

MEET YOUR TOWN COUNCIL TEAM



Cllr Terry Bloomfield



Cllr Hedley Cadd



Cllr Geraldine Collins



Cllr Paddy Collins



Cllr Pam Desorgher



Cllr Paul Hiron



Cllr Derrick Isham



Cllr Rob Lehmann



Cllr Gerry Loftus



Cllr Andy Mahi



Cllr Howard Mordue (Mayor)



Cllr Ruth Newall



Cllr Mike Smith



Cllr Pauline Stevens



Cllr Robin Stuchbury



Cllr Martin Try



Cllr Warren Whyte



Ms Paula Heath MILCM
Town Clerk



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2008

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR ...

The Buckingham Plan, which the Town Council launched recently (see inside), looks at how the town might develop. The government wants to build 250,000 more homes in the south east, and Buckingham is likely to have to find room for 1,000 of them over the next 20 years. We must ensure that planning for them also includes the necessary infrastructure.

We, the Town Council, have been talking to AVDC for some time about car parking problems in the town. AVDC owns Cornwall's Meadow car park, and want to hugely increase what we currently pay them to keep free parking. We may be hard pressed to maintain at least some free parking in our town, but we are also looking into extra parking, perhaps by having a second tier at Cornwall's Meadow.

Extra public toilets by the car park are now included in our plan to extend our Cornwall Meadow offices, and we await AVDC's agreement to our proposals. Hopefully, this project will be completed during 2010.

And finally, we are looking to hugely improve our parks – again, more details are inside this Newsletter.



Buckingham Plan

www.buckinghamplan.org.uk



The Buckingham Plan project was launched this summer with three public events in the town centre, two workshops, and a short questionnaire (on paper and online). This is a real chance to influence development and planning where it matters most - at the most local level.



Without a vision for the future, Buckingham could well become swamped between the expanding growth of Aylesbury and Milton Keynes.

The key issues that you identified in your questionnaire responses were:

- concern about the lack of parking
- the continued vitality of the town centre
- the lack of public transport and the quality of roads
- the lack of cycle ways
- the ever present risk of flooding

While collating the questionnaires, it was quite pleasing to read that nearly all of the replies thought Buckingham was a great place to live, despite there being a number of current concerns.

We are now working on the draft that will be published towards the end of the year. For further information, see our website: www.buckinghamplan.org.uk.

IMPROVING OUR PARKS

Buckingham is blessed with a rich and stimulating green space in and around the town, with a variety of river views, flora, trees and hedgerows. Over time, some of these have become a little tired, so a new Parks Policy will seek to improve the following seven key issues:

- **Access** including maps and signs
- **Landscape Quality** including careful planting, reflecting that some parks are formal, others less so
- **Facilities** like seats, picnic areas, cycle use, sport & play, dog control etc
- **Maintenance & Management** including regular tree and hedge work
- **Safety** particularly near water and in playgrounds, but also including control of anti-social behaviour
- **Natural & Cultural Heritage** to emphasise historic water meadows, industrial usage etc
- **Education & Health** including use as outdoor classrooms, themed trails, events to encourage more use etc



There is, of course, much more in the “detail” of the Parks Policy. Our immediate concerns are with the play areas, some of which have become very run-down. A professional audit has been commissioned, and more up to date equipment will be introduced as budgets allow. These may include multi-use play hubs and climbing walls as well as newer versions of traditional equipment.