



**A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR ...**

The economic climate has had a marked effect on the town centre in the last twelve months. We have seen a number of shops close and the Town Council, together with the retailers' association, is looking at initiatives to help encourage shoppers to come to the town centre. In the coming year we will continue to work with businesses in the town in any way we can to help publicise the town of Buckingham.

During the year, we have recruited a new Town Clerk, Anne Wilson. Anne has replaced Paula Heath, who had been our Town Clerk for 13 years and helped us achieve Quality Parish status. A new Assistant Town Clerk, Chris Wayman has also been appointed.

Our total precept for the year has had to rise significantly, for one year only, in order to meet costs associated with the Council office development including building new public toilets, a Community Room and offices.

We are an active Council. Although we are not very good at banging the drum about what we do, those who have attended the numerous events that we organise will realise that these do not just happen, but take time, organisation and funds to put on. This year, we will present the honorary Freedom of Buckingham to the 7<sup>th</sup> Rifles Territorial Army, combined with a Cadet Sunday, for the Buckinghamshire Army Cadets on the 10<sup>th</sup> May with a march through the town to a military band. This is aimed to show nationally what Buckingham is doing to support the Territorial Army and I will be glad to see many members of the public lining the route.



**Cllr Howard Mordue**  
Town Mayor 2008/2009

**Events Committee**

Chairman: Cllr Robin Stuchbury

The Events Committee remit is to make the town centre a pleasant place to come to, and to put on events for residents and visitors.

All events are aimed to strengthen our community, young and old; and contribute to making Buckingham an especially vibrant town. Many events are run in partnership with local groups and organisations.

Over the years, we have extended the number of planters and hanging baskets in the town centre to improve the general ambience.

The Events Committee worked on and contributed funding for the Buckingham Bag project, designed to cut plastic bag use.

With our partner authorities we are aiming to bring a coach park to the town - this will then

bring more trade from tourists eating and shopping in Buckingham.

Members support Fair Trade, and many shops now stock Fair Trade goods.

We also set up youth projects - last year, the Library window panels, this year a drama project - and will continue to do so.

The Committee also runs the markets. Last year a new subgroup was set up to look into how we can keep the markets viable and generate income for the Council. The markets are an important part of Buckingham town life.

**Finance & Administration Committee**

Chairman: Cllr Paddy Collins

Avid council watchers will have noticed that Buckingham Town Council is now holding its weekly meetings in a room graciously provided

by the University of Buckingham. This is because we need to use our existing council chamber as overflow office space for our four office-based staff. The old office adjacent to the council chamber had become woefully inadequate.

The present arrangements are temporary. The Council has well advanced plans to extend its existing site adjacent to the Community Centre. This will provide a larger Council Chamber and Community Room, Council Offices fit for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and much needed Public Toilets.

Finally I welcome on board our new Town Clerk, Mrs. Anne Wilson and our new Deputy Town Clerk, Mr. Chris Wayman who have both joined us recently.

### **Environment & Property Committee**

Chairman: Cllr Mike Smith

The Environment & Property Committee is responsible for oversight of the townscape and its surrounding parks and green spaces. By a process of regular audits, we have continued to keep a close eye on any work required in the town. If we find a problem, we refer it (as appropriate) to our own maintenance team, to the District or County Council, or to an approved contractor.

While continuing to work with the Friends of Brackley Road Cemetery, this year we set in motion plans to extend the burial area, and to continue other improvements in order to maintain a suitable place to remember loved ones.

Similarly, we have continued to work closely with BTCV and various hard-working "Friends" groups in order to maintain and improve our parks and open spaces. To help improve these valuable resources and protect the indigenous wildlife still further, we have devised a Parks Policy to guide long-term maintenance and development.

We have also set in place plans to improve the access to Chandos Park, and to thoroughly overhaul, update and extend most of the existing play provision both there and in Bourton Park and the Ken Tagg play area. Once again, we will be consulting widely before adding any new play provision.

In recent months we also consulted local residents about improved security at the Ken Tagg play area, and work on this will start soon.

Our plans to extend the cemetery, improve our parks and enhance our play equipment provision will, inevitably, be costly. We therefore plan to implement them in stages over the coming years, as funding becomes available.

### **Planning Committee**

Chairman: Cllr Warren Whyte

The Planning Committee has had very a busy year reviewing a wide variety of planning applications and responding to dozens of consultations.

We also hosted the Buckingham Plan project and we thank the hundreds of people who responded and took part in the drafting of the plan. The plan will be published in spring 2009 and will form part of the town's submission to Aylesbury Vale District Council to influence the forthcoming Local Development Framework (copies will be available to download for free on the website, and for purchase from the Town Council office). We believe that the town can take some managed growth, but it must be part of a strategic and planned vision with appropriate infrastructure to support the existing town and the new development. We are not convinced that the District Council and County Council have fully appreciated the impact of their forward plans and we will ensure that Buckingham's voice is heard in Aylesbury.

We are concerned at the number of large scale proposals being submitted in the District that are contrary to the existing Local Plan, and do not reflect the ambitions of the new Local Development Framework. The committee will robustly review and comment on these applications if they are not to Buckingham's advantage.



## Buckingham Town Council

### Summary of Accounts

Service Area	2007/2008 £	2008/2009 £	2009/20010 £ Estimated
<b>Income</b>			
Precept	309,671	383,123	526,944
Markets	33,210	28,872	31,400
Interest	9,396	4,767	2,000
Rental and Burial Income	18,345	112,453	13,600
Sponsorship	6,676	302	9,694
Devolved Services	0	900	15,000
Grants From Outside Bodies	10,000	0	0
Other		5,269	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>387,299</b>	<b>535,676</b>	<b>598,638</b>
<b>Less Expenditure</b>			
Finance and Administration	131,2890	175,941	215,671
Grants	10,450	9978	35,350
Annual Maintenance	16,887	47,897	3,900
Grounds Maintenance	132,163	89,872	221,410
Annual Events	39,165	27,463	43,472
Market Expenses	5,881	6,502	10,590
Planning	0	758	650
Projects Costs	9,030	61,327	138,300
Contingencies	90	1,193	20,000
Community Plan Expense	19,681	0	0
Other			0
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>(375,273)</b>	<b>(420,931)</b>	<b>(669,363)</b>
Balance at Start of the year	130,497	142,521	
Income over expenditure	12,024	114,745	
<b>Balance Year End</b>	<b>142,521</b>	<b>257,266</b>	

The Precept is the amount that the Town Council ask Aylesbury Vale District Council, as the Council Tax Billing Authority, to collect for us from the Council taxpayers of Buckingham to fund the activities and services of the Town Council.

As shown above, the Council's Precept for **2009/20010** was set at £598,638 which resulted in a **Town Council Tax** bill of **£121.54 per year at Valuation Band D** or **£2.34 per week per house**.

The percentage increase in the Council Tax for 2007/2008 was 23.8% and the percentage increase for 2009/2010 was 37.07%.



## Councillors Contact Details

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### **Buckingham Town Council Staff**

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**Deputy Town Clerk:** Christopher Wayman BAHons

**Clerical Assistant:** Katharine McElligott BSc

**Accounts Assistant:** Jodie Baughan

**Outdoors and Open Spaces:** Roy Calder

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## BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

### SPRING/SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2009

#### NEW TOWN MAYOR

Cllr. Howard Mordue, retiring Town Mayor presenting Cllr. Hedley Cadd with his chain of office as Town Mayor at the Annual meeting of the Council on 18th May 2009. Cllr. Mordue was elected Deputy Town Mayor.



#### THE TOWN MAYOR

Do you have a local event or celebration that you would like the Town Mayor to attend - please contact the Town Council office and speak to the Town Clerk who keeps his diary. The Mayor would be very happy to join you either just to be present, hand out prizes, make a speech or what ever else you may like him to do to assist your event to go with a swing.

#### MUSIC IN THE MARKET

In partnership with Buckingham Acoustic Club, the Town Council Events and Town Centre Committee organised Music in the Market Place on a gloriously hot Bank Holiday Sunday in May. Market Hill was full to the brim with families, young people and residents listening to local talent, some of whom were playing in front of a large audience for the first time. The event was headlined by The Scholars



and The Red Bullets. The crowd rocked and danced to the music until late into the night with the Red Bullets playing several encores!

#### MARKETS IN BUCKINGHAM

With the exception of the Farmers Market the markets are thriving here in Buckingham. That does not mean that the Town Council is complacent and, as part of their membership to the National Association of British Market Authorities (NABMA), has commissioned a Market Towns Health Check. NABMA will work with the Council and the market stall holders over the next few months to improve, enhance and generally consolidate our markets.



The Farmers Market needs considerable support in order to improve both the attendance by stallholders and shoppers alike. The Town Council feels that the market is almost in a "use it and sustain it" situation.

If you have any suggestions, the Town Clerk has recently been appointed as the markets Co-ordinator and can be contacted on 01280 816426

Street Market – Tuesday and Saturday in Market Hill 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Flea Market - Saturday in the Cattle Pens 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
Farmers Market -1st Tuesday of each month 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

## **FREEDOM PARADE**

Cllr. Howard Mordue organised a prestigious event in the town in May. On Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> May, Lt Gen Nick Parker of The Rifles regiment was presented with the Honorary Freedom of Buckingham. A service was held in St Peter and St Paul Church to present the Freedom Scroll in a box made by the Royal Latin School. This event also was held at the same time as the Buckinghamshire (The Rifles) Army Cadet Force held their Battalion Cadet Sunday.



Following the parade was a march past through the town by the Cadets, accompanied by the Waterloo Band of the Rifles. The salute was taken by Lt General Parker, the Mayor of Buckingham Cllr Howard Mordue, the Lord Lieutenant of Bucks Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, the High Sheriff Allan Westray and Colonel Mike Vince, commandant of the cadets.

Following the parade the cadets were then inspected in Cornwall's Meadow car park by Lt Gen Parker and a scroll of honour was presented to the Cadets by the Mayor of Buckingham.

Cllr Mordue, said: "It was a very proud moment in Buckingham's history. In more than 1,000 years no freedom has ever been given to a military unit and The Rifles have promised me that at a future date a parade will be held to exercise their right of honorary freedom."

In the Church the Town Council was presented with a gift of a bugle from The Rifles and afterwards a statue of two riflemen from the cadets.

## **YOUTH COUNCIL**

Buckingham Town Council is hoping to set up a youth council here in Buckingham, in the autumn, in conjunction with the local schools.

The Council is very aware that young people from Buckingham travel outside the immediate area to attend school and college and the criteria will be set to ensure that those young people also have the opportunity to be part of the future of this wonderful town. Young people and their views matter to the Town Council, and we are sure they are full of ideas that we would welcome. Further information can be obtained from the Deputy Town Clerk on 01280 816426.

## **COACH PARKING**

The Town Council is delighted that, through the Town Centre and Events Committee and Buckingham Partnership, coach parking has been secured at the Total Garage site opposite Tesco. New signage will be installed shortly on the site. We are delighted that the site owner has agreed to work with us, and hope that this will encourage more tourist visitors to the town to complement other local initiatives.

## **PLAY AREA IN CHANDOS PARK**

The play area in Chandos Park is in a very poor state of repair, exacerbated by the flooding in recent years. The Town Council's Environment and Property Committee has begun to work on its replacement, and has recently received designs for exciting new junior, toddler, and teenage areas. The Town Council is taking advice from Aylesbury Vale District Council on play value and value for money options. The Town Clerk and Cllr. Mike Smith have visited other play areas in the Vale to get some ideas of good practice. No decisions will be made, however, before residents, youngsters, access groups and other interested parties have been consulted.



## The Buckingham Plan 2008

A vision for a vibrant market town



The Buckingham Plan was launched earlier this year following consultation during the summer of 2008. The first stakeholder's meeting was held on 9 June to discuss how to progress many of the projects and ideas raised in the plan, and the Town Council was pleased at a very good turn out, including representatives from Aylesbury Vale District Council and Buckinghamshire County Council.

The meeting coincides with the District Council's launch of the Local Development Framework Core Strategies - a plan for future development throughout the Vale, and one that will have a huge impact on Buckingham and has so far ignored many of our concerns.

The Town Council will respond robustly to the proposals, making use of the Buckingham Plan to reinforce the aspirations of the town.

Download your FREE copy from [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

### DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR BUCKINGHAM

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SOUTH	Cllr. Hedley Cadd Cllr. Huw Rhys-Lewis	tel: 01280 814112 tel: 01280 817422

### COUNTY COUNCILLORS FOR BUCKINGHAM

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SOUTH	Cllr. Hedley Cadd	tel: 01280 814112

## BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL EVENTS 2009

DATE	TIME	EVENT	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup> July to Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> July	Various	Buckingham Festival Fortnight	Church and Radcliffe Centre mostly  Various  High Street and Market Place	First week – three classical concerts or recitals per day Second week – film, drama, music, sport, art, etc. Sunday 19 <sup>th</sup> Family Fun Day.
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> August	From 1pm	Band Jam	Bull Ring	Free open air music festival – local youth bands – noisy!
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September And Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	10.30am - midday	River Rinse	To be confirmed	With the help of Stowe Sub- Aqua Club, volunteers clear a stretch of the river of cones, bikes, etc. Wear wellies and old clothes.
Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> October	From 1pm	Charter Fair	Entire town centre (Market Square, Market Hill, High Street and North End Square)	Traditional fairground with big wheel, dodgems, etc. First hour of first fair free to disabled children & their carers – apply to office as below
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	From 2pm			
Saturday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	1pm	Best Dressed Guy competition	Outside the Old Gaol	Prizes for individual and group entrants
	6.30pm	Bonfire and Fireworks	Bourton Meadow paddock	Free firework display, and bonfire
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	10.30am	Remembrance Day Parade	From Community Centre to Church (and back 11.30am)	Parade of local organisations to War Memorial for service and back
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	From 9am	Continental Market	High Street	French theme
	From 6pm	Christmas Lights switch-on and Carols Round the Tree	Outside the old Gaol	Start Christmas off in the traditional way. Santa often comes by as well.
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	c.11am	Christmas Parade	Chandos Road – High Street and back	Floats, majorettes, bands, etc. This will be the 25 <sup>th</sup> Parade.
	11.30 – 2pm	Community Fundraising Fair	Community Centre	Local charities opportunity to raise funds and awareness and shoppers opportunity to get something a little different. Mulled wine. Marionette show for the children

Further details on all the above can be obtained from the Town Council on 01280 816426 or e mail [deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:deputytownclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

Information also available on [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)  
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