



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk: Mr C. P. Wayman

Tuesday, 08 March 2016

Councillors,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Full Council of Buckingham Town Council to be following the Informal meeting on **Monday 14th March 2016** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Mr C. P. Wayman
Town Clerk

Please note that the Full Council will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Order 1.3, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive apologies from members.

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of any personal or prejudicial interest under consideration on this agenda in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 Sections 26-34 & Schedule 4.

3. Minutes

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Full Council Meeting held on Monday 25th January 2016.

Copy previously circulated BTC/10/15

4. Planning Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Planning Committee meetings held on:

- Monday 18th January 2016

Copy previously circulated PL/12/15

Members **RECOMMENDED** that the Environment Committee take on the issue in the first instance, to identify and further involve AVDC to address problem areas of rubbish accumulation around the town, educate householders, and investigate how to resolve frequently reported left waste.

- Monday 1st February 2016
- Monday 22nd February 2016

Copy previously circulated PL/13/15

Copy previously circulated PL/14/15

Proposed by Cllr Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr Isham and **RECOMMENDED** to Full Council that the Town Council adopt the following policy - Items on the Planning Action List over 6 months old that have not been acted upon are compiled and sent to District Members for follow up.

Buckingham



Twinned with Mouvaux, France



5. Environment Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 15th February 2016.

Copy previously circulated E/06/15

6. Town Centre and Events Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Town Centre and Events Committee meetings held on Monday 8th February 2016.

Copy previously circulated TCE/06/15

7. Resources Committee

To receive the minutes and confirm the recommendations therein of the Finance, Administration and Personnel Committee meeting held on Monday 29th February 2016.

Copy previously circulated R/05/15

8. Motion – Cllr Harvey

"Good deeds and acts of random kindness": motion to Council (proposed by Cllr Harvey)

Prompted by this news story "More than 800 random acts of kindness completed by Somerset villagers" (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-35252234>) and highlighted by Emma James on the 'Buckingham: What Matters to You' Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/BuckinghamMatters/permalink/498138817034370/>), the Council will organise a similar plan to encourage Buckingham people to record their good deeds for fellow people in the town. The Library has already agreed in principle to host a 'box' in which these good deeds can be posted. (Perhaps other institutions such as the schools, churches etc might be persuaded to participate also.) The aim is to honour and celebrate the good deeds already happening in our town and provide a stimulus for even more to be done.

9. Action List

To receive and discuss the updated list

Appendix A

10. Unitary Council

To agree a policy a Council position on a preferred option, should a Unitary Council process come to fruition.

Appendix B

11. Buckingham Town Cricket Club

To receive an email and associated newspaper article for discussion and action

Appendix C

12. Moreton Rd Toilets

To discuss whether the Town Council should pay to continue to keep the toilets open

13. Aylesbury Magistrates' Court Closure Consultation

To note for information the consultation result. Cllr Cole to speak.

Members are directed to:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499808/se-consultation-response.pdf

To read the full decision report

Appendix D

14. AVDC Council Meetings

To receive for information the restrictions placed on Members asking questions at AVDC Council Meetings

Appendix E

15. The Centre @ Verney Close

To agree to use the Centre for Council and Committee meetings; to receive a written report from the Town Clerk

BTC/50/15

16. The Mayor – Administrative Support

To discuss whether there should be a job description for the post of Mayor, and administrative support provided from the office.

17. (537/15)Town Action Commission Update

- 17.1 To receive a written report from the Deputy Town Clerk
- 17.2 Question feedback
- 17.3 Proposed publication

**R/51/15
Appendix F
Appendix G**

18. Local Area Forum

To receive for information a report on the recent County Council review of LAF's – The full report is available at:

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s76999/Local%20Area%20Forums%20-%20Review.pdf>

Appendix H

19. Fairtrade Status

To note for information that Fairtrade Town Status had been awarded for a further 2 years

20. Rural Health Conference 29/01/16

To receive a report from Cllr Bates for information

Appendix I

21. To receive reports from District and County Councillors

22. Aylesbury Vale Times

To receive a communication from AVDC for information

Appendix J

23. Swan Credit Union

To receive an invitation to attend an AGM on 17th March 2016

Appendix K

24. (709/15) Minor Injuries Buckingham

To receive a response from Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group

Appendix L

25. Reports from Representatives on Outside Bodies

Members are asked to note the reports listed below:

Buckingham Community Hall Association – Management meeting minutes 23/7/15 & 26/11/2015

Access for All meeting minutes 11/1/16 & 8/2/16

**Appendix M
Appendix N**

26. Mayoral Engagements

To receive a list of events attended by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Functions the Mayor has attended:

- 06/2/2016 - Attend the opening of refurbished Library
- 06/2/2016 - Attend the opening of refurbished Swan Pool and leisure Centre
- 16/2/2016 - Pancake race
- 18/2/2016 - Open Ken Tagg Play Area
- 25/2/2016 - Open Weston Homes - Nightingale Rise
- 26/2/2016 - RAF Croughton Winter Reception
- 27/2/2016 - Food Fair
- 27/2/2016 - Opening of Scouts HQ at Embleton Way
- 27/2/2016 - Judge cakes for the Buckingham 'Bake Off'
- 27/2/2016 - Open of The Centre @ Verney Close

Functions the Deputy Mayor has attended:

- 6 Feb Opening of New Library
- 13 Feb Coffee & Croissants (Twinning) at Old Gaol

27. News Releases

28. Chair's Announcements

29. Date of the next meeting:

Interim Council – Monday 11th April 2016
Annual Statutory Meeting – Monday 9th May 2016
Full Council - Monday 9th May 2016

ACTION LIST

FULL COUNCIL, INTERIM COUNCIL & EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS

Subject	Meeting date/ Minute	Form	Response received
Toilets	220/14	DTC & TC to arrange for the construction	NHB has been confirmed, awaiting revised lease
Community Centre Lease	393/14 716/15	Draw up funding Plan for Community Centre	Approach Aylesbury Vale Estates to negotiate
Cycling Signage	643/14	Work with BCC and other parishes – discuss with Canal Society and BCC cycling route	Awaiting initial work to start on Buckingham-Winslow
S106 discussions	643/14	Write to Secretary of State ref legal position; publicly express desire to negotiate with AVDC	Awaiting formal response however, AVDC now more engaging
Red Cross Building	119/15 710/15	Explore possibility of temporary use of building	On Agenda
Buckingham Partnership	191/15 710/15	To call a meeting	
AVDC Devolved	310/15	To write to AVDC to take on services	Holding letter received
CCTV	432/15 710/15	Purchase new CCTV system	Talking with company over a compatible system to existing
MKCCG Consultation	541/15	Contact MKCCG, Health Watch, Ayle Vale CCG	Meeting being arranged
DisabledGo	547/15	Make payment and set up systems	Contract signed meeting 29/1/16
Broadband – lace hill	553/15 710/15	Write to J Bercow ref issues at new development	
Library Service	711/15	Write to cabinet member in support of local library service	Response on agenda
Community Land Trust	712/15	Procced with membership and advertising for local interest	
Bucks Law Plus	714/15	Write for clarification of who can be a panel member	Letter sent 2/2/16



Aylesbury Vale
District Council

Issue

Issue details

Unitary Business Case

- [Subscribe to updates \(mgRegisterIssueInterest.aspx?IId=2233&RPID=202637\)](#)

Details History

([mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Chronology.aspx?IId=2233&Opt=0](#))
([mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Chronology.aspx?IId=2233&Opt=2](#))

Decision type: Key

Reason Key: Affects more than 1 ward;

Decision status: For Determination

Notice of proposed decision first published: 03/08/2015

Anticipated restriction: Part exempt - View reasons ([mgReasonsRestricted.aspx?OID=2233&OT=1](#))

Decision due: 11 Jan 2016 by Cabinet

Lead member: Cabinet Member for Business Transformation

Lead director: Andrew Grant

Contact: Andrew Grant, Chief Executive Email: agrant@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk
(<mailto:agrant@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk>).

- [What's new \(mgWhatsNew.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- **[Search documents \(ieDocSearch.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)**
- [Subscribe to updates \(mgRegisterKeywordInterest.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Your councillors \(mgMemberIndex.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Committees \(mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Calendar \(mgCalendarMonthView.aspx?GL=1&bcr=1\)](#)
- [Meetings \(ieDocHome.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Forthcoming Decisions \(mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?RP=0&K=0&DM=0&HD=0&DS=1&Next=true&H=0&META=mgforthcomingdecisions&v=0&bcr=1\)](#)
- [Voting and Election Information \(mgGeneric.aspx?MD=mgvotinginformation\)](#)
- [Election results \(mgManageElectionResults.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [ePetitions \(mgEPetitionListDisplay.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Forward Plans \(mgPlansHome.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Library \(ecCatDisplay.aspx?bcr=1&sch=doc\)](#)
- [Outside bodies \(mgListOutsideBodies.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Your MPs \(mgMemberIndexMP.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Your MEPs \(mgMemberIndexMEP.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)
- [Parish councils \(mgParishCouncilDetails.aspx?bcr=1\)](#)

DEVELOPING A PROPOSAL FOR UNITARY STATUS
Councillor Neil Blake
Leader of the Council

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To present proposals for the development of a business case for moving to a unitary local authority model for the area of Aylesbury Vale, and to seek approval for undertaking and resourcing the work. In addition, to establish arrangements to provide governance for the process and providing further recommendations to Council.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To recommend to Council that:
- 2.1 the Council commissions a business case to explore the viability, costs and benefits of developing an unitary local authority based around the geography of Aylesbury Vale.
 - 2.2 approval is given to the establishment of an all-party working group to oversee the development of a business case and to test the viability of proposals to establish a unitary authority for the area, comprising nine Members of the Council.
 - 2.3 approval is given to incurring expenditure of up to £80,000 to fund the development of a business case, the funding to come from the Council's working balances.

3 Executive summary (if longer than 2 pages)

- 3.1 In the light of continuing change across the public sector and reductions in budgets, the council has already started, and needs to continue, to radically review its own business model and the approach taken to the delivery of public services across the district. A proposal for unitary status would support this work, as it would provide an ideal opportunity to review how services currently provided by the district council could work with other parts of the public and voluntary sector to deliver seamless public services, which would be more sustainable in the future.
- 3.2 The report sets out some of the key opportunities that a unitary council would provide for the district area. These would need to be fully tested during the development of a business case, but include:
- **increasing strategic leadership and local accountability** - so that decisions are made locally that benefit the district area rather than needing to be balanced against other areas in a large and diverse county.
 - **Scale, growth, and comparable authorities** – AVDC is already the second largest district council (by population) in England, and is likely to experience continuing rapid population growth over the coming decades. At its current size, AVDC is already larger than a quarter of unitary authorities, whilst the population growth indicates that it would soon become larger than half of the unitary authorities in England.
 - **Budget reductions and savings** - over the medium to long term a unitary council is likely to deliver significant budget savings. In addition, as public sector budgets continue to reduce, local decision

making would be in place to determine how any changes would be managed.

- 3.3 The development of a business case will be overseen by an all-party working group which will make recommendations to full council about whether to undertake a local poll of residents in Spring 2016. The development of a business case may cost up to £80k, which will be financed through the Council's working balances, and would be coordinated by the Deputy Chief Executive.

4 Supporting information

- 4.1 It is fairly widely accepted that the two-tier system of local government is not ideal in terms of efficient service delivery or the public understanding of local decision-making.
- 4.2 Unprecedented change across the public sector, and the significant budget reductions still needed, means that the council needs to continue to consider radical options for how public services will be delivered in the future. The New Business Model adopted by the Council has been hugely successful in helping deliver over £11m of savings in the last five years, but it will become increasingly difficult to continue to deliver the magnitude of savings expected to be required over the next decade, and these transformations only look at a single, relatively small, aspect of how public services are delivered across Aylesbury Vale. Changing the structures of local government to create a single tier authority (working effectively with parish and town councils) would provide a clear opportunity to reshape the way in which public services are delivered in Aylesbury Vale to make them efficient, accessible, effective and sustainable, without impacting on the historic or civic status of Buckinghamshire.
- 4.3 In 2014, Buckinghamshire Business First crowdsourced and commissioned a report by Ernst & Young to consider the Strategic Financial Case for Local Government Reorganisation in Buckinghamshire. The report considered four different options for local government reorganisation in the county, each of which showed the potential to deliver sizeable savings for the taxpayer. It concluded that the next step would be to decide on the most appropriate option, and to build on that outline strategic case by producing a detailed business case for change.
- 4.4 The most recent wholesale reorganisation of local government in England took place in the mid-90s. Sir John Banham chaired the Local Government Commission For England and was charged with developing recommendations for the future structure of local government in a number of areas, including Buckinghamshire. His final recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Environment in 1994 preferred the option of replacing the existing six councils with three new unitary authorities, based on the geographies of:
- Milton Keynes
 - Aylesbury Vale
 - The combined districts of Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe.
- 4.5 The then Secretary of State declined to accept this recommendation of the Commission, and instead implemented only the creation of a new Unitary Council for Milton Keynes, leaving the existing two-tier structure in place in the rest of Buckinghamshire.

- 4.6 Whilst the current Government has not welcomed local government reorganisation in general, a recent communication between Chorley Council in Lancashire and the current Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government concerning Chorley becoming a unitary authority indicated that the Government would not block proposals that had a public mandate.
- 4.7 It remains to be seen, and will not be known until after May, what attitudes the next Government will take towards local government reorganisation. All that can be known with any confidence at this stage is that there will continue to be unprecedented cuts to public service resources over the next five years and longer, whoever is in power. The need to consider radical alternatives to public service delivery in Aylesbury Vale and elsewhere will therefore endure.
- 4.8 This paper presents the rationale for investigating the business case, and the proposals for work to be undertaken over the next year.

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL

- 4.9 This section sets out the outline rationale for the proposal that the council should fully investigate the case for forming a unitary authority based on the Aylesbury Vale area and potentially seek a mandate from local residents.
- 4.10 The pace of change across the whole public sector and the likely impact of continued funding cuts mean that the council needs to consider its business model and how public services will continue to be delivered across the district. Unitary status offers a potential option to tackle some of the key challenges that Aylesbury Vale will face in the coming years.
- 4.11 Developing the business case presents an opportunity to examine how public services are delivered in the district and the options for the future, with a unitary council potentially being the catalyst for change.
- 4.12 There are a number of factors and opportunities that mean that it is appropriate for Aylesbury Vale to pursue the proposal. They are:

a. **Strategic leadership and local accountability:** Aylesbury Vale is well-placed to provide a good balance of strategic leadership while retaining local accountability.

AVDC is currently the only democratically elected body there to specifically serve Aylesbury Vale. A unitary based on the Aylesbury Vale area would place more control in the hands of local people and businesses, as they would have a clear view and access to all the decision makers and elected representatives for the district and their area. In other words, it would address the current democratic deficit over upper tier decisions and would balance all local government service decisions (and the inevitable trade-offs in resource allocation) under one elected council "roof". This would provide more clarity, accountability and transparency through a single elected body.

Aylesbury Vale is demographically and ideologically different to its neighbours in the southern part of the County. For instance, Aylesbury Vale has long been identified as a growth area. This means that decisions taken across Buckinghamshire as a whole inevitably represent a compromise between the wants and needs of different communities. A unitary council for Aylesbury Vale would be better placed to tailor resource distribution to issues and areas of the district in most need, while still engaging across boundaries on issues where necessary and appropriate.

b. **Sustainable public services:** public services will have to change fundamentally in the coming years - because of national policy changes (such as the integration of public health into local government and development of CCGs); reducing resources; and, increasing demand for services particularly with an ageing population.

In recent years, through its widely renowned New Business Model, the council has led the delivery of innovative and strong work across a number of areas, such as development management, recycling and waste collection and leisure facilities. It has demonstrated its ability to transform delivery of services, so that residents and businesses genuinely value them and so that they can be effectively delivered at a price that taxpayers are willing to afford.

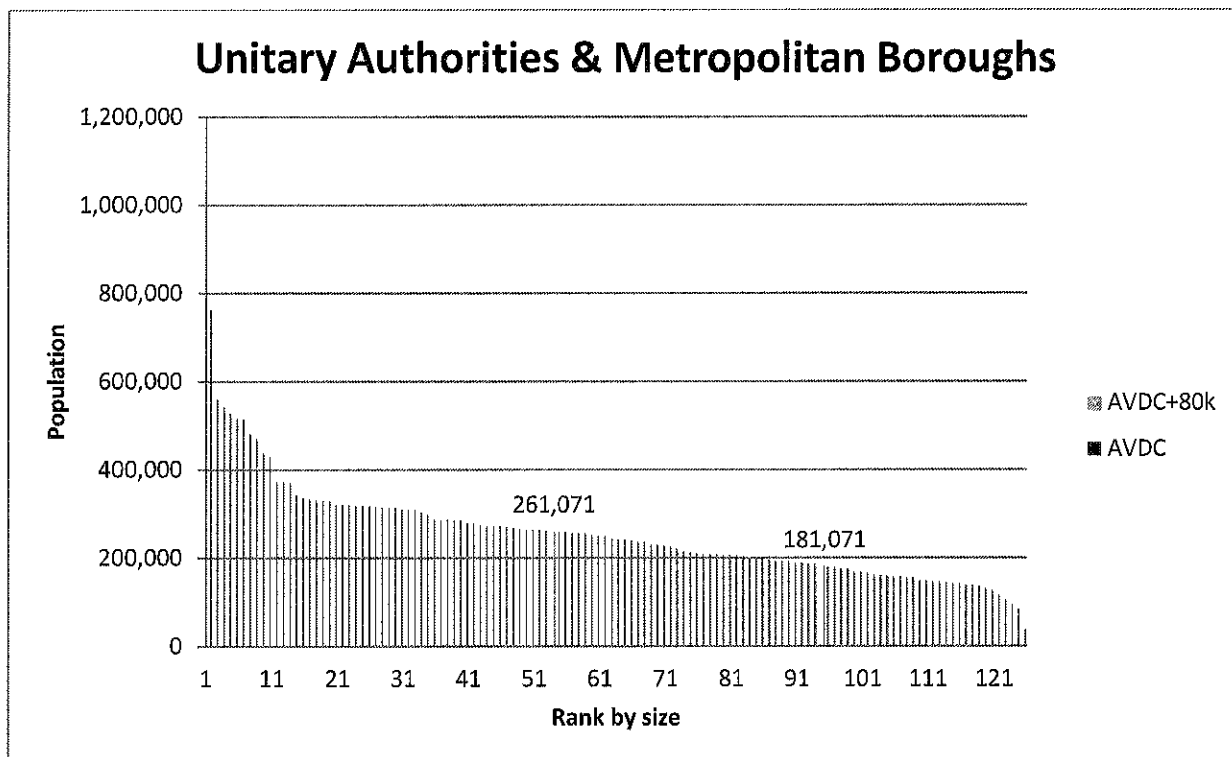
The strong track record of strategic partnerships with other organisations, for instance the revolutionary public-private joint venture property company Aylesbury Vale Estates, means that the council has already started the process of working with others to reshape public services in the district.

Competing organisational priorities and boundaries have proved, and will continue, to be the biggest risk to effective public service delivery in Buckinghamshire in the future. Creating a unitary council for the district would create a unique opportunity to build public services that would be fit to meet the challenges of the future.

c. **Scale and growth:** Aylesbury Vale's population stood at over 181,000 in 2013, making it the second largest district in England (and nearly 40% larger than Milton Keynes was in 1994 when it was agreed to create that unitary council). As shown in the chart below, this is larger than a quarter of other single-tier authority areas already in existence, and would support the argument that Aylesbury Vale is already large enough to take strategically significant decisions over key public services.

In addition, Aylesbury Vale has long been, and is likely to continue to be, a significant growth area (a characteristic which distinguishes it both strategically and demographically from the southern half of Buckinghamshire). In the year ending September 2014, more homes were built in Aylesbury Vale than in Bristol, Birmingham, Sheffield, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle or Nottingham.

The recently published draft Housing and Economic Development Needs Assessment (HEDNA) for Aylesbury Vale indicated that, merely to satisfy its own indigenous demographic pressures, around a further 1000 homes per annum would need to be built over the next two decades. Assuming that the area would also need to accommodate some housing needs arising from other areas, it is very conceivable that Aylesbury Vale's population could rise by 80,000 or so over that period. This would place the district in the upper half of unitary authorities (including London and Metropolitan Boroughs).



d. **Resource base:** while Aylesbury Vale has a comparable population size to other unitary councils, it is possible that Aylesbury Vale's demographic resource base would be comparable to other larger unitary authorities, and would potentially have a smaller demand on services. This will need to be tested through the development of the business case, but would potentially mean that the authority would be even more financially sustainable.

e. **Budget reductions:** all of the public sector will face continued reductions in budgets in the coming years. The BBF Report identified that Buckinghamshire County Council will alone face a budget deficit by 2017/18 of around £39 million. A unitary council based on an Aylesbury Vale geography could mean that public services would be shaped and delivered to better meet the challenges and needs of the Vale. In the current structures, it is possible that the delivery of public services will have to be further prioritised based on need across the county, which may mean that Aylesbury Vale receives even less resource.

f. **Cost savings.** At this point it is not possible to identify exact savings in costs. However, every reorganisation of local government undertaken in the recent past has delivered significant cost savings, as duplication is reduced and efficiencies generated in the establishment of new authorities. The BBF Report estimated that a two-unitary solution for Buckinghamshire might generate something in the region of £11m per annum, around half of which might accrue to this new unitary in north-west Buckinghamshire.

- 4.13 The rationale set out above demonstrate that in principle, there are potential benefits in developing a single tier of local government for Aylesbury Vale, and that the new authority would be financially viable. However, they are currently set out at a high level, and further work is needed to properly

understand the implications of a move to unitary status. This will be done in the development of a full business case.

TESTING VIABILITY AND DEVELOPING A BUSINESS CASE

- 4.14 In advance of taking the final decision about whether to seek a mandate through a local poll, the council will need to develop and consider a full business case for a unitary council. This will need to include:
- a. **the financial case:** examining the likely cost base of the proposed authority – looking at income streams and modelling an expenditure range. Also, looking at the transitional costs and how these might be financed and repaid.
 - b. **resident and stakeholder support:** gauging the views and understanding of residents and their concerns. In addition, working with key stakeholders, such as neighbouring authorities, town and parish councils and other partners to establish support and agreement for the proposed authority.
 - c. **sub-regional and regional partnerships:** establishing how Aylesbury Vale would engage with other work with partnerships such as local enterprise partnerships and how it would undertake a role in strategic influence of the local area. At a more local level, this would also investigate whether and how parish and town councils, and the voluntary sector, might play an enhanced role, working collaboratively with a unitary council, in delivering local services.
 - d. **developing a business model:** principles would need to be developed for how the proposed council would be structured and deliver services, to demonstrate that public services would be delivered effectively and efficiently.
- 4.15 An outline timeline for the work to be undertaken is set out at Appendix A.

GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.16 To provide an oversight of the work, it is proposed that an all-party working group is established. The working group will include nine Members (five from the ruling administration, one each to be nominated by the four opposition groups, this composition will obviously need to be reviewed post elections).
- 4.17 The terms of reference for the group are attached at Appendix B. The group will consider the business case and viability of developing a unitary council during the development, and will then make a recommendation to full Council in September 2015 about whether to proceed to hold a local poll.

LOCAL POLL

- 4.18 The council can undertake a local advisory poll using powers under s.116 of the Local Government Act 2003. The management and running of the poll is the council's responsibility, and the results are advisory.
- 4.19 If the council is satisfied that the business case for a change in local government structures has been established, then it is proposed that a local poll could be run in late Spring 2016.

- 4.20 The arrangements for the local poll would be finalised and agreed at that point, but it is likely that the poll would be undertaken as a postal poll. Every elector on the register would be sent a postal voting pack, which would include a ballot paper and a declaration of identity. They would then be able to return their vote by post, or drop it off at locations across the district.
- 4.21 This approach has been used elsewhere. For example, it was used across Greater Manchester in 2008 to gather views about a proposed congestion charge. The response across Greater Manchester in that poll was 53%.
- 4.22 Once the views of residents were understood through the local poll, the council would then be able to work with the government to determine the best local government structures for the district.

5 Options considered

- 5.1 To retain the current two-tier structure for Aylesbury Vale. This option is the default 'status quo' option and would occur if the business case was not supported or viable.
- 5.2 An option to consider a unitary authority for the whole county of Buckinghamshire (excluding Milton Keynes) was also considered as part of the report recently commissioned by Bucks Business First. That report indicated that potentially greater financial savings might accrue from a single unitary council. However, the level of savings identified was not sufficient to address the financial deficit faced even by the County Council. Additionally, and more importantly, that report did not consider other aspects, such as local democratic accountability, or points around the most appropriate scale (size) of organisation best placed to deliver local services.

6 Reasons for Recommendation

- 6.1 The development of a business case will help assess whether a Unitary Council would deliver better, more efficient and effective services for the residents and businesses of Aylesbury Vale.

7 Resource implications

- 7.1 The intention is to undertake the majority of the work in developing a business case internally. The overall cost of the work, excluding the local poll, is expected to be no more than £80k.
- 7.2 The work will be led by the Deputy Chief Executive, who will be relieved of his service responsibilities in order to focus on this project. He will be supported on an ad-hoc basis by various different officers of the Council, who will be backfilled where necessary.
- 7.3 Some additional specialist work will be undertaken using external support as necessary. This will include independent specialist financial modelling and undertaking surveys of residents.
- 7.4 The costs of this work can be met from General Fund working balances which, as the budget for 2015-16 indicates, stands slightly higher than minimum reserve level recommended by the Chief Finance Officer..

Contact Officer
Background Documents

Jon McGinty 01296 585251

1. BBF Commissioned Report from Ernst & Young on Strategic Financial Case for Local Government Reorganisation in Buckinghamshire
2. Local Government Commission for England's Final Recommendations on the Future of Local Government of Buckinghamshire (HMSO 1994)

Appendix A - OUTLINE TIMELINE

The potential timeline is based on working towards a local poll in late Spring 2016.

Gather initial public and stakeholder opinion **February - April**

It may be useful to undertake an initial consultation exercise to understand the initial views of residents. This would be useful because it would help to establish the key issues that any business case should address and the level of local understanding.

Gathering stakeholder views (particularly of key partner organisations such as the health sector) will help to engage them in the process and to take into consideration their organisational views.

Develop outline business model for the unitary council **February - August**

The council would need to provide initial proposals for how a unitary council for Aylesbury Vale would deliver services, particularly those which are currently undertaken at a county level. It would also need to demonstrate how critical services (particularly children's services, adult social care and public health) would be delivered and sustainable on a smaller scale.

These documents are likely to be lengthy. For example, the proposals developed as part of the development of a unitary council for Cornwall are here:

<http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/council-background/unitary-bid/>

Decision by full Council **September**

The Council would be presented with information about the business case to take a decision about whether to proceed with the local poll.

Information provision **September - May**

It will be necessary to provide information to residents about the proposals and the poll.

Local poll **late Spring 2016**

Appendix B - Working Group on unitary status

Purpose

1. The working group on unitary status will oversee the development of a business case for unitary status and provide recommendations to full council on the basis of that work about whether or not to undertake a local poll on the unitary status.

Membership

2. The group will consist of nine councillors.
3. Membership of the group will be determined based on the usual proportionality methods used for other committees of the council, with an in-built majority for the ruling administration.
4. Whilst it will be for individual group leaders to determine their nominations to the working group, it is recommended that nominating County Council twin-hatters be avoided, to reduce risk of perceptions of bias or pre-determination.
5. At its first meeting, the group will appoint a Chair and vice Chair.
6. Observer councillors will be permitted to attend meetings of the working group at the discretion of the Chair (or in his/her absence, the vice-Chair).
7. Substitutes will not be permitted, as the business of the group will require a degree of continuity of understanding.
8. In addition, relevant council officers may attend the meetings to present and advise the working group on their work and the development of the business case.

Business

9. The working group will meet to consider and discuss:
 - a. drafts of the business case and supporting information.
 - b. to provide direction and challenge about the emerging business case and areas for investigation
 - c. to consider options for the managing and method of undertaking a local poll
 - d. to make a final recommendation to full council about whether a business case for a single tier of local government has been established
10. The group will work within the policies of the council, including relevant codes of conduct and procedures for declaring relevant interests.
11. Business will be conducted in the usual way of Council committee meetings, with items normally debated in open session but the flexibility to take certain items as yellow page confidential items, restricted to officers and Members of the Council only, when considering items of sensitive or commercial interest.

Voting

12. When required, voting will be on a simple majority. In the event of a tied-vote, the Chair will have a casting vote (or in his/her absence, the vice-Chair).
13. Observer councillors do not have a vote.
14. Officers do not have a vote.

Frequency of meetings

15. The group will meet on an approximately monthly basis.

From: Adrian Johnson [mailto:btcccchairman@yahoo.co.uk]

Sent: 24 February 2016 13:00

To: townclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Subject: Request for Letter of Support for New Outdoor Nets - Buckingham Town Cricket Club

Request for Letter of Support for New Outdoor Nets - Buckingham Town Cricket Club

Chris

I write to seek your support to assist in acquiring funding for a new outdoor practise facility at the club.

The current facility was damaged beyond repair during the recent spate of storm force winds, you may have seen the article in last Friday's Advertiser.

A replacement upgraded facility will cost in the region of £50 000.

I have been researching the availability of grants from the ECB, AVDC, Sport England and WREN. All of these groups require letters of support to accompany any grant application, hence this email.

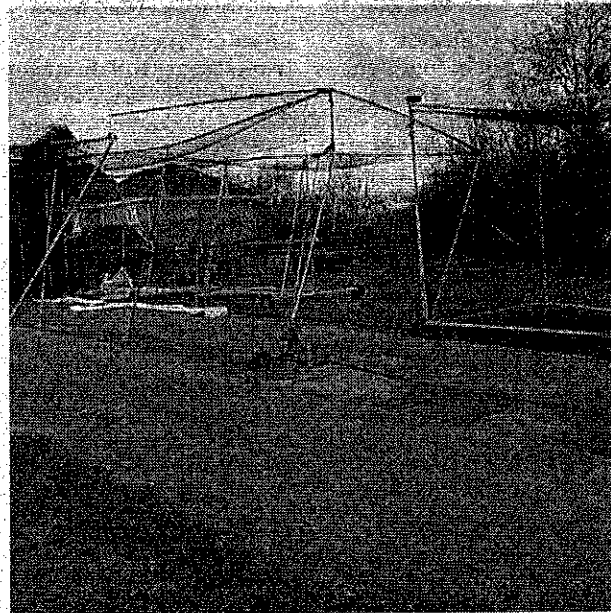
The new facility would be utilised by both club members (100 adults and c.200 kids) and would be offered to the local schools and other local cricket clubs to use, free of charge.

A letter supporting the club's application for grants would be greatly appreciated.

Regards

CRICKET

Plea for help after storm damage



Buckingham Town's damaged nets

The recent flooding in the north of the country had a devastating effect on sports facilities in the region, and Storm Imogen saved some of its wrath for Buckingham Town Cricket Club in causing serious damage to their practice nets.

The damage is so significant that the club are seeking advice on whether they are repairable or, in fact, they will need to be replaced altogether. These practice facilities are critical to the good health of the club and a solution is being sought as a matter of the urgency.

On surveying the damage caused, club chairman Ade Johnson said: "This is a complete nightmare for the club - 2015 was our most successful year in decades, both in

and membership numbers for all age groups. We now have four senior teams and 12 junior teams. The nets are critical to coaching and practice, and are used by upwards of 50 adult and 200 junior members on a weekly basis, not to mention that we offer our facilities to the wider community."

The club fully understands its position as the 'hub' of North Bucks cricket and remains ambitious to build on last year's very significant success. With this in mind, they are seeking financial support from within the local community to raise funds to return the practice facilities to a safe and usable condition. If you can help, contact the chairman of the club via email at btccchairman@yahoo.co.uk.

From: Mark Cole [mailto:markcolectoms@btconnect.com]
Sent: 12 February 2016 17:30
To: townclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk
Subject: aylesbury magistrates court closure

Hi Chris,

We have had the response to the Aylesbury Magistrates' Court closure consultation, which is that the MoJ and HMCTS are going to go ahead with its closure and replacement by the Crown Court. Bicester Magistrates' Court is also being axed.

The decision document is below (Aylesbury pp 10-13):

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/499808/se-consultation-response.pdf

I would be grateful if you could put this on the agenda for the next council meeting, either interim or full, so that I may speak briefly on it.

Kind regards

Mark

QUESTION TIME AT COUNCIL MEETINGS

1. Question time will last for an hour but the Chairman of the Council has the discretion to adjust the arrangements, including the time for individual Members to ask questions and the total amount of time given over to oral questions, if in his/her opinion it is likely that this would extend the length of the meeting unreasonably. The Chairman's decision will be final.
2. A Member may speak for a maximum of **two and a half** minutes when asking a question. A maximum of two questions can be put at any one time within the two and a half minutes. Any preamble should be limited to the questions. If time allows, the Chairman of the Council may invite Members to ask further questions.
3. Each question will be dealt with individually and other members will not be able to put related questions.
4. Any Cabinet Member who wishes to draw attention to matters of sufficient significance or urgency at the meeting where the normal information sheet system is not adequate, will circulate a statement in writing at the start of the meeting which the Chairman of the Council will draw attention to under announcements. Any questions arising can then be dealt with as part of question time.
5. There is no set maximum time limit for those Members responding to questions, but answers should be concise.
6. Follow up questions will only be allowed where the original answer is incomplete or where the response itself raises a further related question.
7. The Chairman has flexibility to organise the process based on these rules to ensure the efficient conduct of business and, as far as possible to meet the needs of all Members, as referred to in 1 above.

NOTE: Any Member intending to ask a question on a confidential matter is asked to give the Chairman of the Council or the Democratic Services Manager advance notice, or at least mention this at the start of the open question time.

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

MONDAY 14th MARCH 2016

Agenda Item no.

**Contact Officer: Mr Christopher Wayman
01280 816426**

Meeting Room at the Red Cross

Background

In the run up to the 2015 elections there was a review by the Local Government Boundary Commission which recommended the Town Council increase from 17 to 18 Councillors due to the increased size of the town. The Town Council at that time indicated that it would not be possible to undertake this change. The main factor being the restrictive size of the Town Council Chamber and the existing table not being of a suitable size to increase the number of Members.

Discussions took place last year for the Town Council to make use of the Red Cross Centre. While the church currently has a lease the proviso has been left for the Town Council to use the facility for its Council and Committee meetings.

Strategic Plan

While not sitting directly in with the Strategic Plan a move to a more accessible venue would be beneficial, as would a potential increase of Councillors. A better venue would allow more members of the public to attend the Council meetings as well would fulfil Critical Success Factor 3 – Established greater active engagement with local Partners and Public.

Information

The front room at The Centre @ Verney Close would be available for the use of the town Council from 6:45 pm until finish on Mondays with no current plans for any other group to use the facility on a Monday night. The kitchen would also be open and water jugs and glasses are provided. A chair or two may be moved across from the chamber, however there is limited storage at the Centre. The Centre would provide an accessible toilet which could be easily used.

Picture of the facility are below:

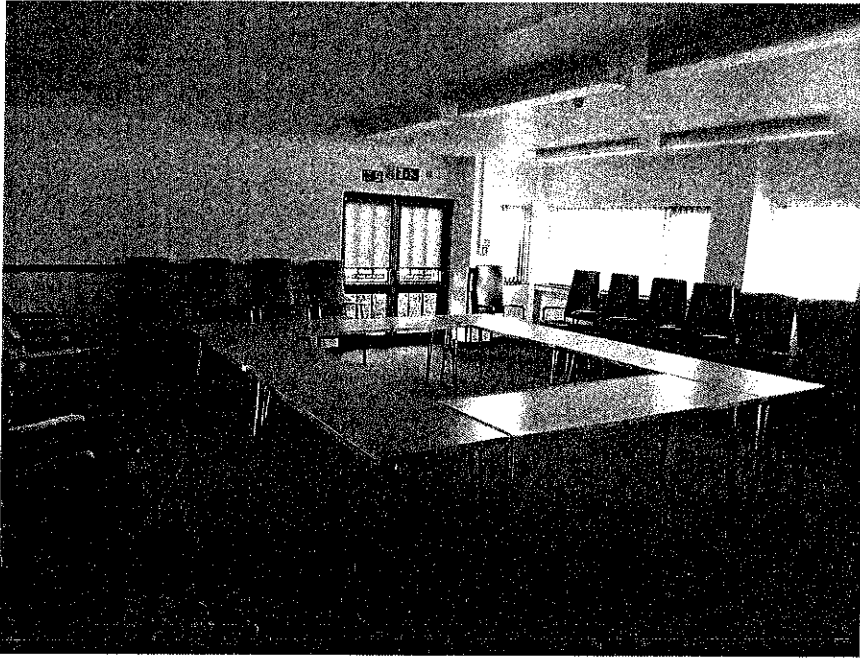
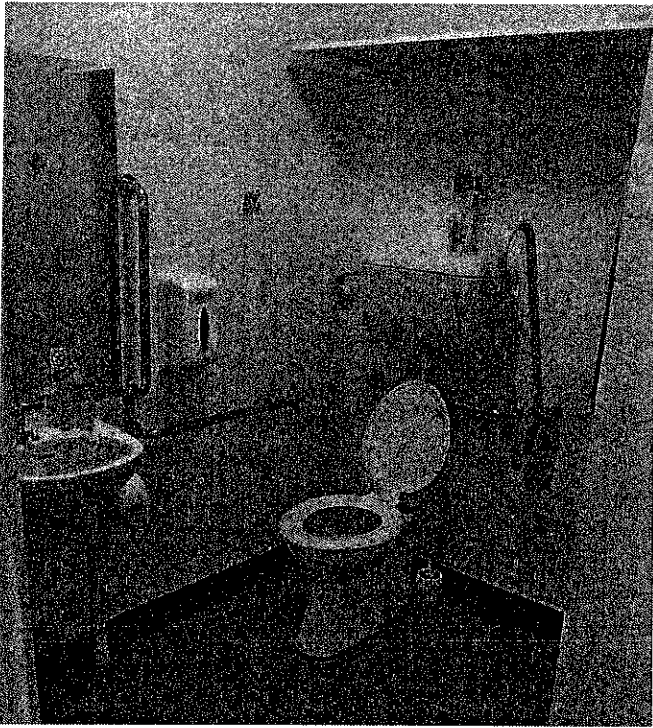


Table layout with chairs for the public



Table with chairs and space down the side



Accessible toilet

Resource Implications

The charge for the centre would be a flat fee of £30 per night (£1,350 per year). It is unclear at the moment if the room would need setting up prior to the meeting or not.

Recommendation

That Councillors decide if they wish to use the room to hold meetings of the Council and its committees in.

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

FULL COUNCIL

MONDAY 14th March 2016

Agenda Item no. 17

Contact Officer: Mr Dean Jones
01280 816426

Subject. Town Action Commission – Making Buckingham more parent & child friendly Report

Background

The Deputy Town Clerk embarked on receiving responses from the local community on the subject of 'Making Buckingham Town Centre more parent child friendly'. This was to be the first in a series of Town Action Commissions proposed by Cllr. Harvey and agreed by the Council to move forward our 'ambitions for the Town' outlined in the strategic plan.

Our initial attempt was unsuccessful. We set about trying to recruit residents to volunteer to help set-up a Town Action Commission. Residents didn't respond to our call to action and we couldn't attract volunteers to engage.

Our second approach was to ask specific questions through various sources like social media, in person and by email. The Deputy Town Clerk was given permission to visit local playgroups and public spaces where parents gather throughout the week and pose the same questions face to face. This time the response was much better. The questions asked were

1. What Changes could be made to the Town Centre that would make it easier for parents and children to visit?
2. Is there anything in Buckingham Town Centre that discourages you from visiting?
3. Which place in Buckingham is most Parent Child friendly? How Come?

The results have been compiled and can be reviewed in Appendix E

We would like to take this process a stage further by going back to the public with the results of our initial questions; using the tools and resources at our disposal; presenting the analysis in a way that triggers engagement. (See Appendix F) We can then find out whether or not residents agree or disagree with the outcome of the analysis. In doing this we are demonstrating that we have listened, scrutinised the responses and from this closer analysis generated a picture of the array of opinions. The next step, if successful, is to seek to engage with members of the public by way of forum and to continue to go out to the public with different questions in the future, using this approach, with public support and engagement, as a model to help in achieving our strategic aims.

Recommendation

To take the results back to the public using all resources available to generate further interest in the Town Action Commission on a range of future questions and issues including this one.

What changes could be made to the town centre that would make it easier for parents and children to visit?

Toilets/ Baby changing

There is definitely a lack of baby change facilities in the town centre

More baby change facilities that Dads can use as well as mums

changing facilities would be a bonus

fab example of a family friendly loo on their 2nd floor.

disabled loo, mini loo, sink, steps, baby changer & room for a large buggy. Because, sometimes it's Mummy who needs a wee! And leaving the buggy+baby outside a public convenience isn't really the done thing.....

Parking

(Introduction of) mixed parent / disabled spaces

No parking charges, so free parking

More free parking!

First hour free parking again, for doc appointment or picking up prescriptions!

Parents toddler bays

free hour parking

Parent and child spaces a must

bigger spaces for parent and child cars- put them at the back to put people who don't have young children with them off using them.

Free car parking!

Free parking for 2 hours would be of great benefit (if Bicester can do it

I would hope that one day we can return to free one hour parking at least... perhaps if AVDC want to gift the car park to the Town Council

Accessibility in and around shops

Buggy friendly shops too...

car/trolleys that you can get in mk centre

Shop variety

Nowhere to get basics like baby grows etc so we have to go out of town

No shops that aren't ridiculously expensive for child stuff

It would be lovely to have a wilkinson's in town

why isn't there a mcdonalds etc. or a decent clothing shop!

Pedestrianise the Town

Pedestrianise the high street - from the old gaol up to the mini roundabout outside Lloyds. This would greatly reduce the through traffic, make it safer for pedestrians, and encourage non-Buckingham road users to use the bypass rather than cutting through our town centre... the traffic is getting ridiculous

The town should be pedestrianised. I don't know how elderly and wheelchair users manage

Pedestrianizing would improve the town for everyone. My son is 2. He wants to walk in town but holding his hand and pushing a buggy next to such busy roads is too dangerous.

If it could all be pedestrianised it would be terrific

Pathways and road safety

The path is so small which can't be helped but quite scary when lorry's and cats speed past.

A pedestrian crossing on Moreton Road in front of the King's Head and Prezzo

when you come over the bridge from Boughton park, into the Waitrose car park, I find it slightly strange that you have to cut straight across the car park to get to the shops with no footpath for safety for children and buggies

Can we fix all the potholes in the roads first please and especially in Lenborough road where pedestrians have no choice but to walk in the road and twist their ankles.

If anything would be more important it would be to illuminate the zebra crossing in front of Meadow walk

Parent toddler activities

A weekly creche run in community centre

Which place in Buckingham is most 'parent/child friendly'? How come?

fireside are so welcoming & bend over backwards to help with buggys, warming bottles & food etc.
Very baby & toddler friendly.

M&co do some ok basics. We've found they useful for vests, grows etc

. I love dandelions, and the gazzeria cafe, the play table and staff are so welcoming and it's a great set up for parents to enjoy a coffee whilst kiddies play.

baby changing facilities in the library still I believe For mums and dads to use

Blackhams (thank- you Andrea!!) and the lovely ice cream cafe are fantastic!

Is there anything in Buckingham Town Centre that discourages you from visiting there

Changing Facilities

There is definitely a lack of baby change facilities in the town centres

Access in and around shops

quite a few shops make it near on impossible to get around

there are some shops that are completely inaccessible with pushchairs/wheelchairs which is a shame

Parking issues

I never have change and that puts me off parking in the town

it's hard enough sometimes to get out of the car yourself

Very narrow spaces in the main car park making it hard to get little ones in and out.

Lack of spaces at the weekend and very little parking other than the main car park.

I love the shops in Well Street but there is no parking nearby and whilst I'm not averse to a stroll, some avoid that area entirely as they don't like the distance.

Lack of activities for children

There is little in town as an attraction for children

very few shops I would go in with my children

Traffic / road issues

Buckingham is a pretty town but it is torn apart by the road(s) going through it

Meadow Walk Zebra crossing. My wife has nearly being run down 3 times now and I nearly hit someone because it's too dark and even if you take care you still have trouble seeing people in dark clothing.

Access issues along pathways

I love the town centre but I can't walk safely with my two and a half year old, if she's not in her buggy. I also find the paths too narrow (especially as you walk down towards the bridge from the town centre).

Anti-social parking

thoughtless, irresponsible, selfish delivery & other vehicle drivers parking/blocking/driving on pavements, causing inconvenience & endangering the lives of parents with young children, plus wheelchair users & other people with disabilities..

Anti Social behaviour

Keep the addicts away from the river at the rear of Waitrose. Used to take my granddaughter there to feed the ducks. Not any more.



Buckingham
Town Council

Town Action Commission

We asked Buckingham residents three questions. Below are the results of our findings.

What changes would you make to Buckingham Town Centre to make it more parent and child friendly?

Is there anything in Buckingham Town Centre that discourages you from visiting?

What changes would you make?



Toilets &
Baby
Changing



Parking

Pathways &
Road Safety

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

From: Griffin, Sharon [mailto:sgriffin@buckscc.gov.uk]
Sent: 23 February 2016 10:04
Subject: LAF review
Importance: High

Dear LAF attendee

As you may recall, the County Council is carrying out a review of LAFs. In the autumn, you were invited to complete a survey as part of this review - my thanks to the many people who participated.

This review is now nearing completion and is being considered by the County Council's Transport, Economy and Communities Select Committee on March 1st.

The report is published here

<https://democracy.buckscc.gov.uk/documents/s76999/Local%20Area%20Forums%20-%20Review.pdf>

We are keen to hear your comments on the review and its proposals. If you would like to make any comments, email those comments to locality-services@buckscc.gov.uk

When making your comments, please make clear:

- your name
- which LAF(s) you attend
- in what capacity you attend a LAF e.g. interested resident, parish councillor, police officer etc.

Please submit your comments by 9 a.m. 21st March 2015 (preferably sooner).

The Cabinet Member for Community Engagement, Martin Phillips, will consider all submissions and conclude the review with a key decision later this spring or in the early summer. We will, of course, keep you informed of progress.

Kind regards

Rebecca Carley

Rebecca Carley
Locality Services Manager
Communities, Health & Social Care Business Unit

Buckinghamshire County Council, Walton Street, Aylesbury HP20 1UA
Tel: 07795 207912/01296 383287

Follow me on Twitter <https://twitter.com/LocalitiesBCC>

Buckinghamshire Local Offer

Local information and advice for children and young people aged 0-25 with a special educational need or disability

The Rural Health Conference took place on 29 January 2016 at the House of Lords, attended by delegates from county, district and town/borough/parish councils from throughout England as well as representatives from the NHS, higher education, housing associations and voluntary organisations. The Conference was chaired by Baroness Byford and the keynote speaker was Duncan Selbie, Chief Executive of Public Health England. Notably the only other delegate from Buckinghamshire was a parish councillor from Ivinghoe; no delegates at all from BCC, any of the district councils nor from the CCGs.

The focus of the Conference was how organisations can work together to deliver effective rural health and social care services and help avoid social isolation of older people. There were examples of how this has been achieved by using modern technologies and innovative models of care delivered by collaborations of public, private and voluntary sectors working in partnership. Involvement of local communities was key as was adequate fast broadband and training of health and social care staff in the use of digital technologies.

As an example, in Cumbria a Rural Health Network was established in September 2013 as a means of gathering worldwide information on the use of digital technologies, how these could be applied in Cumbria and sharing existing good practice. This included telehealth, telemedicine, tele-coaching, telecare, assistive technologies, e-health, mobile apps and wearable tele-monitoring. The second phase of the project will involve implementation in identified priority areas and will lead to establishment of a strategy for Digital Health and Social Care in a rural setting.

The specific issues that were identified were:

- Dispersed communities meaning that people have limited access to services and have to travel further to access basic healthcare
- Smaller GP practices and other health centres, meaning that staff may feel professionally isolated and removed from opportunities for professional development
- A greater reliance on volunteer services
- Population demographics that include relatively more older people than in urban centres
- Poor quality broadband and mobile infrastructure

A mapping project was undertaken to find out what existing digital health and care projects were happening in or adjacent to Cumbria, between July 2014 and May 2015; summaries of these can be accessed at <http://www.ruralhealthlink.co.uk/activities> There are projects here that could be models for the development of similar services locally if there is a will to look at innovative ways of working to enhance local services.

Another presentation demonstrated how digital technologies have successfully been implemented in Airedale to support End of Life Care. This has led to patients being able to remain in their own homes, with remote access to appropriate clinicians as and when needed, being cared for by loved ones. This has led to 23% fewer hospital admissions and less bed days in the last year of life. The system, called Gold Line, is estimated to have avoided 118 hospital admissions, 231 A&E admissions, 438 GP visits and 228 community nurse visits between Oct 2014-Sept 2015 and has led to a statistically significant increase in deaths at home rather than in hospital.

How health needs can be met through purpose-built housing developments for older people as a collaboration between housing, local authority and health was the subject of another presentation, highlighting an Extra Care development which also incorporated facilities that are accessible to the local community in an effort to combat social isolation of older people.

The Conference was enlightening insofar as it provided illustrations of how improving health and social care in rural communities is being prioritized in communities elsewhere in England. And it demonstrated how much could be achieved through local partnerships working together.

From: Paul Hirons [mailto:phi010@btinternet.com]

Sent: 07 March 2016 17:33

To: townclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk; 'Andy Mahi'; chris@strain-clark.fsnet.co.uk; Cllr.try@tryus.org; 'Derrick Isham'; 'Geraldine Collins'; 'Howard Mordue'; jennymbates@aol.com; 'Jon Harvey'; 'Lisa O'Donoghue (Cllr.ODonoghue@gmail.com)'; 'Margaret Gateley'; 'Mark Cole'; Mns47@tiscali.co.uk; 'Paddy Collins'; 'Ruth Newell'; stuchbury@dsl.pipex.com; 'Terry Bloomfield'

Subject: RE: Aylesbury Vale Times - Garden waste incorrect date published

Chris

The Planning summary I receive includes this information on a planned tie up between Cherwell DC & South East Northants DC. This could make a lot of sense for North Bucks.

<https://portaldirector.wordpress.com/2016/03/03/planning-round-up-3-march-2016/>

If you could get some more information on this perhaps it could be added to a future Full Council agenda for discussion?

Thanks

Paul

From: Town Clerk [mailto:townclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk]

Sent: 07 March 2016 15:02

To: Andy Mahi; chris@strain-clark.fsnet.co.uk; Cllr.try@tryus.org; Derrick Isham; Geraldine Collins; Howard Mordue; jennymbates@aol.com; Jon Harvey; Lisa O'Donoghue (Cllr.ODonoghue@gmail.com); Margaret Gateley; Mark Cole; Mns47@tiscali.co.uk; Paddy Collins; Paul Hirons; Ruth Newell; stuchbury@dsl.pipex.com; Terry Bloomfield

Subject: FW: Aylesbury Vale Times - Garden waste incorrect date published

1

From: Kennedy, Alison [mailto:AKennedy@aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk]

Sent: 07 March 2016 14:53

To: Kennedy, Alison

Subject: Aylesbury Vale Times - Garden waste incorrect date published

Hello

Today, the latest issue of AVDC's news magazine, Aylesbury Vale Times, started being distributed to households across the district.

Unfortunately, dates for Easter Monday revised collections in the garden waste section on page 12, are printed incorrectly.

The correct day for Easter Monday collections in 2016 should read: Monday 28 March, which will now be collected the following Saturday, 2 April.

Those garden waste customers who would normally have a collection on Monday 4 April, will still have their bin collected on Monday 4 April.

The revised dates for the May bank holiday garden waste collections are correct, as are the revised dates for Good Friday collections of normal recycling or waste.

We apologise for the error and any confusion it may cause. All correct collection dates can be found at www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk/bins

We will be putting the correction out across our communication channels and would really appreciate it if you could let residents know at any opportunity.

Thanks in advance for your co-operation.

Kind regards

Alison Kennedy

Snr Communications & Marketing Officer

Aylesbury Vale District Council

The Gateway Gatehouse Road Aylesbury Bucks HP19 8FF

Tel: 01296 585007

Visit our website: www.aylesburyvaledc.gov.uk



MK Community Bank,
Aylesbury Vale Community Bank,
Thame Community Bank,
and Didcot Community Bank.



Tel: 030303 00147 E-mail: enquiries@swancreditunion.org.uk

Web: www.swancreditunion.org.uk

24th February 2016

Town Clerk
Buckingham Town Council
The Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham
Buckinghamshire. MK18 1JP

Dear Sir/Madam

INVITATION TO ATTEND THE SWAN CREDIT UNION AGM

17 MARCH 2016: 7 pm

I would like to invite you to attend the Annual General meeting of Swan Credit Union to be held at the offices of Aylesbury Vale District Council (The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, HP19 8FF) starting at 7.00 pm on Thursday 17 March 2016. Our guest speaker will be Robin Walker, MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Credit Unions.

You are a key partner for the Credit Union/Community Bank. If you are able to attend or wish to send an alternate please confirm by e-mail to dbutler@swancreditunion.org.uk

Yours Sincerely

Philip Turnbull
Board Secretary

Aylesbury Vale Clinical Commissioning Group
Second Floor
Aylesbury Vale District Offices
The Gatehouse
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury, Bucks
HP19 8FF

Telephone: 01296 585900

E-mail: feedback.aylesburyvaleccg@nhs.uk

Website: www.aylesburyvaleccg.nhs.uk

3rd March 2016

Mr C P Wayman
Town Clerk
Buckingham Town Council
Town Council Offices
Buckingham Centre
Verney Close
Buckingham
MK18 1JP

Dear Mr Wayman

Ref: Minor Injuries in Buckingham

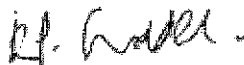
Thank you for your letter of 11th February, highlighting your concerns over the lack of a dedicated minor injury service located in the Buckingham area.

I have, of course, every sympathy with the elderly patient you mention and sincerely hope she is making a good recovery. While I understand the argument you make for care that could be administered closer to home (in this case Buckingham), it is unfortunately the case that provision of a minor injuries service located in this area would be prohibitively expensive to deliver and we therefore have no current plans to do so.

The minor injuries unit in High Wycombe costs in the region of £2million per annum but delivers care to over 3,000 patients per month (with each case costing health services approximately £55). Our activity figures for the North Locality of AVCCG, which includes Buckingham, show that the local cases of minor injury generally number fewer than 800 patients per month – yet despite this, the running costs of such a service would still be similar to that of High Wycombe.

As I am sure you appreciate, our health economy continues to be placed under great pressure, meaning it is vital for us to maximise our resources so that we can deliver the best possible quality of care to everyone who needs it. Stoke Mandeville Hospital does offer a minor injury service via A&E and, should a Buckingham patient need this service, they could be seen either there or at Milton Keynes - the costs of these services are contained within the running costs of the A&E service.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Suddes
Urgent Care Clinical Lead, Aylesbury Vale CCG

Buckingham Community Hall Association
Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 23 July 2015

Committee Members Present: Geraldine Collins, Paddy Collins, Roger Tear, Anne Liverseidge, Derrick Isham, Peter Burke, Tim Scudamore, Mike Hall, Andy Mahi and Building / Booking Manager Terry Bloomfield.

1. Apologies: Martin Try.

2. Minutes of 28 May 2015: Agreed as a true record.

3. Matters arising from said Minutes: No matters arising.

4. Correspondence: No Correspondence.

5. Chairman's Report: The Chairman updated members on the ongoing public toilet shop mobility provision. Hopefully the proposed toilets will be well away from the Centre. Contact a Solicitor for legal advice if necessary.

6. Booking Manager's Report: Hiring's for 2015 are looking very favourable. We have lost the Wednesday Toy Library session due to lack of support. The caretakers are in the process of carrying out minor repairs around the building.

7. Treasurers Report: Two quotations were requested for the installation of extra electrical sockets around the Centre. Only one quotation was received, Gilberts Electrical of Brackley. £1283.76 for Large and Small hall and £454.37 for Office, plus vat. *Proposed Paddy Collins, Seconded Derrick Isham and carried to accept quotation.* Treasurer to request a quotation from Gilberts for Surge Protection. Two quotations have been received by the Town Council for the roof repair around the well area of the Centre roof. We are still awaiting confirmation of closure of the old Charity from the Charity Commission.

8. Access group: Derrick spoke as a member of the Buckingham Access for all group concerning the Centre's front doors. Wheelchair users are finding difficulty in entering the building through the front entrance. The door opens outwards and users have difficulty in holding the door back to enable them to enter. Members agreed to contact Abbot fire Buckingham for advice concerning electrically operated door systems.

9. Items for Future Agenda: Front door access.

10. Any Other Business: Members by majority agreed to take a deposit against extra cleaning of crockery / cutlery hiring.

11. Date of next Meeting: 24 September 2015 at 7.30pm. Anything cropping up before the next meeting will be dealt with by the Chairman or a meeting will be called.

Buckingham Community Hall Association

Minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on 26 November 2015

Committee Members Present: Paddy Collins, Roger Tear, Peter Burke, Tim Scudamore, Andy Mahi and Building / Booking Manager Terry Bloomfield.

- 1. Apologies:** Martin Try, Geraldine Collins, Anne Liverseidge, Derrick Isham and Mike Hall.
- 2. Minutes of 23 July 2015:** Agreed as a true record.
- 3. Matters arising from said Minutes:** No matters arising.
- 4. Correspondence:** No Correspondence.
- 5. Chairman's Report:** Gilberts electrical of Brackley will be in the Building beginning of December to fit extra sockets in both halls. The roof area above the well has now been repaired.
- 6. Booking Manager's Report:** Hiring's for 2016 are progressing favourable. Concerning the up keep of the building. Guttering joints need re-sealing. Some areas within the building need touch up paint. Terry will be standing down as building manager at the end of June 2016.
- 7. Treasurers Report:** Paddy thanked Terry for taking over the Sage accounts during his absence. He requested the Committee agree that 2015 hiring fees will continue throughout 2016. The Committee agreed. Members agreed to set the Caretaker and Cleaner rate of pay at £7.70 per hour from January 2016. Workplace Pensions kick in, in August 2017. At present Tara Stevens is the only employee that will be offered a Workplace Pension. Although the old Charity has been closed no recognition has been received from the Charity Commission.
- 8. Items for Future Agenda:** Office Staff recruitment.
- 9. Any Other Business:** 2016 AGM is scheduled for the 24th March.
- 11. Date of next Meeting:** 21 January 2016 at 7.30pm in Town Council Chamber. Anything cropping up before the next meeting will be dealt with by the Chairman.

Access For All

Minutes of Meeting held on 11th January 2016 - Well Street Centre

Welcome: John Russell welcomed everyone.

In Attendance: Mary Buckingham, Cllr. Derrick Isham, Pat Knibbs, Ruth Newell, Una Robinson, John Russell, John Squires, Cllr. Chris & Peter Strain-Clark.

Apologies: Cllr. Jenny Bates, Ed Grimsdale, Cllr. Margaret Gately, Clair Pudaruth, Cllr. Mike Smith, Cllr. Warren Whyte, Bill Howkins

Minutes 9th November Meeting. These were agreed.

Matters arising (a) A second display for the Aylesbury Vale Local Plan was held in the Community Centre. This time the venue was accessible though the proposed plan did not mention accessibility. We hope they will include some of our comments on the matter.

(b) Planning permission refused for the extra care housing on Brackley Road. The site on a dangerous corner made it inappropriate.

Chairman's report

Ed sent a message from Bournemouth: "I can't chair today because of the continuing family crisis but I send my congratulations and thanks to everyone in (& without!) Access4All who has contributed so much over 2015 to raising the profile of the disabled in Buckingham".

Secretary's report

Message from Cllr Warren Whyte: attends BCC cabinet on Mondays.

"Let members know that work is about to commence for the Long Bridge and the town centre English Heritage project. I have been able to arrange for the £200 grant to A4A for the publicity and ... for it to go to the town council to look after for you". Any publicity should mention the County's support.

The work on the bridge starts 18th January, for up to 9 weeks, with temporary traffic lights between 9.30 a.m. and 3.30 p.m. The footbridge will remain open.

The English Heritage project is in 2 phases.

Phase 1 - replacing the York stone paving outside Old Gaol and resetting the granite setts/kerbing outside Lloyds Bank/WHSmith - 11th Jan for 5 days.

Phase 2 - to replace and relocate a number of signposts in the Town Centre.

John Squires pointed out that much of the wear and tear caused by traffic in town was caused by lorries coming along the Brackley Road since the signage at the Brackley end does not warn them in time to avoid it and then there is nowhere to turn. We should contact Warren about this matter.

Finally, 3 Well Street (Old Davey Brothers garage) was given approval for conversion to a café, wine bar and function room. It seems that disabled access was ignored by AVDC. The only downstairs loo - a disabled loo - appears difficult to get to, involving asking other customers to move. No access at all to the upstairs function room. Town Councillor Paul Hirons reports "The attitude seems to be, if they can't get there, well they can't get there." He will report to

the Town Council on 18th Jan. We should follow this up and A4A should write to AVDC reminding them of the 2010 Equality Act and the Buckingham Local Plan.

Treasurer's report - John Russell supported by Sophie, Sam & Jonathan Jarvis managed to raise the profile of A4A by taking part in the Christmas parade where they collected £43.90. There was a vote of thanks to John for all his hard work. Our funds now stand at £1327.21p of which £110.80p is cash in hand.

DisabledGo – Good news - the Town Council will fund DisabledGo over three years for an access survey of 100 premises. This will advise how access to our shops, cafes, pubs, etc could be improved. *Contract is now signed*
DisabledGo will meet landlords and shopkeepers, and hold public meetings, and produce an access guide, available to all on the internet, with symbols describing the accessibility of each premise that agrees to be included. Other Authorities have produced such guides and they have been used to inform decisions. The least they will do is put competitive pressure on premises to improve their own accessibility and DisabledGo will provide advice. The assessment will be carried out by trained professionals with some possibly recruited locally.

Accessible Buckingham leaflet - We now have Warren's £200, (*and Cllr Robin Stuchbury has requested similar from BCC*), to spend on our own publicity leaflet. We still have money in the bank to supplement it. So who will take this on? John Russell will contact Jason to see if he could do a one off for us - to be printed by Phillips Print? John would be happy to be the telephone contact and Chris has opened an email account: buckinghamaccess4all@gmail.com

Members' concerns

Una had visited the newly refurbished Library and was concerned that it had not been checked for accessibility with chairs that were too low and round tables. John R pointed out that there is a small room just inside the door that appears to be accessible. Given our ongoing problems with our current meeting room we could investigate the use of their new meeting room which has an accessible toilet. Cost £10 per hour but not available on Mondays.

There is an ongoing problem with A-boards particularly outside the King's Head. They will move them back on request but Town Council should check them and remove the boards if they do not comply.

There are also ongoing problems with parking particularly on Western/Overn Avenue/Crescent. John S and Ed have had to postpone looking into this. Una has been urging AVDC to take action over the unsightly rubbish accumulating and blocking access around the Post Office. We await their action. Pat pointed out that there were also bins blocking the pavement along West Street which need sorting out.

LATE NEWS - John has arranged to collect keys in advance so our next meeting on **Monday February 8th 2016 2-3.30 p.m.** will be in **Buckingham Library, Verney Close.**

Minutes of the A4A Meeting held on 8th February 2016 in the Library

Minutes of Meeting at the Well Street Centre

Item 1. Welcome: John Russell welcomed everyone.

In Attendance: Cllr. Jenny Bates, Mary Buckingham, Simon Garwood, Cllr. Derrick Isham, Pat Knibbs, Una Robinson, John Russell, John Squires, Cllr. Chris & Peter Strain-Clark.

Apologies: Ed Grimsdale, Cllr. Ruth Newell, Clair Pudaruth, Cllr. Mike Smith, and Cllr. Warren Whyte

Items 2 & 3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th January 2016 were accepted with the correction that the developers of care housing proposed on the Brackley Road had not applied for planning permission. This led to a discussion of whether such housing was needed given that it would be expensive, and there was no easy access by footpath to the town.

Item 4. Acting Chairman's Report. John has been working on a provisional publicity leaflet to be available at places like the Tourist Information Centre and the Library. He had discussed it with Chris and Peter but had been let down by our graphics consultant. He is having little success chasing up Jason to help with the production of the leaflet and may have to take it back from him to make progress. He still needs photos of assorted members and will call us when needed. He is also working on a bigger more permanent leaflet that will include a map showing the new toilets when they appear!

Item 5. Secretary's report:

a) Cotton End progress - where level access was replaced by steps unusable by wheelchair or wheeled walkers.

It was agreed at AVDC Council meeting on 9th July 2015 to resolve the matter. But it has now been dropped from their Planning Enforcement report. The town council wishes to see this resolved but the land where a slope could replace the steps is jointly owned by BCC and the developer. Graham Smith (County Council Transport Co-ordinator) continues to try to negotiate with the developer and Robin Stuchbury is still chasing this up. Chris S-C will write as a matter of urgency to Carole Paternoster pressing for action. *Done*

b) Community Centre door handle

A couple of weeks ago a solution was found so that people with arthritis etc no longer needed to struggle with the door knob. The release catch had a small chain fitted to hold the lever back, so you only had to pull or push the door. But unfortunately on Wednesday morning someone accidentally disabled it, by pulling the push bar which broke the chain. The manager is working on it and it will be remedied as soon as possible. *Done*

Item 6. Treasurers Report

John reported that our funds stand at £1312.01p which includes £86.60p in cash.

Item 7. DisabledGo

Chris confirmed that Buckingham Town Council has signed the contract. The Clerk has met with DisabledGO and drawn up a draft timetable. The first step is to produce a priority list of major venues – those where one spends more than 20 mins and there is/should be an accessible toilet. Buckingham Town Council has put forward their ideas but now they want us to put forward our suggestions. Everyone was keen to contribute and amongst the suggestions were:

Boots Optician. Though a slope is not possible at least the steps could be of equal rise.

Villiers Hotel, Conference Centre. When directed to the Centre you are left to cross the road unaided and mount 3 steep steps with no hand rail. The only toilets are across the road in the Hotel or on the top floor of the Old Town Hall.

Old Town Hall, Ballroom. This has major access problems given the current position of the lift. However, simple steps, positioning of bins, clearing rubbish, not using corridors for storage, could make it less unbearable. When the lift is out of order it becomes impossible and they should alert potential users.

Payne's Court. Do they have hand rails?

Lloyd's Bank. Does this match the criteria for a major venue? It has very high steps.

Community Centre. This is a major venue.

Chantry Chapel. This is a National Trust property in a conservation area so they are reluctant to do anything. There must be a discrete way to improve access using posts and railings.

Buckingham Garden Centre. This is a great example with ramps and accessible toilet – but is it in Buckingham town?

Buckingham University. This has been ruled out as too large a problem to consider in its entirety at the present time.

Dentist above Barclay's Bank. This needs a handrail on both sides of the stairs for those with a preferred hand.

Vibin's Restaurant. This is a good example of a chairlift but its limitations should be made clear.

Fireside Café. As of now this is impossible with cramped seating, split level and no access to upstairs toilet. Hopes of improvements involving next door premises came to nothing.

Best Western Hotel on by-pass. This has lifts etc but still needs checking out.

Churches. The parish church is OK with 2 toilets but what about the others?

Tesco. Accessible with accessible toilet.

Schools. These aren't really Town Centre and should comply as they are BCC property.

Well Street & Lace Hill Community Centres.

Swan Pool. This is not as good as it could be with some problem door handles and not enough suitably placed chairs.

Project Street Life. Now in Salvation Army Hall

Youth Centre. This has ramps and lifts.

New Scout Headquarters on Mt Pleasant. It is worth checking out that this conforms as it also will be used by the general community.

If anyone has any further ideas they should pass them on to Chris. It was hoped that DisabledGO with their experience will be able to add to this list.

Item 8. Accessibility Leaflet. See Item 4. Above.

Item 9. Members Concerns.

John S was concerned about the position of the new toilets and feared it might be dangerous for us at night. The toilets are in an isolated area that has been a night time gathering point youths up to no good and it is accessed by paths that are barely used by the general public at night. Chris confirmed that planning permission has been granted and building will commence shortly but will bear in mind his concerns. It was a shame a better site could not be found but everywhere else faced planning problems. The Town Council still hopes the Moreton Road toilets will be kept open.

Parking in Western Avenue and Overn Crescent are still causing concern. Cars on pavements are blocking the way of wheelchairs and buggies. County Councillors are aware of the problem and trying to do something.

Highland Road turning area continues to be a problem with parents parking and blocking access,

Mary hopes the renovated 'Davey Brothers' will tackle access problems.
Amended application revising disabled loo now submitted.

Una pointed out that the steps at the foot of Elm Street are often completely blocked by cars making it impossible to get down even using the handrails.

Simon encouraged us to participate in the Community Event in the Old Town Hall Ballroom on Thursday 6 – 8pm. *More on that anon – lift out of order.*

Item 10. Next meeting **Monday 14th March 2-3.30 pm** in Buckingham Library