

# Buckingham Town Councillors

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# Buckingham Town Matters

Autumn 2011

## BUCKINGHAM NORTH

## BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

Cllr. Tony Chan	01280 816517	Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815336
Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823006	Cllr. Hedley Cadd	01280 814112
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812711	Cllr. Geraldine Collins	01280 823006
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813770	Cllr. Paul Hiron	01280 812072
Cllr. Rob Lehmann	01280 817331	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824624
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816562	<b>Cllr. Mike Smith Mayor</b>	<b>01280 822215</b>
Cllr. Howard Mordue	0845 347 9320	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824285
Cllr. Ruth Newell	01280 815229	Cllr. Warren Whyte	01280 820531
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816202		

## Contact the Town Council at:



### Buckingham Town Council

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Office open: Monday – Thursday 10am – 5pm Friday 9am – 3pm



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Buckingham Charter Fair  
(courtesy of Mr. Brian Simonds)



in this  
issue

town  
development

how we spend  
your money

buckingham  
fringe

best kept  
village

localism bill

music in  
the market

Thoroughly MODERN  
Traditional  
BUCKINGHAM



Mike Smith and Marjorie Howard

## A message from Mayor Mike

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The forthcoming Localism Bill will produce a lot more work, but we welcome this as it should give us a greater say on how Buckingham develops in the future. Housing growth in Moreton Road and Bridge Street, the massive development south of the by-pass, and outline proposals in Tingewick Road all have implications for our town infrastructure. The impact of 1,000-plus households will have big implications for all services, including local day care (about

which there are still uncertainties), our Fire Service (which is being “reviewed”), and our already congested roads. There are areas of Buckingham that have no play provision for our youngsters (a sad reflection on our planners); we shall need more burial space as Brackley Road Cemetery reaches full capacity; and demand for allotments is also increasing. Local discontent about the car parking is still rife, as our District Council seeks to further milk this cash cow despite fears that the introduction of charges has affected local trade.

There is, however, plenty of good news. During the past year, we have received slightly improved economic development funding from our District Council. Mainly centred on our town branding exercise, the roll-out of the Thoroughly Modern Traditional Buckingham brand will help attract more visitors to our historic town – and buoyant trading conditions and new business opportunities can only be good for us all. Hopefully, this trickle of funds will become a steady stream, and we shall receive a more balanced share of resources rather than see it all go to Aylesbury. The past year has seen a closer working relationship between town and district officers, which can only pay long-term dividends for Buckingham. The fact that two long-standing Town Councillors, Robin Stuchbury and Howard Mordue, are now also District Councillors will, I am sure, improve the political decision-making balance in Buckingham’s favour.

Our Tourist Information Centre, now funded by Buckingham Town Council and managed by Tourism South East, continues to offer local advice to visitors, newcomers and residents alike. It also provides a useful National Express coach and theatre ticket booking service, and holds tickets to all major local events. Fans of the “beautiful game” will be delighted to hear that they will also shortly have tickets for a whole host of events leading up to the second MK Dons Buckingham Big Day in February.

If I were a cynic, I might suggest that The Big Society is about getting volunteers to do the work previously undertaken by paid professionals. In Buckingham, we are already blessed with a small army of volunteers who run many of the things we both need and enjoy. My three charities – Project Street Life, the Citizens’ Advice Bureau and Buckingham Old Gaol Trust are all run by volunteers, as are around a hundred other local bodies. Where would we be without such people?

Although the general economic climate remains unfavourable, your Town Council continues to provide a wide range of entertainments for the enjoyment of us all – including the splendid new Buckingham Fringe in June, which was a resounding success. We have managed this and increased our staff to better meet our statutory responsibilities, while still keeping your Council Tax at the 2009 rate. Our office move to the Buckingham Centre now also means that you can call on all three councils under one roof.

Finally, do have a look at the invitation to let us know what you think, which appears on the back page of this edition of Buckingham Town Matters. Do tell us what YOU think, or let us know what you would like us to do. Your Town Councillors really do welcome your letters and emails.

Mike Smith  
Buckingham Town Mayor

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## New staff



Samuel Dix

In order to deal with the greatly increased workload, including changes that the forthcoming Localism Bill will bring, The Town Council has taken on some additional staff.



Amanda Brubaker

**Samuel Dix** is our new Town Plan Officer – a post we have created so that we can lead the way on planning for housing and employment



Liz Campbell

development in the town; **Amanda Brubaker** will run the many events we organise each year;

**Liz Campbell** will support our committee structure; and **Louise Bird** will carry forward many of our administrative functions.



Louise Bird

We have also added **Matthew Shoemith** to our grounds maintenance and open spaces team.



Matthew Shoemith

Not all of these are full-time posts, but they will enable our Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk to concentrate on the many legal issues we have to undertake.











