALC – happy to attend if invited**

**Clerks Forum – happy to attend if invited**

# landscaping

- Six 'devolved' landscape parishes in total (yellow) – agreements in place since 2014
- Landscaping services contract up for renewal / extension 2020
- Opportunity for parishes to take over delivery from 2020 (funded)
- Workshops, information, meetings, maps, funding, etc
- Twenty five parishes have expressed an interest in landscape service delivery (blue)



- Any questions or comments?

