



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Think Mask, Think Lateral Flow Test

TOWN CENTRE &  
EVENTS COMMITTEE

Tuesday, 09 November 2021

Councillors

You are summoned to an **Extraordinary meeting of the Town Centre & Events Committee** of Buckingham Town Council will be held on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021 **at 7pm** in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham.

Please note that the meeting will be preceded by a Public Session in accordance with Standing Orders 3.e and 3.f, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes. Members of the public can attend the meeting in person. The Council is trialling the use of video conferencing to enable the public and guests to address Council meetings virtually. If you would like to address the meeting in this way, please email [committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk) or call 01280 816426 for details.

The meeting can be watched live on the Town Council's YouTube channel here:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC89BUTwVpjAOEIdSlfcZC9Q/>

Mr. P. Hodson  
Town Clerk

## AGENDA

### 1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive apologies from Councillors.

### 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. Comedy Night Venue

To receive and discuss a written report from The Events Coordinator [TCE/61/21](#)  
**436/21 Members AGREED** for the office to arrange a site visit to Villiers Hotel & Ballroom for new Councillors, and an Extraordinary meeting of TC&E to be arranged to finalise any recommendations to Full Council.



Twinned with Mouvaux, France;

Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany



Members are reminded when making decisions that the Public Sector Equality Duty 2010 requires Members to have due regard to the need to: Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct that is prohibited by the Act, advance equality of opportunity between people who share a characteristic and those who don't, and to foster good relations between people who share a characteristic and those who don't.

All Committee documents can be found on the Buckingham Town Council's website. Alternatively, the Clerk send you a copy of any minutes, reports or other information. To do this, send a request using the contact details set out above.

**4. Chair's Items**

**5. Date of the next meeting: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

**To:**

Cllr. R. Ahmed  
Cllr. F. Davies  
Cllr. Mrs. M Gateley (Town Mayor)  
Cllr. S. Hetherington  
Cllr. A. Mahi Vice Chair

Cllr. L. O'Donoghue  
Cllr. R. Stuchbury Chair  
Cllr. R. Willett

Mr. D. Jones (co-opted member)

**BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN CENTRE & EVENTS WORKING GROUP  
MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Contact Officer:** Amanda Brubaker, Events Coordinator

**Comedy Night Venue**

**1 Recommendation**

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Council resume holding comedy nights again in 2022.
- 1.2 It is recommended that the Committee recommends to Full Council that, providing a viable business case is agreed with the Hotel, the Council resumes use of the Villiers hotel ballroom to hold comedy nights in.

**2 Background**

- 2.1 In 2012 the Town Council held its first regular comedy night. The venue was the ballroom at the Villiers Hotel.
- 2.2 The events continued to run successfully until 2019 when concerns were raised around the standard of the disabled access.
- 2.3 The venue was chosen as the room was welcoming and there was a room where the comedians would be able to get changed. The licensed bar was fully stocked and staffed by Villiers Hotel, therefore, the Council did not have to pay for temporary license, door staff or pre-purchase drinks. The venue is a well-known venue in the centre of the Town.
- 2.4 The Ballroom seats up to 200 theatre style which is the ideal size for a comedy venue.
- 2.5 A special rate was agreed with Villiers who recouped their costs from the bar sales.

**3 Council Decisions**

- 3.1 On Monday 19th November 2018 Full Council agreed a recommendation from the Town Centre and Events Committee, and resolved that that due to the inadequate disabled access to the Ballroom in the Old Town Hall and the lack of disabled facilities in Villiers, this Council resolves not to use either of these venues for Town Council events until the access problems are resolved. **501/18**

3.2 The Council decided to stop using the Villiers in response to the following motion from Councillor Christine Strain-Clark:

**3.3**

Due to the inadequate disabled access to the Ballroom in the Old Town Hall and the lack of disabled facilities in Villiers, this committee resolves not to use either of these venues for Town Council events until the access problems are resolved. Cllr. Strain-Clark explained that Committee may choose to recommend the motion to Full Council as the motion, currently, only applies to events within the control of the Town Centre & Events Committee. Cllr. Strain-Clark described the disabled access to the Old Town Hall Ballroom along an alleyway, across a dirty drainage gully and up a steep camber into the back of the kitchens. Cllr. Strain-Clark said that it was not unreasonable, given the recent investment in the hotel, that access would have been improved. However, access to the old Town Hall Ballroom and conference facilities has not been improved and Cllr. Strain-Clark urged Members to support the motion, recognising that all residents of Buckingham, including the disabled and those with mobility issues, should have equal access and enjoyment of Town Council events. **423/18**

**4 Alternative venues**

- 4.1 A new venue was sought and the event was moved to the hall at the Royal Latin School.
- 4.2 The costs for this venue were more expensive. The hall hire was more expensive and we had to pay for door staff. We also had to pay for a cherry picker to be brought in so that the lights lighting up the stage could be re-positioned. A temporary license had to be obtain and a mobile bar brought in.
- 4.3 This venue has proved to be unsuitable, due to it being too large and there is nowhere suitable for the Comedians to change. It also had the feeling of being an assembly. Feedback from the public was negative as they resented paying for an evening in a school hall.
- 4.4 Two comedy nights were held there. The first made a loss of £1020.69 and the second (featuring a much cheaper comedian) made a loss of £390.
- 4.5 The Community Centre was also considered but the venue is block booked on a Sunday evening which is the best night to hold a comedy event. Even if it was available, it suffers from many of the same problems as the Latin School. The Council have all the additional costs of obtaining a temporary license, paying door staff and buying drinks.
- 4.6 The cost of hiring the Community Centre had also been looked into and was found to be more expensive to hire, as well as requiring the Council to obtain a temporary license for having a bar and provide stock and bar staff and buy drinks as well as providing door staff. Facilities for performers are limited at the Community Centre.

- 4.7 Other venues have been looked at but unfortunately none of them have proved to be suitable.
- 4.8 Comedy nights were originally set up so that all the costs were recovered through ticket sales. The only venue where this has proved possible is the Villiers Hotel.

## **5 Conclusion**

- 5.1 Accessibility is a priority for the Town Council, and various steps are taken to ensure that events and services are as accessible as possible to residents. In this instance, the Council needs to balance the requirement to make reasonable adjustments with the opportunity to provide comedy nights at all. The only remaining options are for comedy nights to be held at the Villiers Hotel, or for comedy nights to cease. In the absence of a more accessible venue that is suitable to hold comedy nights, it is proposed to resume holding comedy nights at the Villiers hotel.