

Buckingham Example TownMatters



A Message from Mayor Ruth

Hello,

There has been a lot of controversy over the changes to parking charges and we need to make sure our views are taken into account by AVDC during this trial. The Town Council has always been a keen supporter of keeping free parking, and we did have an alternative option that we put to the District Council retaining the free first hour, and we remain committed to this option.

I've been pleased to be on the judging panel of **Buckingham in Bloom** and all winners received garden vouchers and certificates. The first prize winner had a cup, with the Community Garden winner having a shield. We chose 3 worthy winners, very different gardens, but all three very colourful – well done to all winners at **Meadow Gardens (1st)**, **Paynes Court (2nd) and Lenborough Close (3rd)**, and those that were highly commended: Western Avenue, Addington Road and Fishers Field. In addition the new communal garden at **Options**, next to the Buckingham Centre, Verney Close,



won the Community Garden section with their lovely communal gardens and Payne's Court coming second; view through the archway by Masonic House surgery.

Our **Town Clerk** and **Town Plan Officer** have been working hard on writing up our **Neighbourhood Plan**, and I want to thank all of you who have contributed to it, we'll be consulting on the final version soon.

I hope to see many of you at events over the next few weeks with the Christmas lights switch-on and Carols round the Christmas Tree on Saturday 30th November, and the Christmas Parade on Saturday 14th December, then on Saturday 1st February 2014 we have the MK Dons Big Day, and I hope many of you will take the opportunity of the reduced ticket prices for those living in MK18 to pop along and see the MK Dons in action. There's also our Food Fair on 22nd/23rd February in the Community Centre. Cornwall's Meadow.

Ruth Newell

October 2013

The changing face of Buckingham – part 9



Pre-Submission Consultation

What's happening?

The Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan will be laid before the Town Council for approval in November.

It is the product of much consultation with the people of Buckingham and stakeholder groups within the community as well as more technical research. The policies have to be in general conformity with the Vale of Aylesbury Plan and also with the **National Planning Policy Framework**, so there are some limitations as to what can be in the Plan, as allocations made in the Vale of Aylesbury Plan have to be accepted so for instance the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan cannot say that there will be no new houses built in the area until after 2031. What the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan can do is say where the houses will be built, how many per development and when during the period covered by the Plan.

Why is it important to me?

If the Plan is adopted, the process for which is set out below, its policies will have to be followed in deciding planning applications—so it is really important that it reflects the wishes of the people of Buckingham as to what they want for their historic market town in the years running up to 2031.

What happens next?

The Plan is now entering the Pre-Submission Consultation period, when the people of Buckingham can give their views on the actual Plan and amendments can be made as a result of this process. The Plan will then be laid before Buckingham Town Council for approval for submission to AVDC and then submitted by AVDC to an independent examiner. If the examiner

approves the Plan, it will then be subject to a public referendum on a date determined by AVDC.

What can I do?

The Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan can be viewed at the Buckingham Library and on Buckingham Town Council Website. If you can make time to take a look at it and give us your views, it will add to the valuable contributions that have already been made to shape Buckingham's future.

Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan Pre-Submission Feedback – what do you think?

- 1) What do you like about the Plan?
- 2) What do you not like about the Plan?
- 3) Anything else you would like to add?

It would be really helpful to demonstrate the extent of the consultation if you felt able to supply the following information but there is no requirement to do so.

Your postcode

Your age

You can record your views online at www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk or post your form in the box at the Buckingham Town Council's Office at Verney Close; or send it to Buckingham Town Plan Officer, Buckingham Town Council, The Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham MK18 1JP.

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BUCKINGHAM TOWN YOUTH COUNCIL

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



The Youth Council has just elected its new Chair and Vice Chair for the following 12 months (details in the next edition). A massive thanks has to go to Clir. Shannon Wheeler who has been a fantastic Chairperson, helping with the agendas, minutes and running every meeting, where keeping everyone on topic is no mean feat!

The Youth Council had plans to run an Open Mic Night in September, but due to lack of participants it has been postponed till Christmas 2013, so if you're in a band or you are a soloist and you feel like taking part, please email us at

BuckinghamTownYouthCouncil@gmail.com or you can send us a pm via our Facebook page (just search for Buckingham Town Youth Council). The event is completely free to enter but there will be a small charge for audience members, then if successful any money made can go toward hiring the building for another event.

We have had representation on a Multi-Agency group, who have met consistently throughout the year preparing activities to put on during the summer holidays. This was mainly to pick up on any bored young people but unfortunately they must have all been asleep as we mainly got under 10's with their parents, which was fine as everyone enjoyed themselves, but we'll need a different plan for next year!

If you are passionate about fighting issues young people face then why not join the Youth Council?

There are 5 seats free for students of the **Buckingham School** to take-up and 2 remain for the **Royal Latin** (7 seats were allocated to both schools), if you go to school elsewhere but you live in the town then you can also apply. Just send us an email or pm us on Facebook and we'll explain what you need to do.



ACCESSIBLE BUCKINGHAM



Buckingham is not naturally the most accessible town! Difficult gradients, high kerbs, listed buildings, conservation areas...

Buckingham Town Council aims to comply with the 2010 Equality Act, by removing barriers which prevent some people, whether through physical disability, sensory problems or for any other reason, accessing the services that others take for granted. Even healthy young parents pushing prams can find our town's narrow pavements challenging.

Your town councillors keep a watching

brief. We aim to keep pavements clear of unnecessary obstacles and advise where dropped kerbs are needed. We regularly inspect our property - parks, Railway Walk, the Cemetery - to ensure paths are in good order and there are sufficient seats. We endeavour to ensure our events are held in accessible venues.

And of course we listen to you to discover any issues we miss.

Other help if you have mobility problems:

Cornwall's Meadow car park provides a generous number of disabled parking spaces, though no accessible public conveniences as yet!

AVDC taxi token scheme for those with no car who can't use public transport. For details phone AVDC on **01296 585858** or visit the council offices in Verney Close.

Shopmobility in Cornwall's Meadow loans motorised buggies and manual wheelchairs. Open Tuesdays 9.30 – 3.30 and Saturdays 9 – 1, when the Manager is on hand, or phone **07738 314027** during office hours.

Aylesbury Vale Dial-A-Ride a door-to-door minibus service for those who can't access public transport. Specially adapted vehicles operate throughout the Vale every weekday 8 – 5, bookable 48 hours in advance, and cover hospital appointments outside the Vale. Annual membership £10. Fares based on distance travelled. AVDC Taxi Tokens accepted. See www.dialaride.org.uk, email root@ dialaride.org.uk or phone 01296 330088.

Buckingham and Winslow Access for All

This group, run by people with disabilities, conducts access audits throughout the town. For more details contact **Secretary Ed Grimsdale 01280 815758** or email **edgrimsdale@gmail.com**.

BUCKINGHAM OLD GAOL & TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE



As most townsfolk will know, Buckingham's iconic **Old Gaol** houses our **Museum** and **Visitor Information Centre** – both of which are supported by the Town Council.

Old Gaol Trustees are grateful for its annual grant to help with maintenance of the Grade 2* listed building and the museum that it houses. Run entirely by volunteers, and featuring several "hands-on" activities for youngsters, the many display areas based in the former gaol cells are frequently updated with new exhibits, so it is well worth a visit if you haven't been for a while. The Museum Shop sells a range of books and memorabilia about Buckingham and the surrounding area, as well as traditional children's toys and pre-read books.

The Visitor Information Centre is another success story since it became managed by **Tourism South East** and fully-funded by your Town Council a couple of years ago, when AVDC suddenly withdrew its funding. In June and July this year alone, the helpful staff dealt with **1,613 visitors** from the MK18 post code area, a further **2,847** from further afield in the UK, and **390 overseas visitors.** In fact, their customer numbers seem to be growing at a faster rate than their counterpart in Aylesbury (which is still funded by AVDC). They also sell a range of quality local goods and souvenirs.

New Staff Buckingham Town Council are pleased to welcome Christopher Robson to the team.

Christopher is joining the Town Council as the **Deputy Town Clerk.** His responsibilities will include overseeing the successful Buckingham Town Markets, aspects of the Town Council finance and liaising with Buckingham Town Youth Council.





The historic town markets are a staple of Tuesdays and Saturdays in the centre of the town. They help create a welcoming environment and highlight to those passing through the town what a vibrant and busy area we are. The markets complement the shopping in our town. They enable residents and visitors to pick up a variety of goods, including fresh fish, fruit & veg, house and garden plants and general household items. In addition we also have a number of traders who provide a wider range of goods, including clothing, rugs, bread and cakes.

On a Saturday why not visit the flea market in the Cattle Pens, where you can stroll down the leafy avenue browsing stalls containing books, DVDs, toys, LPs, jewellery, furniture, antiques and bric-a-brac.

We now have the regular Artisan Markets organised by Shop Buckingham, our local traders. Look out for them on the 3rd Sunday every month.

If you would like to arrange to have a stall on any of our markets please call the Town Council on **01280 816426**.

YOUNG VIEWS ON EXPANSION

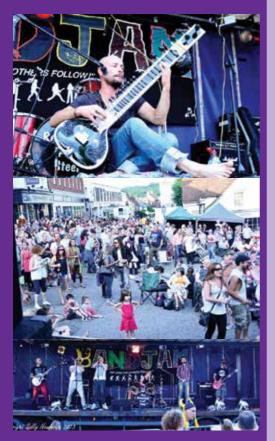
Buckingham is going through a period of change, with lots of estates being built bringing hundreds of people to the area, new shops are opening and on the whole the town is a lovely, clean, safe place to



live and grow up in. We have great primary and secondary schools and lots of sports clubs, but if you're not into sports or joining a club there is less for young people to do.

Having bus links to MK and neighbouring cities allows us to see a movie or hunt for the latest fashion, but we are mindful of catching the last bus back from MK so we can't see any late night films, so why haven't the cinema chains spotted a gap in the market here or a teenage fashion house set up shop? Maybe we need to shout a bit louder, because we are growing in people but not in services and that can't be right?

Youth Councillor Ben Peat and Councillor Lisa O'Donoghue



BandJam Review

Sunday 25th August, the sun was out and so were the crowds to attend the annual **BandJam** in Buckingham Town Centre. The event was opened by the **Town Mayor**, **Clir Ruth Newell**. Large crowds were entertained from 1pm til 10pm by local bands such as **Sync The Bismarck**, **Mad Mods & Englishman**, and headline band **The Big Head**. The event is organised every year by **Sean Allen** of BandJam, and sponsored by **Buckingham Town Council**.

Quote from **Clir. J. Harvey:** "BandJam 2013 was a delightful family occasion with great music and good community spirit".

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30th November Christmas Light Switch-On Buckingham Town Centre



The Christmas lights will be switched on at 6pm outside the Old Gaol by Town Mayor, Cllr Ruth Newell. The Winslow Concert Band will be there to lead the carol singing around the Christmas tree. There will also be an Artisan Market in the Cattle Pens throughout the day.

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14th December Christmas Parade Buckingham Town <u>Centre</u>

Please note that there is a road closure in place in Buckingham for this event and that there will be diversions in place. This year's theme is 'A Child's Christmas'. The parade sets off from Chandos Road at 10:45 am and makes its way through the Town Centre and back to Chandos Road.

If you would like to volunteer to help marshal at the parade please contact Clir. H. Mordue 0845 3479 320

The Community Fair will be held in the Community Centre after the parade. This is a fund raising event for local groups, societies and charities. There will be Christmas gifts and cards, tombola, plants, calendars and much more. Admission is free. If you would like a table at the fair, please contact Buckingham Town Council on 01280 816426.



1st February MK Dons Buckingham Big Day

For the fourth year, MK18 residents can again enjoy hugely reduced ticket prices for the match against **Tranmere Rovers.** Costs are as low as £7.00 (£1.00 for under 18s) for groups of 20 or more, or £10.00 (£3.00 for under 18s) for individuals. Work is currently under way arranging the usual run-up activities which in the past have included a range of activities for youngsters, the ever-popular Football Forum, and a reception for local businesses and traders.

The Town Council is most grateful for the continued generosity of **Pete Winkelman**, his staff and players for bringing these tremendous opportunities to Buckingham.



22nd/23rd February Food Fair

In the Community Centre, Cornwall's Meadow, If you would like a table please contact us on **01280 816426**.



PREPARING FOR WINTER: CHECKLIST

Winter is almost upon us again. It is difficult to predict how cold and wet these coming months will be, but if recent years are anything to go by, we can expect snow, ice, slush and difficult conditions to get around! With this in mind, we've prepared this checklist of things to think about:

How warm is your dwelling? It is not too late to get more insulation fitted. The Citizen's Advice Bureau can advise.

Energy bills keep going up. **Are you on the best tariff?**Again the CAB can offer advice including sources of extra help for rising numbers of people experiencing fuel poverty.

Are all your pipes and taps (outdoor ones especially) well lagged?

Have you bought some of your own supply of **salt** to ensure there is no dangerous ice near entrances and exits?

Have you got a good torch or two (especially a wind-up one) in case of power cuts? If you have a car, have you got blankets, fluorescent waistcoats, a few energy bars and a snow shovel in the boot in case of breakdowns or delays?

Have you spotted your **nearest salt bin** in case you have trouble driving your car? Have you talked with your neighbours, especially the more vulnerable ones, about how you can **help each other** out in winter months?

Have you got a **wide shovel** for clearing snow around where you live?

Have you checked your **smoke alarms** recently (fire risks can increase in winter months)?

Have you arranged for your **flu jab** yet?

THE COST OF DEMOCRACY?

In March, AVDC announced a 6-month trial of a new way of dealing with planning applications. What does this mean for Buckingham?

Previously the Town Council sent written responses, confident that if our comments were contrary to the officer's recommendation they would be considered by a committee of District Councillors. Now if we have any objections, we have to send a Town Councillor to Aylesbury to argue the case. Otherwise our objections will not be considered.

Your Town Council feels it is important to show the courage of our convictions, and pursue our

responses as far as we are able. But is it worth it?

AVDC's Development Control Committees meet every three weeks. If we do attend, we are allotted a 5 minute time slot to address the Committee. So far each visit has cost us at least half a day in councillor time — travelling and waiting around — and approximately £18 in travel expenses. Despite our best efforts up until now, we have not been successful in obtaining the desired results. All our objections have been overruled.

We look forward to the review of this experiment happening about now.



On the 22 August winners of Buckingham in Bloom 2013 were presented with their prizes, by the Mayor, Cllr Ruth Newell.

All gardens nominated were judged in July. The panel of judges included the Mayor, Cllr Ruth Newell, Cllr Geraldine Collins, Cllr Hedley Cadd and Cllr Terry Bloomfield. Gardens were judged on variety of plants, colour and overall appearance.

The winner this year was once again Mr Wilkins of Meadow Gardens, whose garden is brimming with colour and a vast variety of flowers and shrubs. He was presented with a rosette, garden vouchers, certificate and a cup which has been introduced this year. The runner up was Mrs Smith of Paynes Court, and 3rd place went to Mr & Mrs Liddle of Lenborough Close, all of whom also received rosettes, garden vouchers and certificates.

Commended Rosettes and Certificates were presented to Mr Rayner, Western Ave, Mr & Mrs Pearce, Addington Road and Mrs Melluish of Fishers Field.

This year a new category was introduced – 'Community Garden'. This was won by the Options Day Centre which is located in the Buckingham Centre, Verney Close. The courtyard garden was planted by the staff and clients of the centre and is carefully maintained by them. Options were pleased to receive a shield and garden vouchers. Second place went to the residents of Paynes Court. Congratulations and thank you to all residents that entered.

Many of the hanging baskets that adorned various parts of the town this year were again made up at **Richardson's Nurseries** of **Preston Bissett.** The flower planters around the Town Centre and High Street area are made up by **Plantscape**. Most of the hanging baskets and planters are maintained by Buckingham Town Council staff.

Planning Check List

The Planning Committee meets twice as regularly as other Council committees due to the volume of planning applications and related matters we have to get through. People sometimes wonder what we do when examining a planning application.

Below is a checklist of questions we have developed to help us decide whether we will support or oppose an application. We thought you might find this of interest, especially if you are planning your own development (such as an extension) or mulling over whether to object to an application that a neighbour has put in.

Is this a development that requires permission? (Some do not)	
Will this development harm a conservation area or a listed building?	
Is there a tree preservation order in place or will there be damage to certain hedgerows?	
Will this development result in a loss of light or privacy?	
Will this development be overbearing or dominate a location or will it enhance the street scene?	
Will the development result in noxious noise, fumes or odours?	
Will the resulting traffic damage the local area?	
Will this development harm an area of outstanding beauty or special ecological interest?	
Will the development damage important public views and skylines?	
Will the development overload the local area through scale and bulk of buildings or needs for parking / turning?	
Is this development in the public interest?	
Will this development harm the local rural identity or boundary into open farm land?	
If this is this a usage class/change of usage application, is it appropriate for the application site?	
Does the proposal's site layout positively improve its immediate environs and provide good connectivity by foot, bike and road?	
Visually, will the development harm the area through unsuitable building architecture, scale, building materials, fit (layout, space between buildings, height of chimneys and roofs etc.)?	
Does this development contravene legally enforceable plans or rise to the aims & aspirations of local plans (such as our emerging Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan or Vale of Aylesbury Plan)?	

Plenty to do during the long hot summer

During the summer, your Town Council worked with other agencies to provide a range of activities aimed at families and our younger residents. We are therefore grateful to Thames Valley Police, Aylesbury Vale District Council, Buckinghamshire County Council, the Neighbourhood Action Group, Buckingham Town Youth Council and Aylesbury Youth Action for sharing the costs. By working together, we were able to bring the following FREE activities to Buckingham during the summer:

- Our Neighbourhood Police Team ran Tag Rugby sessions on the recreation area at Embleton Way during July, all of which were well attended.
- Play Around the Parishes was booked which came to Chandos Park on three occasions, and was absolutely crowded by the time everything had been set up in glorious sunshine on 1 August, when hundreds of youngsters enjoyed bouncy castles, giant games, face painting and a host of other fun items. Rain meant that everything was moved to Grenville School on 22 August but it was still well attended and everyone's fingers were crossed for a sunny 28 August.
- On 6 August, the Climbing Wall and I-van came to Embleton Way Pavilion and, after a slow start, had youngsters queuing up to scale the giddy heights or get into high-tech heaven.
- On the following day, the **Youth Space Bus** (a regular visitor) was in
 Cornwall's Meadow car park during
 the early evening. We had also hoped
 for a Football Skills session, but this
 was replaced by other activities which
 seemed to go down equally well.

- Between 5 August and 16 August, there were opportunities for wood carving and mural painting in Bourton Park. Possibly due to the location. attendance was low on some days. but the 100-plus youngsters who did attend came back regularly and their handiwork can soon be seen on the refurbished picnic table by the Bourton park car park, the new "gateway" to the underpass path by the car park, and the fantastic murals on the underpass/ bridge. We would like to thank the team leaders for their patience and time, and SITA for their part-sponsorship which enabled us to resurface the path from the car park to the underpass, making it more accessible for all
- These were joined by the ever-popular inflatable bungee run, plus more giant games, on 12 August.
- On 19 August we arranged for inflatables, sumo suits, giant games and a space hopper track to visit the playground at Overn Avenue. Everyone there seemed to enjoy the day as much as the workers!
- For those living to the north of the town, we arranged for Maids Moreton Playing Field to have the **Mobile Skate**Park, the I-Van and giant games on 30 August.

Who says there's nothing for youngsters to do in Buckingham?

Buckingham has a large quantity of excellent green-space in the town which is used by a lot of people. One of the most common user groups in certain parks are dog walkers.

The Town Council manages Bourton Park and this is a very popular area for dog walkers. This is great: it's what our parks in part are for! However we have to manage the parks with all users in mind and some issues have arisen regarding responsible dog ownership.

Dog owners who don't clean up after their dogs are leaving an unhygienic and unpleasant problem for all other park users. The Town Council would like to urge all dog owners to ensure they pick up after their dogs and put it in one of the red dog waste bins (or in a litter bin if a dog bin is not available).

Another particular issue in Bourton Park is that of dogs being off their lead. Young children are often very scared when dogs come running towards them. We ask that dogs are only let off the lead in the 3 paddock areas and kept under control in other areas, especially around the play areas.

Most dogs just want to play but when you're about the same size as the dog they can be threatening.

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

Buckingham Town Councillors

BUCKINGHAM NORTH

BUCKINGHAM SOUTH

Cllr. Paddy Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Terry Bloomfield	01280 815 336
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Cllr. Hedley Cadd	01280 814 112
Cllr. Derrick Isham	01280 813 770	Cllr. Mrs Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006
Cllr. Rob Lehmann	01280 817 331	Cllr. Paul Hirons	01280 812 072
Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562	Cllr. Mrs Lisa O'Donoghue	01280 824 624
Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418	Cllr. Mike Smith	01280 822 215
Cllr. Ms. Ruth Newell - Mayor	01280 815 229	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	01280 824 285
Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202	Cllr. Warren Whyte	01280 820 531
Cllr. Christine Strain-Clark	01280 816 832		
Mr Christopher Wayman (Town Clerk)			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 2014

Sat 30th

NOVEMBER

MAY



DECEMBER	Sat 14th	Christmas Parade Community Fair
2014 FEBRUARY	Sat 1st Sat & Sun 22nd/23rd	MK Dons - Buckingham Big Day Food Fair
MADCH	Tugo 4th	Pancaka Paca TPC

Christmas Light Switch-On & Artisan Market

MARCH Tues 4th Pancake Race – TBC

Thurs 1st May Day Celebrations
Sun 25th Music in The Market

JUNE Sat 14th/ Buckingham Fringe

Please find further details inside or online: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/events/events.htm

