



Buckingham TownMatters

Autumn 2013

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Thoroughly MODERN
Traditional
BUCKINGHAM





A Message from Mayor Ruth

Mayor Making was held on 24th May and was a

lovely evening celebrated with family, friends, the many townspeople who work hard for our town in different ways and the many dignitaries from outside Buckingham that attended. I thank my fellow Town Councillors for electing me for a second year as Mayor and **Lisa O'Donoghue** as Deputy Mayor. I reported that I had attended 118 events over the year and want to thank **Robert**, my Mayor's Consort, **Mayoress Lara**, and Mayor's Chaplain **the Reverend David Hensley** for all their support. For my second year Robert continues as my Consort and **Rachel** takes over as my Mayoress. I was delighted that the Town Council made 2 new 'Friends of Buckingham' – **Ros Hutt and Stephen Townsend** – for their many years of excellent voluntary service to Buckingham.

We have had so many excellent events in Buckingham, with **the Fringe, Summer Festival** and the **Ecological Society** centenary wildlife events, thank you to all involved in organising and entertaining us. 'Annie' was superb in all ways, so special thanks to **Lionel Weston** for putting on such a terrific show. It was also lovely to welcome dancers over from **Mouvoux**, our twin town in France, and they put on a wonderful show together with dancers from **Buckingham Primary** and **The Buckingham School**.

Many thanks to all involved including the dance teachers, host families and the Twinning Association. We were also pleased to welcome football teams from Mouvoux and **Neukirchen Vluyn** as part of the International Football Tournament excellently organised by **Moretonville Football Club**, many thanks again.

It's 6 years since Buckingham became a **Fairtrade Town**, and I want to thank colleagues on the fairtrade steering committee for all their hard work. We celebrate this with coffee, cakes and fairtrade stalls in **the Old Gaol on 21st September between 10am and 12 noon** – please do call in.

Ruth Newell Mayor of Buckingham July 2013



Photos courtesy of Brian Simonds

Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan UPDATE • UPDATE • UPDATE • UPDATE



The Town Council would like to thank everyone who has responded to The Changing Face of Buckingham questionnaires or attended one of our consultation events to date. Our last event was at the Old Gaol on Civic Day on Saturday 22nd June where the Town Plan Officer and Town Councillors were on hand to answer questions about the future development of Buckingham and the role of the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan in the planning of that future. The Buckingham Society kindly lent a selection of photographs depicting Buckingham Past and Present which proved to be a popular talking-point.

The responses indicate that the character of Buckingham as an historic market town is prized as is its town centre and that our green spaces are highly valued.

Large out of town housing developments would not be welcomed; there is great concern about affordability of homes as well as their design and suitability.

Infrastructure should grow with the town and not follow on. Flood prevention and flood plain

preservation are priorities as well as adequate surface water drainage.

The canal area and the area around St Rumbold's Well were favoured for further development as recreational green spaces.

Green commuting routes for walkers and cyclists should be improved.

A need to provide additional and replacement industrial areas to provide and retain employment opportunities is acknowledged.

WHAT NEXT?

The next stage in the process is to seek further consultation on the sites that have emerged so far and the technical site assessment carried out by the Town Council. The next public consultation will be an open event for developers and landowners to present their proposals for the identified sites to the people of Buckingham. Feedback will be gathered at this event. From this process of consultation, the draft plan will be prepared for approval by the Town Council.

It is hoped that the agreed plan will be put to public referendum next year. This plan will determine the shape of Buckingham until 2031. If approved and adopted the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan will not be an advisory document – it will have legal status and be used to determine planning applications. >>>

For further information, please contact the **Buckingham Town Plan Officer, Sheena McMurtrie** on **01280 816426** or mail to **townplan@buckingham-tc.gov.uk** and also see the existing documentation on **www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk**

●●●●●●●●●●
Date for your Diary

WHAT?

BNDP Development Vision Roadshow

Developers and land owners will be setting out their ideas and visions of what Buckingham will need in the future. Come along and give us your views – these will help shape the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan.

WHERE?

Buckingham Community Centre

WHEN?

Saturday 14th September
9am-3.30pm – just drop in

MORE INFO?

www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk
or Buckingham Town Plan Officer
on 01280 816426 or
townplan@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

EVENTS EVENTS EVENTS

The first of this year's **River Rinses** takes place on **Sunday 15th September** and the second will be on **Sunday 6th October**. **Stowe Sub Aqua Group** will once again be in the water pulling out anything they may find. In the past they have recovered tyres, bicycles, shopping trolleys and a horse's skull! If you would like to be part of the volunteer team, please contact Buckingham Town Council on **01280 816426**.

This year's **Charter Fair** will be here on **Saturday 12th October**, and then again **Saturday 19th October**.

The **Best Dressed Guy Competition** will be held outside the **Old Gaol** on **Saturday 2nd November**. In the evening, come along to **Bourton Park** and enjoy the free **Bonfire & Firework Display**.

All photos courtesy of Brian Simonds



BUCKINGHAM TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL

Buckingham Town Youth Council has been busy since the last update planning events for this Summer/Autumn.



Photo courtesy of Ben Peat

On Saturday 22nd June 2013, the Youth Council put on Buckingham's very first **Skate Park Competition**, an event that was requested by skate park users last year.

We hired a company called **Team Extreme** who ran the day for us; they brought their P.A. system, prizes, music, spare safety equipment, 3 judges and their technical know-how, something we don't have!

Around 20 young people took part paying £1 to enter with the biggest group of attendees being BMX bikers, then scooterists, then skateboarders. Our aim for the competition wasn't to make money out of young people, but have an event that was accessible to all.

We were pleased with the event and grateful for the thanks we received from young and old who really enjoyed the day.

The only downside to the event was 2 young men (aged 18+) who decided to

graffiti a ramp with house paint; despite being asked several times to stop due to the competition taking place, they refused.

Thankfully **Ken**, a Town Council employee, agreed to get the jet washer and then spent time cleaning the ramp and sweeping the area clean. If the ramp couldn't have been cleaned the whole competition would have had to be cancelled losing us £1,000, wasting months of hard work and disappointing a lot of young people – ironic as one of their friends won a prize in the bike category.

The Youth Council would like to express their deepest thanks to the **Deputy Town Clerk, Mrs. Anita Simonds** and **Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue** for helping us organise the event, to **Amanda Brubaker** for her hard work on the day, to **Ken** and the **Town Clerk Chris** for loaning us the barriers and gazebo and cleaning the ramp and to **Kelly Day** for bringing her **Rumble Tums** van keeping everyone fed and watered!

NGE*BUCKINGHAMFRINGE*BU

Another Successful Buckingham Fringe

This year's Buckingham Fringe was packed with everything from a production of **Annie** to a **Ghost Walk** around Buckingham with **Ed Grimdsdale**.

The **Glee Club UK Buckingham** opened the week outside the Old Gaol, with versions of favourite rock and pop songs.

and would tap the customer on the shoulder. A second date had to be added to the calendar of events, as the walk has proved so popular.



Sunday 16th June Buckingham Town Council welcomed comedian **Mark Steel** to Buckingham. Mark entertained a sold out audience with facts that he had found out about Buckingham during his research of the town and after spending most of the day here.

For the third year running **Villiers Hotel** served cream teas and music was provided by the **Keith Templeman Quartet**.

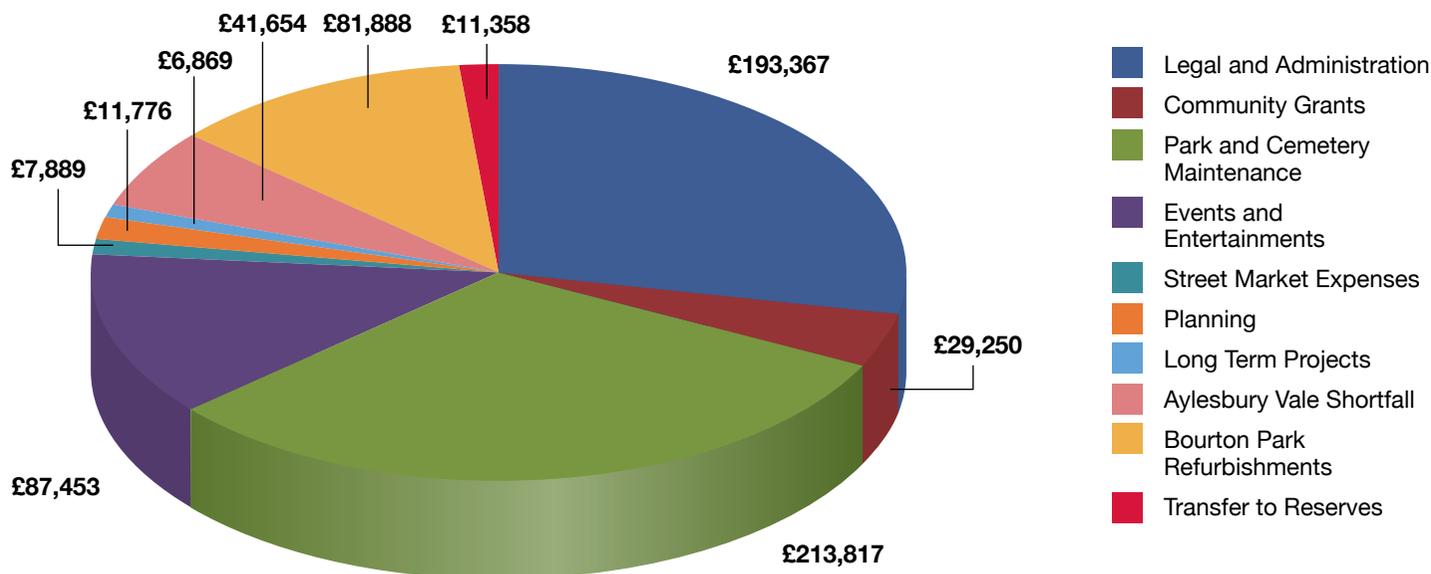
The **Oxford Fiddle Group** were back by popular demand at the Old Town Hall and the audience enjoyed songs and tunes from England and Scotland, as well as from Ireland and the USA. Also back by popular demand was **Ed Grimdsdale's Ghost Walk** around Buckingham, where the tour heard stories about the Quaker lady that appears in the men's toilets in Prezzo's

Buckingham's Youth Council teamed up with **Team Extreme** to bring a **Skate Park Competition** to the youth of Buckingham. The event was open to all skateboarders, scooter and BMX riders from ages 11-18 yrs. There were 17 entrants and prizes were awarded by Team Extreme to the winners. Other events taking place during the fringe were a **Twinning Dance Event**, which was organised by the **Buckingham Twinning Association**. This involved youth from Mouvaux, France and dancers from **Buckingham Primary School** and **The Buckingham School**. During the evening the Twinning Association arranged a Ceilidh.

The **Youth Project** held their annual Arts and Drama project at Buckingham School and this year's theme was 'Local History'. Groups from **The Royal Latin School** and **The Buckingham School** joined together to tell the audience about the World War 2 plane that hit Mursley water tower as it was trying to land in thick fog. Another story was about the fire of 1725 that struck part of Buckingham.

Buckingham Civic Day took place on Saturday and also **Moretonville International Football Tournament** got underway on the last 2 days.

Where the money came from – and how we spend it



Following up notices in the local press, we are including details of how to apply for a grant from Buckingham Town Council here as well.



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL GRANTS 2014/2015

Applications are invited for grant assistance for the financial year 2013/2014, for projects and activities beneficial to the people of Buckingham.

Successful applicants may be required to make a report at the Annual Town Meeting.

Application forms, accompanied by copies of your latest audited accounts, must be received by

Noon on Friday 15th November 2013.

Application forms available from:

**Town Clerk
Buckingham Town Council
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham
MK18 1JP**

Tel/Fax: 01280 816 426

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

INCOME	2011/2012	2012/2013	EXPENDITURE Adjustment after allocation of staff time	2011/2012	2012/2013
	Precept	£542,426		£538,546	Legal & Administration
Markets	£28,768	£25,561	Community Grants	£41,524	£29,250
Interest	£1,368	£3,302	Parks and Cemetery Maintenance	£233,335	£213,817
Rental and Burial Income	£14,891	£18,508	Events and Entertainments	£75,466	£87,453
Sponsorship	£1,100	£8,851	Street Market Expenses	£9,048	£7,889
Devolved Services	£14,025	£4,800	Planning	£11,776	£11,776
Other	£22,366	£10,753	Long term projects	£24,974	£6,869
Bourton Park Refurbishment Grants	£0	£75,000	Aylesbury Vale Shortfall	£32,167	£41,654
			Bourton Park refurbishment	£0	£81,888
TOTAL INCOME	£624,944	£685,321	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£593,559	£673,963
			Transfer to reserves	£31,385	£11,358
			Total	£624,944	£685,321

NOTES

The Precept is the amount that the Town Council asks Aylesbury Vale District Council (AVDC), our Council Tax Billing Authority, to collect on our behalf from the tax payers of Buckingham to fund the services and activities.

Your Councillors



Cllr. Terry Bloomfield - My aim is working with other devoted councillors is to ensure Buckingham remains a Quality Town to live in and for others to visit.



Cllr. Howard Mordue - Town Councillor since 1983 and twice Mayor. Member F&A and Events Committees. I am involved with several charities including Healthwatch Bucks, BACAB and Swan Community Hub. District Councillor Buckingham South.



Cllr. Hedley H. Cadd - Councillor since 1995 and has also been a District & County Councillor. Chairman of Buckingham & Gawcott Charitable Trust 1998 to 2011 and also of Aylesbury Vale North Sports Council.



Cllr. Ruth Newell - Passionate about serving the Community in Buckingham and Environmental issues. Town councillor for 22 years. School Governor and active within Fairtrade steering group, Buckingham Community Wildlife Project, & Transition Buckingham.



Cllr. Geraldine Collins - Chairman, Finance, Admin and Personnel committee. I have overseen budgets and administrative issues, to benefit our community and will always be available to hear your concerns.



Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue - Town Councillor since 2011 & currently Deputy Mayor and also vice chair of Finance, Admin & Personnel. I have taken over all youth projects; started and continue to support the Youth Council.



Cllr. Paddy Collins - I have been a Councillor since 2003 and was mayor from 2005 to 2007.



Cllr. Mike Smith - Working with a number of partner organisations to make Buckingham a destination of choice that is economically sustainable, as well as being attractive and safe for residents and visitors alike.



Cllr. Jon Harvey - Co-opted June 2011. Loves Buckingham. Working for a world in which everyone has dreams and ambitions, and the resources to achieve them. Labour party activist: listener and challenger. Tweets: @Cllr/JonSHarvey



Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark - Respecting your views on future development, and working to protect Buckingham's heritage, enhance our parks and open spaces, support our town centre events, and campaigning for better access for all.



Cllr. Paul Hirons - I've been on BTC for 6 years now. I represent BTC on Buckingham General Charities, the Buckingham & Ousel Internal Drainage Board, and the North Bucks Parishes Planning Consortium.



Cllr. Robin Stuchbury - Continuously working to produce new and innovative events. Working closely with officers to meet all on-going legal requirements. Will continue to work to maintain this throughout the year.



Cllr. Derek Isham - I have served as a member of every committee. Whilst Mayor I had the privilege of officially greeting Her Majesty the Queen on her visit to the Town.



Cllr. Martin Try - A Town Councillor since 2007 ensuring Buckingham stays a great place to live, work or visit. I support the council behind the scenes with its IT and web site.



Cllr. Rob Lehmann - Changed the way the Council's street market works resulting in a profitable operation, reducing council tax. Fought consistently for free parking - charges to come will seriously damage the town.



Cllr. Warren Whyte - Buckingham based chartered architect, active in numerous local charities, including trustee of the Old Gaol. Twice elected to the town council, and since May, also a county councillor.



Cllr. Andy Mahi - I am an independent member of Buckingham Town Council. I have lived in Buckingham for over 20 years. I facilitate the Fireworks and Bonfire Event in Bourton Park.

Councillor	Ward	Full Council	Planning	Tree s/cttee	TC&E	Xmas lights	Fringe Group	FA&P	Personnel s/cttee	Comm. Strategy	EP&H
Bloomfield	South	•		•	•	•	•	•			•
Cadd	South	•			•		•	•			•
Collins, G	South	•			•	•		•			
Collins, P	North	•			•			•			•
Harvey	North	•	•				•	•	•	•	•
Hirons	South	•	•	•				•		•	•
Isham	North	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	•
Lehmann	North	•						•			•
Mahi	North	•	•		•						•
Mordue	North	•						•			
Newell	North	•	•	•	•		•	•	•	•	•
O'Donoghue	South	•	•		•	•		•	•	•	•
Smith	South	•	•		•			•		•	•
Strain-Clark	North	•	•	•	•					•	•
Stuchbury	South	•	•		•	•	•	•	•		•
Try	North	•	•					•		•	•
Whyte	South	•	•								•
Totals		17	8	4	12	5	6	14	6	6	14

M - Mayor	C - Chair	s/cttee - Sub committee	FA&P - Finance, Admin & Personnel	EP&H - Environment, Property & Health
	VC - Vice chair	DM - Deputy Mayor	TC&E - Town Centre & Events	Comm - Communication

The Spread of the HiMOs



Houses in Multiple Occupation (HiMOs) are properties where several families or non-related people live. Properties containing more than 6 people/rooms require planning permission, whereas Environmental Health define a HiMO as having 3 or more individuals.

Houses in Multiple Occupation (HiMOs) are properties where several families or non-related people live. Properties containing more than 6 people/rooms require planning permission, whereas Environmental Health define a HiMO as having 3 or more individuals. Buckingham, like most other university towns, has seen increasing numbers of HiMOs which can create problems for neighbouring properties as well as reducing the amount of council tax payable. Their growth is perhaps understandable as they provide landlords with a way to maximise property rentals.

So - are HiMOs much of a problem? Apart from reducing available housing stock for families, they reduce the amount of properties subject to council tax. Students are often exempt from paying council tax, whereas a registered HiMO attracts charges payable by the property owner. By not attracting council tax, unregistered HiMOs cause others to pay more in order to raise the same amount. The Town Council's experience is also that they generate more vehicular traffic which leads to parking problems, can lead to uncollected waste and

general "untidiness", and have been the source of loud music late at night.

The problem is that nobody knows how many HiMOs there are. Your Town Council has suggested that HiMOs be subject to an Article 4 Direction (a legal device requiring planning consent for changing a house from a normal dwelling to a HiMO). Aylesbury Vale District Council is reluctant to go down this road, or to compile a register of HiMOs unless they contain 6 or more people. Similarly, they have not followed-up the licensing by Environmental Health option although this would be cost-neutral as the landlord would pay a licensing fee. They did agree over a year ago to look further into the matter, but nothing has transpired to date.

In the Town Council's view, there needs to be some degree of registration and/or regulation to ensure that the total numbers of HiMOs are both known and contained; to ensure that nearby residents do not suffer loss of peace and quiet; and to ensure that existing council tax precepts are preserved. But what do you think? Drop us a line and let us know.

FIREWORKS: THE LAW

Just a reminder as we approach 5th November (Bonfire Night).

You must not set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am, except on certain occasions, eg midnight on Bonfire night. Please respect your neighbourhood and please be mindful of the fact that pets find fireworks very stressful.

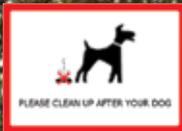
The law also says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including Sparklers) in the streets or other public places.

SPARKLERS

All fireworks contain combustible chemicals that burn very hot in order to produce the effect we all enjoy. Sparklers are no exception – not only are they exceedingly hot while they burn, but the wire core can become white-hot and retain its heat for a long time after the sparkling has died down. Sparklers are seen by many as a "safe" firework, but they cause as many accidents as "proper" fireworks – particularly serious burns to younger children. Not only that, but the discarded wire core is a danger to dogs and other animals, and is very difficult to pick up after the firework display has ended. It is for these reasons that your Town Council ask that you **please DO NOT bring ANY sparklers to the firework display in Bourton Park this year.** Please ONLY enjoy sparklers at home. Many thanks.

Don't forget to come along and join us in Bourton Park Saturday 2nd November. Food & drink will be available from 6.30pm, fireworks display is at 7pm.

DOGS IN BUCKINGHAM'S PARKS



The Town Council takes pride in these open spaces and wants to see as many people enjoy these green amenities as possible. Unfortunately we have recently received a number of negative reports regarding dogs in the parks – specifically Bourton and Chandos Park.

The Town Council asks that dog owners take extra care to keep their dogs under control or on a lead when young children are around; what you may see as your dog playing, to a toddler a dog running towards them at eye level may well be very frightening.

Signs have been put up in Bourton Park and Chandos Park to encourage people to keep their dogs under control especially near the play areas; we welcome feedback if park users see owners not following this simple request and let's not forget that Bourton Park has three large paddock areas which are for letting dogs off lead to exercise.

With all park users in mind we want to tell the small minority of dog owners

that don't pick up after their dogs to 'Bag it and Bin it' using one of the 33 dog bins around the town and parks, or if that isn't possible to double bag it and put it in a litter bin or of course take it home to dispose of it. Park users have reported to us that a significant increase in dog mess is being left behind. This isn't only unpleasant for everyone to see; it is also a health risk especially to young children, it can lead to Toxocariasis a disease which causes serious illness and, if left untreated, can result in permanent loss of vision.

Dog owners are also encouraged to get their dogs vaccinated for Roundworms (speak to your vet for more details). Letting your dog foul in public is illegal and you can be fined up to £1000 for the offence.

Buckingham Town Councillors

BUCKINGHAM NORTH

Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813 770
Cllr. Rob Lehmann	01280 817 331
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562
Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Ms. Ruth Newell - Mayor	01280 815 229
Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202

Mr Christopher Wayman (Town Clerk)

BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336
Cllr. Hedley Cadd	01280 814 112
Cllr. Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Paul Hirons	01280 812 072
Cllr. Mrs Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824 624
Cllr. Mike Smith	01280 822 215
Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Warren Whyte	01280 820 531

01280 816 426

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckinghamshire County Council	0845 3 70 80 90
Highways on Call	0845 2 30 28 82
Aylesbury Vale District Council	01296 58 58 58
Buckingham Winslow & District Citizens Advice Bureau	01280 81 67 07
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 82 30 20
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 82 35 84
Thames Valley Police	101
NHS Urgent Care	111
Floodline	0845 988 1188
Samaritans	01908 66 77 77
ChildLine	0800 11 11

You can email us at or just drop us a line at the address below. We look forward to hearing from you: **Town Council Office, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP**
Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk



Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/pages/Buckingham-Town-Council/222358454517086

Buckingham Town Council does not endorse or sanction any other materials, products or advertisements which may be delivered together in or at the same time as our Buckingham Town Matters.

EVENTS DIARY 2013



SEPTEMBER

Sun 15th	River Rinse
Fri 20th	Open Mic Night (Youth Event)
Sat 21st	Fairtrade Coffee Morning

OCTOBER

Sun 6th	River Rinse
Sat 12th	Charter Fair
Sat 19th	Charter Fair

NOVEMBER

Sat 2nd	Bonfire & Fireworks; Buckingham Acoustic in the Market
Sun 10th	Remembrance Day Parade
Sat 30th	Christmas Lights & Carols

DECEMBER

Sat 14th	Continental Market; Community Fair Christmas Parade
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FEBRUARY 2014

Sat 22nd/ Sun 23rd	Food Fair
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Please find further details inside or online:
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/events/events.html

your views count...

Buckingham Town Matters is produced by Buckingham Town Council in order to provide you with a taste of what keeps Councillors and staff busy. But this is also an invitation for you to tell us what you think of what we do and what you think we should be doing. We are all working together to make Buckingham an even better place, so please let us know:

- what you think we should carry on doing
- what you think we should stop doing, or do less of
- what you think we should start doing, or do a lot more of

**Just a reminder... all Town Council meetings are open to the public.
You are invited to come along and give us your views**