



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICES, VERNEY CLOSE,
BUCKINGHAM. MK18 1JP

Telephone/Fax: (01280) 816 426

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk
www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Claire Molyneux

ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 07 June 2023

Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Environment Committee of Buckingham Town Council which will be held on Monday 12th June 2023 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. If you would like to address the meeting virtually, please email 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/>

Claire Molyneux
Town Clerk

AGENDA

1. Election of Chair

Members to elect a Chair of the Environment Committee for 2023-2024.

2. Election of Vice Chair

Members to elect a Vice Chair of the Environment Committee for 2023-2024.

3. Apologies for absence

Members are asked to receive apologies for absence.

4. 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.

5. Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on 17th April 2023 and received at Full Council on 22nd May 2023. [Copy previously circulated](#)



Twinned with Mouvaux, France;



Neurkirchen-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 can send you a copy of any minutes, reports, or other information. To do this, send a request using the contact details set out above.

6. Terms of Reference

To note the Terms of Reference for the Environment Committee, as agreed by Full Council.

[Appendix A](#)

7. Chandos Park

7.1 Tennis Club proposal – to receive a presentation from Wayne Gibbard from Buckingham Tennis Club.

7.2 Park Improvements – to receive a report from the Estates Manager.

[E/23/23](#)

8. Action report

To receive the report and note the updated information.

[Appendix B](#)

9. Budgets

To receive the latest figures.

[Appendix C](#)

10. Climate Emergency Action Plan

To receive and discuss updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

[Appendix D](#)

11. Memorial testing at Brackley Road cemetery update

To receive a report from the Estates Administrator.

[E/24/23](#)

12. The Ford

To receive a report from the Estates Administrator.

[E/25/23](#)

13. Railway Walk Conservation Volunteers

To receive a report from the Estates Administrator.

[E/26/23](#)

14. Brackley Road Cemetery – Local Heritage List

To note a letter from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Brackley Road Cemetery being added to the Local Heritage List.

[Appendix E](#)

15. New Cemetery

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

16. Actions arising from Full Council

To discuss representation - Tree Wardens (minute 18/23.7).

17. Updates from representatives on outside bodies

To receive verbal updates from Councillors.

18. Buckingham Community Wildlife Project

To receive notes from the meeting held on 22nd February 2023 and to discuss whether to appoint an additional member to the Committee.

[Appendix F](#)

19. News releases

20. Chair's announcements

21. Date of next meeting: Monday 31st July 2023.

To Committee Members:

Cllr. R. Ahmed

Cllr. F. Davies

Cllr. Mrs. M. Gateley

Cllr. S. Harvey

Cllr. Mrs. L. O'Donoghue

Cllr. A. Ralph

Cllr. A. Schaefer

Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Cllr. R. Willett

Town Mayor

COMMITTEE IN PRIVATE SESSION
Exclusion of public and press

RECOMMENDED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972, the following items will be likely to disclose exempt information relating to establishment and contractual matters and it is, therefore, **RECOMMENDED** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 the public and press be excluded.

22. Tingewick Road Green Spaces update

To note the correspondence from Hampshire County Council legal team.

[Appendix G](#)

23. CCTV

24.1 CCTV Policy update – to receive a report from the Estates Manager.

[E/27/23](#)

24.2 CCTV Policy.

[Appendix H](#)


24.3 Purchase of new re-deployable CCTV system - to receive a report from the Estates Manager.

[E/28/23](#)

24. Buckingham Community Centre

To receive a report from the Compliance and Projects Manager.

[E/29/23](#)

	<p>Buckingham Town Council</p> <p>Terms of Reference</p>	<p>Date agreed: 22/05/2023 Minute number: 18/23.2.1 Prepared by: Claire Molyneux Version: 2.3</p>
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Name

1. The Committee shall be known as the **ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**.

Membership

2. Membership of the Committee is open to any Councillor who wishes to be a member.
 - 2.1. Councillors who are not Members of the Committee may attend the meeting, but they may not vote on a decision.
3. The Committee shall be subject to a quorum of 3 or one third of its membership, whichever is greater.

Chair

4. The Committee shall elect a Chair at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Chair's period of office is for one year.
5. The Committee shall elect a Vice-Chair at the first meeting after the Annual Town Council Meeting. The Vice-Chair's period of office is for one year.
6. The Chair if present shall Chair the Committee meeting.

Conduct of the Meeting

7. All meetings of the Environment Committee shall be convened in accordance with the Town Council's standing orders and current legislation.

Area of Operations

8. The Committee shall be responsible for and have the authority for (unless stated elsewhere) the following aspects of the Town Council's functions:
 - Town Council property (excluding office accommodation)
 - Open spaces in the town and surrounding area
 - Community facilities in the town and surrounding area
 - Community services in the town and surrounding area
9. In addition to the areas of operation above the Environment Committee has the following responsibilities:
 - 9.1 The Committee has authority to proceed with all items within its budget but must refer to Full Council when non-budgeted expenditure is anticipated.

- 9.2 Ensuring the management of all aspects of upkeep, maintenance and administration of the Council's property including buildings, parks, cemetery and open spaces, and the management and administration of devolved services.
- 9.3 Making recommendations to the Council following any investigation or review of any matter relating to the protection and improvement of Buckingham Town environment.
- 9.4 Ensuring the proper maintenance of all street furniture owned by or supplied by the Council, and to recommend the purchase of additional or replacement street furniture where appropriate. In this context, "street furniture" includes waste bins, dog bins, seating, and signage.
- 9.5 Managing all aspects of upkeep and maintenance of Brackley Road Cemetery, Chandos Park, Bourton Park, the Ken Tagg play area, Railway Walk, the Circular Walk, Castle Hill and any other land or property acquired by the Council.
- 9.6 Liaising with Buckinghamshire Council and other relevant agencies on the maintenance of items falling within their remit, including footpaths, pavements, cycleways, roads, waterways, horticultural and arboricultural works, play areas, play equipment and areas of open public space.
- 9.7 Making recommendations to the Council following any investigation or review of any matter relating to the purchase, sale or disposal of land or property.
- 9.8 Obtaining such professional advice as deemed necessary to ensure the protection of the Council.
- 9.9 Analysing any compulsory purchase proposals and advising the Council accordingly.
- 9.10 Ensuring that any works carried out on the Council's behalf are completed as specified, or otherwise completed to a satisfactory standard.
- 9.11 Taking forward any other matters concerning land or property as required by the Council.
- 9.12 Making representations to the appropriate authority on matters relating to the provision and maintenance of externally controlled lands and buildings within the town, providing leisure facilities for residents and visitors.
- 9.13 Making representation with regard to the external services that affect young people, the elderly, unemployed and impoverished citizens.
- 9.14 Public services: acting as the consultee, making representations, participating in and supporting as required all matters relating to:
 - community care, social care and health services
 - policing, crime and ASB
 - education

Further Information

10. The Committee shall appoint sub-committees and working groups as and when it is deemed necessary and shall set out Terms of References for those bodies.
11. The Committee shall undertake reviews of Terms of Reference as and when appropriate for sub-committees and working groups under its remit and should make recommendations to Full Council regarding its own Terms of Reference.

Buckingham Town Council
Environment Committee
Monday 12th June 2023.

Contact Officer: Lee Phillip Estates Manager

Chandos Park Improvements

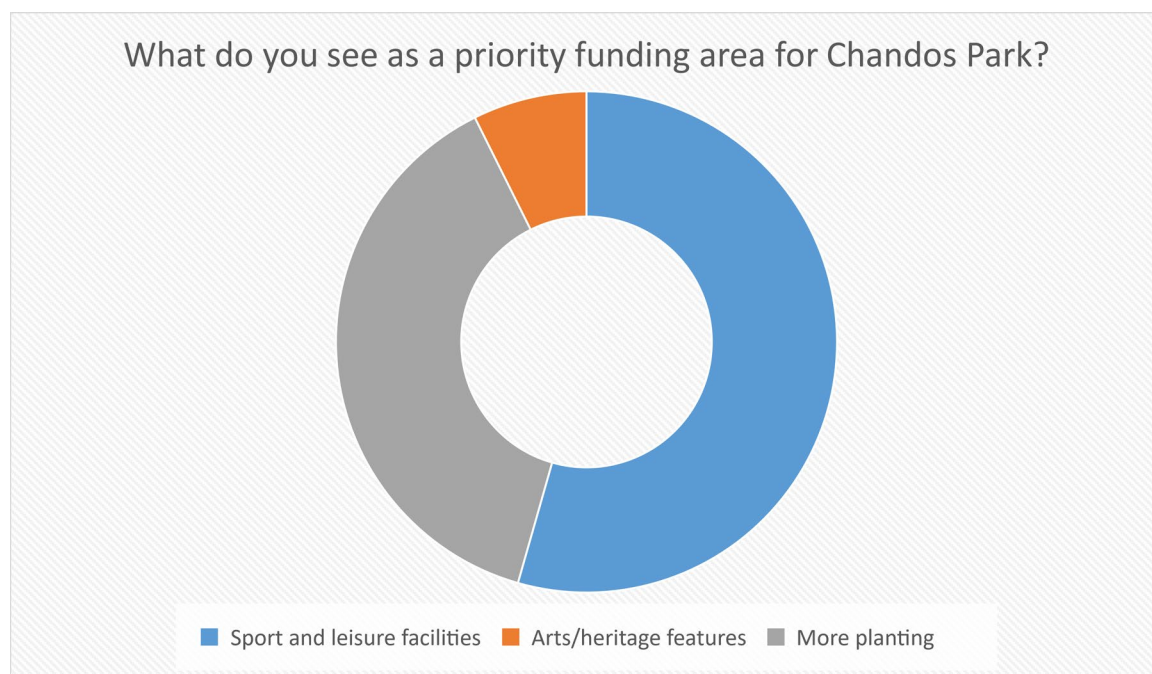
1. Recommendations

1.1 That members agree to proceed with the S106 application for the items detailed below.

2. Background

2.1 Funding from S106 contribution of £13,593 for Chandos Park Improvements has now become available.

2.2 A park users survey was launched in March 2023 and ran for six weeks. The questionnaire received 145 responses and the aim of the consultation was to establish what were the priorities of people using the park. The results were:



Chandos Park is used frequently and more than half of those asked, 77%, visit Chandos Park at least once or twice a week, or more often. Some of the most regular park users are those between 41 and 50 years of age.

Parks are clearly important for families and households with children of school age; over 60% of those surveyed, visit the park with children or their family.

What are the top three reasons for visiting Chandos Park?

1. Waking/jogging
2. Visiting the play area with children
3. Enjoying some quiet time

There were several issues that received a 'Poor' rating, with the top few being:

- Range of play facilities 60%
- Art and Heritage Features 79%
- Control of undesirable activity Graffiti/Anit social behaviour 54%

People were asked if there was anything that would encourage them to use the park more frequently in the future and the top five responses were:

Improvement	No. Responses
More play equipment for all ages	61
Information boards or art installations	41
*Other	57
Improved sports and games facilities	31

* The most frequently requested improvements under 'other' were more benches, planting, and additional streetlighting.

3. Information

3.1 The following themes emerged from the consultation and should inform future funding bids to improve the park.

3.2 Improved play equipment

3.2.1 An additional item of play equipment was installed in January 2023, to replace the vandalised multiplay equipment. The new item has been well received by park users but has highlighted the lack of play equipment aimed at children aged 2-7 years old.

3.2.2 The scorpion swing and accessible roundabout are frequently closed for repair. The safety surfacing for the accessible roundabout needs replacing. If the replacement wet pour could be high contrasting colours, which would aid someone with visual impairment in accessing the equipment. The Scorpion swing has reached the end of its useful life and could be replaced with a new item of play equipment aimed at the younger age group.

3.3 Improved sports and games facilities

3.3.1 Chandos Park's multiuse games area (MUGA) needs relining, the old configuration allowed for football, basketball, and cricket. The town has a number of outdoor MUGAs and it is proposed that any future relining work takes into account alternative sports that are popular in Buckingham such as Korfbal, netball and hockey.

A full copy of the feedback report can be accessed via our website from the following link. <https://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/2023-User-Survey-Results.docx>

4. Budget Costs

4.1 Costings have been sought for the following improvements:

	What is to be provided	Cost
A	Replace 'Scorpion' Swing item with an item for younger children.	£8000
B	Safety surfacing improvements for play area	£4272
C	MUGA improvements – addition of Netball and Korfball line markings within area	£1250
	Total	£13522

No.	Committee	Minute No.	Action	Action Required	Action Owner	Update	Deadline
1	Environment	92/15; 904/15;640/16 ; 309.4/17- 463; 206/18; 126/19	Sports Pitch Provision	Historical correspondence and agreements to be reviewed by the Town Clerk.	Town Clerk	To be reviewed following the new SPD introduction/ options discussed as part of BNHP	Ongoing
2	Environment	884/18	Compliments and Complaints Log	Members AGREED the report be brought back to Environment Committee in six months time in the same format.	Committee Clerk		Sep-23
3	Environment	314/20;1078/20	New Cemetery	Full Council Min 1160/20 Proposed by Cllr. Stuchbury, seconded by Cllr. O'Donoghue and unanimously AGREED that the Town Council proceed with the immediate purchase of the allotment and cemetery land outlined from money held with the Council's general reserve for a total cost of £87,000. The Council's solicitor has been instructed accordingly.	Town Clerk	Revised plans have been delayed. Awaiting market tested costings.	On agenda
4	Environment	319/20	Lace Hill Doors	AGREED for a report regarding an additional external fire exit door is brought back to the next committee meeting.	Estates Manager	Estates Manager awaiting designs. The architect has resigned. This project will need to be restarted.	Ongoing
5	Environment	771/20 & 1088/20	Tingewick Road Greenspaces	Members AGREED for the Town Council to take on the green spaces and play areas, provided that Barratts agree a suitable initial payment, and that the development of the green spaces are completed satisfactorily, in line with the agreed plans.	Town Clerk	In negotiation	Still awaiting a formal offer from Barratts.
6	Environment	323/21	Ford	to RECOMMEND to form a working party to formulate recommendations for a future meeting of the Environment Working Group and to launch a public consultation in liaison with the Buckingham Society.	Estates Manager	Community Board have requested evidence of community support and match funding.	Report on Agenda
7	Environment	543	Castle Hill Information Board	It is recommended that Members agree to allow the proposed board to be installed on the Church Green, conditional on the exact location and final design being agreed by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chair of the Environment Committee		The person who was leading on this project has moved on and Buckingham Society are asking if anyone else is able to progress it.	Has been chased

No.	Committee	Minute No.	Action	Action Required	Action Owner	Update	Deadline
8	Environment	826	Pollution	To ask Buckinghamshire Council to conduct a new survey into the levels of noise, air pollution and particulates, particularly on the A421, and furnish Buckingham Town Council with the results of all previous surveys on record and what steps it is taking to deal with any unsafe levels of pollution.	Town Clerk	Reply recieved - "Buckinghamshire Council have been monitoring Nitrogen Dioxide in the Buckinghamshire Town Centre for over 10 years. Monitoring data from these locations can be found in the Annual Status Report on the Council website. https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/air-quality/air-quality-management-reviews-and-annual-reports/ We are in the process of writing the annual Status Report for 2023 which will report on the monitoring results for the calendar year 2022. The report will be submitted to Defra by 30th June 2023 and will be uploaded onto the website within a month afterwards".	Buckinghamshire are also considering other options around the A421 and have stated that they will get back to the Town Clerk as soon as possible with a further update.
9	Environment	632/22	Rent review Chandos Bowls Club and Tennis Club	Cllr. Gateley Proposed, Cllr. Willett Seconded and Members unanimously AGREED .	Estates Manager	Meetings with both clubs being arranged.	Ongoing
10	Environment	786/22	Railway Walk Conservation Group	Final push for to recruit a volunteer co-ordinator at the Big Help Out promotion.	Estates Administrator	Further funding from Trust of Conservation Volunteers to sustain group until March 2024.	On agenda
11	Environment	797/22	Buckingham Community Centre	It was agreed that an update will be brought to the next meeting.	Compliance Manager		on agenda

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2023

Month No: 2

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Explanation
<u>ENVIRONMENT</u>							
<u>201 Environment</u>							
3995 NI Environment	2,888	20,582	17,694		17,694	14.0%	
3996 Pensions ERS Environment	7,951	57,963	50,012		50,012	13.7%	
4004 Salaries Environment	33,492	230,926	197,434		197,434	14.5%	
4112 Environment Equipment	1,217	10,260	9,043		9,043	11.9%	
4168 Defibrillators	0	518	518		518	0.0%	
<u>202 Roundabouts</u>							
1051 Roundabout no. 1	2,576	2,576	0			100.0%	
1052 Roundabout no. 2	1,373	1,373	0			100.0%	
1053 Roundabout no. 3	0	2,254	2,254			0.0%	Not invoiced as yet
1054 Roundabout no. 4	2,872	2,872	0			100.0%	
1056 Roundabout no. 6	0	3,060	3,060			0.0%	Not Invoiced as yet
1057 Roundabout no. 7	1,561	1,561	0			100.0%	
4108 Roundabout	0	2,110	2,110		2,110	0.0%	
<u>203 Maintenance</u>							
4082 Allotments	0	2,101	2,101		2,101	0.0%	Invoice due from BRA June/July
<u>204 Devolved services expenses</u>							
1017 Devolved services income	22,881	20,992	(1,889)			109.0%	Received more income than budget for
<u>205 Grounds maintenance</u>							
4033 Waste disposal	294	5,610	5,316		5,316	5.2%	
4035 Machinery	235	2,650	2,415		2,415	8.9%	
4036 Fuel (Mower)	184	2,300	2,116		2,116	8.0%	
4037 Sundries	152	2,750	2,598		2,598	5.5%	
4063 Vehicle hire and running costs	729	7,000	6,271		6,271	10.4%	
<u>248 Depot</u>							
4013 Equipment purchase	0	4,070	4,070		4,070	0.0%	
4055 Alarm	517	500	(17)		(17)	103.4%	Price increases after budget finalised
4225 Rates	4,349	4,556	207		207	95.5%	
4601 Repairs & maintenance fund	0	900	900		900	0.0%	
4602 Electricity	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	

4603	Water	135	550	415	415	24.6%
<u>249 C Meadow toilets & Shopmobility</u>						
1085	Shopmobility income	0	200	200		0.0%
4602	Electricity	0	600	600	600	0.0%
4603	Water	0	600	600	600	0.0%
4608	Shopmobility	0	1,250	1,250	1,250	0.0%
4612	Contractor charge	871	10,560	9,689	9,689	8.2%
4709	MAINTENANCE	0	600	600	600	0.0%

250 Lace Hill

1026	Lace Hill Community Centre	10,912	40,250	29,338			27.1%
4050	Lace Hill playing fields	0	550	550		550	0.0%
4118	Solar panels	0	380	380		380	0.0%
4158	Lace Hill gas	1,228	4,202	2,974		2,974	29.2%
4159	Lace Hill electricity	1,064	7,660	6,596		6,596	13.9%
4160	Lace Hill water	121	385	264		264	31.5%
4161	Lace Hill Repair & Maintenance	130	3,707	3,577		3,577	3.5%
4162	Lace Hill Planned Maintenance	708	7,200	6,492	564	5,928	17.7%
4164	Lace Hill equipment	29	3,000	2,971	187	2,784	7.2%
4225	Rates	10,354	10,704	350		350	96.7%

251 Chandos Park

1030	Bowls income	0	627	627		0.0%	Annual invoiced raised in October
1035	TENNIS COURT RENT	0	714	714		0.0%	Annual Invoice raised in January
4601	Repairs & maintenance fund	0	3,780	3,780	3,780	0.0%	Credit Received
4602	Electricity	(113)	1,600	1,713	1,713	(7.1%)	
4603	Water	590	2,120	1,530	1,530	27.8%	
4606	Bowls Club Maintenance	0	2,120	2,120	2,120	0.0%	

252 Bourton Park

4601	Repairs & maintenance fund	0	8,300	8,300	4,500	3,800	54.2%
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253 Cemeteries

1041	Burial fees	6,499	27,050	20,551			24.0%
4225	Rates	2,201	1,056	(1,145)		(1,145)	208.4%
4265	New cemetery maintenance	0	3,500	3,500		3,500	0.0%
4601	Repairs & maintenance fund	581	4,445	3,864	2,190	1,674	62.3%
4602	Electricity	0	960	960		960	0.0%
4617	Memorial testing	0	2,156	2,156		2,156	0.0%
4619	Cemeteries Development	7,675	69,647	61,972		61,972	11.0%
4620	Expenses for burial duties	405	5,510	5,105		5,105	7.4%

254 Chandos Park Toilets

LP to check rebate amounts, potential refund due

14 of 39							
4612	Contractor charge	871	11,810	10,939	10,939	7.4%	
4709	MAINTENANCE	1,086	1,185	99	99	91.6%	
<u>255 Railway Walk & Castle Hill</u>							
4120	Friends of Groups	0	1,140	1,140	1,140	0.0%	
4709	MAINTENANCE	0	1,096	1,096	1,096	0.0%	
<u>256 Storage Premises</u>							
4066	Grenville Garage Rent	100	765	665	665	13.0%	
<u>258 Cemetery Lodge</u>							
1061	Cemetery Lodge rental income	1,886	11,747	9,861		16.1%	
4034	PWLB repayments inc. interest	0	4,702	4,702	4,702	0.0%	
4609	Cemetery Lodge maintenance	0	3,105	3,105	3,105	0.0%	
<u>260 CCTV</u>							
1097	Grants Received	4,000	0	(4,000)		0.0%	
4100	CCTV maintenance	0	2,500	2,500	2,500	0.0%	
<u>261 Community Centre</u>							
4085	Structural repairs	0	15,000	15,000	550	14,450	3.7%
4091	Chamber	932	1,051	119	119	88.7%	
<u>262 Parks General</u>							
4101	Seats and bins	0	1,605	1,605		1,605	0.0%
4102	Dog bins	278	9,010	8,732	4,072	4,660	48.3%
4106	Play area maintenance	2,561	6,966	4,405		4,405	36.8%
4122	Tree works	7,340	28,200	20,860	785	20,075	28.8%
4270	Bridges	0	45,000	45,000		45,000	0.0%
4275	Play area replacement fund	0	5,000	5,000		5,000	0.0%
4276	Tree wardens	0	1,100	1,100		1,100	0.0%
Grand Totals:- Income		54,560	115,276	60,716			47.3%
Expenditure		91,154	653,173	562,019	12,847	549,172	15.9%
Net Income over Expenditure		(36,594)	(537,897)	(501,303)			

07/06/2023
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Buckingham Town Council

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Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/05/2023

Month No: 2

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>EARMARKED RESERVES</u>						
901 Ear-marked reserves						
9002 Cemetery development	0	52,433	52,433		52,433	0.0%
9010 Flood relief fund	0	826	826		826	0.0%
9011 War memorial	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%
9019 Memorial testing & Repairs	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%
9025 Play area replacement	0	52,932	52,932		52,932	0.0%
9035 Parks Development	0	12,230	12,230	2,230	10,000	18.2%
9040 Park run	0	89	89		89	0.0%
9050 Bridge Repairs	0	13,263	13,263	13,263	(0)	100.0%
9052 Depot equipment	0	11,635	11,635	3,975	7,660	34.2%
9053 AEDs	0	555	555		555	0.0%
9054 Lace Hil repairs & Maintenance	0	25,000	25,000		25,000	0.0%
9057 Cemetery Lodge repairs	0	5,180	5,180		5,180	0.0%
9058 Bowls Club Pavillion repairs	0	770	770		770	0.0%
9059 Making good / boundary repairs	0	45,000	45,000		45,000	0.0%
9065 Purchase cemetery & allotment	0	87,000	87,000		87,000	0.0%
Grand Totals:- Income	0	0	0			
Expenditure	0	310,913	310,913	19,468	291,445	
Net Income over Expenditure	(0)	(310,913)	(310,913)			



Buckingham Town Council Climate Emergency Action Plan

At Full Council on the 15th July 2019 Members AGREED:

"That Buckingham Town Council declares a climate emergency and commits to encourage Buckingham to become carbon neutral. This will help to raise the profile of this vital issue and secure external support and funding. It is also proposed that Buckingham Town Council also signs up to the Covenant of Mayors to track our progress and link with towns around the world who are cutting emissions. Our aim is to make the Town Council carbon neutral by 2030 and encouraging the town's population, organisation and businesses to work with us in that aim."

Local Councils that have declared a climate emergency tend to do so to provide leadership and help educate their communities about both the threat of and solutions to the climate crisis. This should then act to harness "people power" to make that change possible at all levels, especially driving higher levels of government to act and ultimately force them to pull the economic and legislative levers needed to reverse global warming and restore a safe climate.

This action plan sets locally determined actions with measures to deliver the objectives both within the Council and across the town. The actions are measurable with targets that hold the Council to account. This Climate Emergency Action Plan is an over-arching pledge that identifies the following priority areas of change:

Objectives

- a) Energy - to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat.
- b) Transport – to promote walking, cycling and public transport. Accelerating the move to Council owned electric vehicles.
- c) Food & Land - to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water.
- d) Economy, Housing & Waste – to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are climate resilient whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water
- e) Community Engagement - to engage local people in accelerating their own responses and building resilience to ongoing climate impacts.

Buckingham Town Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan

Community Engagement - to engage local people in accelerating their own responses and building resilience to ongoing climate impacts.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Update
3.	Encourage practical action by local people through proactive communication campaigns.	Number of visitors per year to webpage	TC&E and Environment Committee	<p>Monthly social media content planning sessions allow for a regular programme of environmental campaigns and initiatives</p> <p>The office has engaged with local schools to discuss our Action Plan and how they can get involved in community climate action.</p> <p>As a way of generating further engagement, competitions and awards for innovative approaches to tackle the climate emergency should be promoted by the council.</p>
5.	Encourage the formation of Local Climate Action Groups.	One formed	Climate Champions	A Community Climate café will host it's first meeting on 22 nd April 2023 @ 10am in Buckingham Library. (2) Climate Cafe Buckingham (Earth Day Celebration) Facebook
6.	Host a public meeting on the issue.	One per year	Climate Champions	<p>It is suggested that the Town Council host an information stall on climate change at every public event in Buckingham, as deemed appropriate. Feedback from each event is to be reviewed in line with the objectives of the Climate Emergency Action Plan's objectives</p> <p>An 'Eco Matters' discussion table was present at the Annual Town Meeting and BTC will host an information stand at the Spring Green fair on Sunday 23rd April.</p>



Energy - reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat

	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
8.	Change BTC energy provider to renewable/ green tariffs	Moved to green tariffs by 2022/23	Environment Committee	Solar Panels installed October 2021 at Lace Hill.
9.	Offset carbon emissions by planting more trees (whenever possible)	One tree planting project per year	Environment Committee	16 th Jan 2022 were 250 trees planted, including 12 x Black Poplars. An additional tree planting was undertaken by the Green spaces Team at Lace Hill sport pitches on 17/02/2022 including 7 x Silver birch, 3 x Gingko and expansion of the hedge line with 125 hornbeam whips. In November 2022 there will be 420 trees planted within hedging at Brackley Road Cemetery and Bourton Park, along with a memorial tree donated by the WI.

Economy, Housing & Waste – to support the local economy to ensure existing and new homes are climate resilient whilst reducing, re using and recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water

	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Update
13.	Provide recycling facilities at all Town Council Events and within Town Council owned buildings.	One mixed recycling bin per event	TC&E /Environment	Recycling bins are now being provided at all Town Council events. In particular, noting the success of recycling Biffa bins at Music in the Market & Bandjam. Recycling in all BTC offices (including Lace Hill Centre's public areas) now implemented.
14.	Work with and support litter picking initiatives around	One Town Council event	TC&E Committee	Community Litter Picking kits are housed at the Town Council's depot and Buckingham Library for community use.



	town including the increased promotion of annual River rinse events.	per year in addition to the two annual river rinses.		The equipment is in regular use by community groups, including weekly litter picks by Furze Down School.
15.	Promote the installation of the water bottle refill station in Chandos Park and the national refill initiative	Number of interactions through Social Media	Environment Committee and Resources Committee	COMPLETE <u>Water bottle refill</u> station installed and positively received.
Transport – to promote walking, cycling and public transport. Accelerating the move to Council owned electric vehicles.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
23.	Replace BTC owned vehicles and green spaces equipment with suitable electric models when existing petrol, and diesel vehicles come to the end of their usable life, resulting in full replacement with electric vehicles by 2030.	Replace each vehicle at the appropriate point in its lifecycle.	Environment Committee	One Electric van, leased Summer 2020. Aim for full replacement of all vehicles with electric alternatives by 2030. Once the new cemetery is up and running there are plan to purchase other electric powered machinery, such as ride-on mowers.
24.	Refurbish and promote the town's benches to assist walkers to take short rests. Advertise Buckingham as a 'pedestrian friendly town' on the Council's ' <u>Walks and Maps</u> ' section of the website.	Replace each bench at the appropriate point in its lifecycle.	Environment Committee	Walking trails regularly promoted via <u>Buxplore</u> along with healthy outdoor activities. Greenspaces team have refurbished or repaired a number of park benches throughout the town and are seeking funding for additional picnic benches in Bourton Park.



Food & Land - to promote sustainable land management, including tree planting to help absorb carbon & water.				
	Action	Measure	Responsibility	Updates
27.	Finalise Flood Plans with local partners	Number of contacts established	Environment & Resources Committee	Meetings have been held between Buckinghamshire Council and the Town Council to discuss how to ensure a coordinated response to future flood plans. Flooding advice has been added to the town council website. All properties at risk will be written to each year with details of the Council's plan and sources of support.
28.	Advise residents on steps to increase resilience	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee	
29.	Promote the community flood warden scheme	Increased number of residents signed up to the Flood Warden Scheme	Environment & Resources Committee	
30.	Protect and enhance native species and habitats. Promoting and supporting opportunities for environmental enhancement and regeneration	One environmental campaign per year	Environment Committee	<p>Installation of <u>wildflower boards in Bourton Park</u> to promote the planting of native wildflower species (April 2021).</p> <p>Thousands of native <u>Woodland bulbs</u> were planted around Bourton Park in September 2020. For 2022 the popular wild flower, meadow in Bourton Park will be reseeded with native flowering wildflowers.</p> <p>Within the Autumn 2022, additional bulb planting will be planned for sections of Lace Hill, the Holocaust Memorial and Otters Brook Play Area.</p> <p>Three new bird boxes are installed in Bourton Park by volunteer, Michael hunt. Providing nesting sites for small birds.</p>



34.	Review of grass verges and hedges to identify areas to be trimmed less and later in the year to support more wildflowers and insects	To be considered within Greenspaces Strategy and Management Plan for Parks	Environment Committee	The grass cutting plan is reviewed annually by Environment Committee in March. The paddocks and sections of the bypass are cut later in the year to support and promote biodiversity. There will be three large sections of the Bypass planted with wildflower seed, the rotavated sections are now visible along the bypass.
35.	Each year allocate a section of land to be planted with wildflowers.	One per year	Environment Committee	Plans are in place to 're-wild' sections of verge along the bypass with wildflowers and grasses during 2023. The Town Council has planted the equivalent of 16 tennis courts of wildflowers since 2017. Wildflowers were distributed at Spring Green Fair – April 2023.
36.	Plan a new eco-friendlier cemetery to include planting more trees and wildflowers.	Measure and publish plans and low carbon emission certification	Environment Committee	Proceeding with the tender process for the first phase of the planning and design of the new cemetery. To enable this a sustainable design approach is to be taken in all aspects of the new cemetery. In particular; to reduce energy demand, improve energy efficiency and convert to renewable, low or zero carbon technologies for energy and heat as well as recycling materials and ongoing resources e.g. water.
37.	Work with the Tree Wardens, in promotion of the Tree Charter.	5 new Tree Wardens signed up per year.	Environment Committee	Tree Wardens are regularly contact by the Planning Clerk for input into Tree Applications and several Wardens took part in March 2023's Tiny Forest tree planting event in Bourton Park.

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE****MONDAY 12th JUNE 2023**

Contact Officer: Nina Stockill, Estates Administrator

Memorial Safety Inspections, Brackley Road Cemetery**1. Recommendation**

1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report.

2. Background

- 2.1 Buckingham Town Council is responsible for the cemetery at Brackley Road, with over 3,000 headstones and memorials. As some of these memorials are not attended to, they can become in a poor condition and have the potential to cause danger. This poses a risk to visitors and staff attending the cemetery.
- 2.2 The Town Council has a legal responsibility to ensure the cemetery site is maintained in a safe condition. The grave deed holders are responsible for maintaining the memorial in a safe condition.
- 2.3 The latest round of safety inspections began in January 2023. The programme is being delivered in an appropriate and sensitive manner. This will be an ongoing process with all the cemetery's headstones and memorials being tested over a 5-year period.
- 2.4 Due to the sensitivity of undertaking any work in the cemetery, before any testing was carried out, Buckingham Town Council publicised the fact that the inspections were being carried out through press releases, public notices at the cemetery and on the Town Council's website and social media pages. Informing the public why and how the testing and making safe is being carried out.
- 2.5 Inspection on the oldest sections of the cemetery is now complete and any 'unsafe' memorial have been made temporarily safe. Work is underway to contact deed holders for all the memorials.

3. Information**3.1 Sequence of operations**

1. Publicity before testing (no less than 2 weeks prior to inspections).
2. Safety testing of memorials.
3. Notification of Grave owners to make the memorial safe.
4. Further publicity to locate any deed holders or relatives.
5. Making safe of memorials.

3.2 Categorising the Risk.

3.2.1 The level of risk posed by an unsafe memorial can differ. The Town Council use the following categories when inspecting memorials:

Category 1: requires immediate attention. When a memorial is found to be imminently dangerous then temporary measures will be taken to reduce the risk of harm. The method used will be appropriate to the size and type of memorial. The options available are:

- Secure the memorial with a wooden stake and nylon banding.
- Cordoning off the grave space.
- If **no other options** are available, then the memorial will be laid flat.

3.2.2 These precautions will be put in to place without prior notification specifically to the grave owner. A notice is placed on or within the grave space and the deed records are checked as soon as possible, to ensure any deed holders are informed.

Category 2: unstable but unlikely to cause immediate danger. The memorial needs to be monitored on a 12-month programme to recheck if it deteriorates further.

Category 3 – in good condition. Records are kept but no actions required. To be reinspected in another 5 years.

3.2.3 The following table provides information on the results from latest programme of inspections at Brackley Road Cemetery.

Category	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Inspections by category	78	85	868
Total	2741		

3.2.4 All the category one memorials have been 'made safe' with wooden stakes and rubber banding. Warning notices have been applied and every plot has been checked for deed holder information.

3.2.5 Of the original 78 category one memorials, 16 have already been repaired or 'made safe' by the deed holders or Greenspaces Team.

3.3 Next Steps

3.3.1 The Town Council will publicise all the category one memorials online, in the local newspaper, newsletter and within cemetery, town centre and park noticeboards.

3.3.2 When a new grave is purchased it is not the ownership of the land itself that is purchased, but the rights to have burials take place. These rights are granted, together with the rights (deed) to erect a memorial on the grave, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the cemetery. At Brackley road Cemetery the deeds last for 100 years, after which the grave and memorial become the responsibility of the Town Council. Of the original 78 category one memorials, 21 of the headstones are over 100 years old and therefore, the responsibility of the Town Council.

3.3.4 The Estates Team are reassessing the category one memorial and classifying them by the type of repair required to make them safe. In almost all cases the advice of a Memorial Mason will be sought.

3.3.5 The Estates Team will be a written report to a future meeting of Environment committee with an update on:

- Update on the number of memorials being repaired by deed holders.
- Update on the number of memorials that will need to be repaired at a cost to the Town Council and indicative costs.

3.4 Memorials identified as unsafe at Brackley Road Cemetery

Section	Plot No.	Surname of Deceased	First names of deceased	Date of Death	Memorial Type
D	1448	Adcock	Agnes	7/9/1885	Cross
F1	3811	Baldwin	William and Mary	1862	Headstone
B	1153	Banwell	Anne Rebecca	23/08/1913	Cross
B	1550	Bennett	Helen Penelope	28/2/1905	Cross
B	3336	Borton	Frederick	13/12/1968	Headstone
B	3217	Broadhead	Joseph and Ethel	1951	Headstone
A	2497	Burchett	Arthur W	2000	Headstone
B	3286	Butler	Bruce	24/05/1979	Headstone
F3	639	Carter	Richard and Mary	1/12/1884	Headstone
B	3554	Cave	Dudley and Sarah Martha	13/12/1952	Headstone
F3	677	Cleaver	Cecilia and Charles	15/8/1862	Headstone
A	2496	Clements	Alan and Edna	19/12/1997	Headstone
J	1035b	Coles	Benjamin and Mary	07/4/1896	Headstone
G1		Coles	William John	03/05/1907	Cross
A	2674	Coxhill	Albert	16/01/1971	Headstone
F2	1747	De'ath	Anne and Robert	1885	Headstone
F1	1877	Dover	Mildred	6/5/1902	Cross
B	3607	Ellis	Laura	31/10/1974	Headstone
B	1523	Field	Dorcas	19/01/1905	Cross
B	1429	French	Joseph William	18/12/1911	Headstone
K	444	French	Walter	24/05/1927	Headstone
B	1433	Fulford	Ernest and Emily	12/03/1916	Headstone
D	1694	Gibling	Thomas	26/02/1902	Headstone
B	3600	Gunthorpe	Frederick and Freda	05/06/1999	Headstone

D	1484	Holland	John	14/3/1896	Cross
F5	2087	Houghton	Christina Violet	06/11/1918	Headstone
B	3407	Janaway	Sidney & Barbara	21/12/1995	Headstone
A	2903	Jones	Annie and Jack	19/08/1949	Headstone
G1	2394	Marriot	Arthur	04/09/1989	Headstone
B	3766	Marsh	George	29/12/1935	Headstone
D	1481	Marshall	John and Mary	1877	Cross
J	1035	Meehan	John	7/3/1884	Cross
B	3241	Nicholls	Fred and Edith Ethel	12/1/1984	
B	3673	Page	Charles	06/02/1952	Headstone
A	2855	Pratt	Frank	07/03/1950	Headstone
B	1342	Rappoport	Patrick Torrington	26/05/1931	Cross
B	3245	Redshaw	Lewis Baldock	17/08/1957	Headstone
B	1312	Reynolds	George	1939	Cross
B	3605	Richardson	Denis and Shelia	07/12/2016	Heart
F1	3844	Robinson	Elizabeth Charles	25/03/1919	Headstone
C	706a	Rogers	Daryl	4/12/1972	Headstone
F1	3799	Smith	Reginald	April 1937	Headstone
B	3298	Somerset	Esther Ellen and Charles	06/02/1976	Headstone
D	1655	Spencer	John	29/12/1909	Cross
E	3138	Stacey	Beatrice	24/03/1951	Cross
B	1399	Stott	Eirene	12/03/1962	Headstone
D		Tombs	Charles Ernest	Sept 1898	Headstone
A	2560	Townsend	Walter	14/05/1980	Headstone
A	3034	Tyrell	Julie Hayden	27/10/1937	Headstone
A	2650	Tyrrell	Florence Mary Rose	24/02/1979	Headstone
F1	3812	Warford	Arthur Albert	11/05/1943	Cross
F1	3799	Watling	Charles Everett		Cross

B	3724	Watts	Agnes	01/05/194 1	Headstone
A	2535	Whiting	Frederick and Violet	05/07/199 6	Headstone
B	3329	Willis	Kate Lilian	01/05/198 2	Book

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE****MONDAY 12th JUNE 2023**

Contact Officer: Nina Stockill, Estates Administrator

Riverbank silt extraction, Ford Street**1. Recommendation**

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report and agree not to proceed with the project.

2. Background

- 2.1. At Environment Committee on the 26th July 2021 Members heard Buckingham Society's concerns over the lack of maintenance to the Buckingham Ford (pictured in [Appendix A](#) of this report). Councillors were asked to consider seeking funding for the renovation of a wall leading off Ford Street and to install a stone bench, fringed by a grassy mound, for pedestrians to rest and admire the river.
- 2.2. A working party visited the site on 4th November 2021 and recommended that as a first stage the Town Council seek quotations on the removal and disposal of silt build up on both sides of the river bank (approximately 150m² and 75m²). This would enable the site to be restored to the state achieved when the concrete pad was first installed. It will then be possible to assess any further works or additions possible to enhance the site.
- 2.3. The office contacted the Environment Agency (EA) and three local Groundworks companies and complete site visits to scope the programme of work. The EA has confirmed that the work can be classed a flood risk activity and is therefore exempt from environmental permits.

3. Information

- 3.1. At Environment committee on the 20th July 2022 (103/22), Members agreed for The Estates Team to prepare a funding application to the Buckingham & Villages Community Board for the sum of approximately £5,500 (based on estimates as of summer 2022) to be match funded in kind by the Town Council, through the provision of necessary road closure orders and project management.
- 3.2. The application was rejected by the Community Board as the proposal did not have financial contributory funding to help deliver the project and there was no evidence that the wider community had been consulted and identified this project as a priority.
- 3.3. If the project were to continue there would be a need to canvas public opinion on the restoration of the Ford, get public approval and find match funding of approximately £2,250 from Council budgets. This is additional to resources for the necessary road closure orders and project management.
- 3.4. The ford is still being used by vehicles and there are current tyre markings.

Appendix A

Photographs of Buckingham's ford, taken December 2022.



BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE****MONDAY 12th JUNE 2023**

Contact Officer: Nina Stockill, Estates Administrator

Railway Walk Conservation Group**1. Recommendation**

1.1. It is recommended that Members note the report.

2. Background

- 2.1. In 2022 the Town Council were awarded a one year grant from The Heart of Bucks Community Foundation to employ [The Trust of Conservation Volunteers](#) (TCV) to coordinate the Buckingham's Railway Walk Conservation Volunteers (RWCV). The TCV were tasked with forming a management committee of volunteers in order that the RWCV would become a viable organisation.
- 2.2. At April's Environment committee, Members agreed for the volunteer vacancies to be strongly advertised during King Charles III's Big Help Out on May 6th, 2023. Further, if the Railway Walk Conservation Group could not form a management committee, the group would be formally dissolved on the 31st August 2023 and the work bought back in house.

3. Information

- 3.1. The Trust of Conservation Volunteers (TCV) have been granted £5000 from the Peacock Trust. The funding will allow TCV to continue running Railway Walk sessions until the end of March 2024 (8 additional sessions) as well as providing time to assist with writing a further funding bid. There will also be some funding left over to support the River Wardens group further.
- 3.2. The funding is to be administered by TCV. TCV will use the funding to run additional sessions which, like all TCV sessions, will be covered under their insurance.
- 3.3. All volunteers will be insured under TCV's policy and they will take responsibility for the work carried out on task sessions. Although the Memorandum of Understanding with Buckingham Town Council (relevant to the Heart of Bucks funding) will have expired, we would still work in partnership in terms of priorities for work to be completed.



01 JUN 2023

Appendix E

Directorate for Planning, Growth & Sustainability

Buckinghamshire Council
The Gateway
Gatehouse Road
Aylesbury
HP19 8FF

steve.bambrick@buckinghamshire.gov.uk
www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL
Buckingham Community Centre
Cornwalls Meadow
Buckingham
Buckinghamshire
MK18 1RP

Date: 23 May 2023

Ref: Local Heritage List

Dear Sir or Madam,

Buckinghamshire Council Local Heritage List Buckingham Cemetery, Brackley Road, Buckingham MK18 1JA

I am writing to let you know that your property has been identified as a non-designated heritage asset (NDHA) by Buckinghamshire Council.

What does this mean for you?

Local listing a site as a non-designated heritage asset means that it will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications affecting the fabric, character or setting of the asset. However, Local Listing does not affect your Permitted Development Rights. The identification of an asset does not alter existing Permitted Development Rights and as such does not prevent change, however it does enable change to be managed through the planning process. Where the non-designated heritage asset is a building, Listed Building Consent (LBC) will not be required for works to a property that is locally listed.

Local Heritage List Background

In 2021 we started assessing sites to be added to our Local Heritage List as a way of ensuring that we are capturing sites that are locally important and reflect local character. This is different to statutory listings (you may have heard of Grade I, II* and II buildings), which are designated by Historic England.

As a local authority we are working to ensure that Buckinghamshire's historic environment is protected at a local level, as well as a national level. Please see the attached Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), which will explain what this means for you and what the Local Heritage List is.

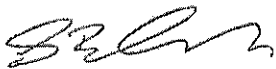
Can you appeal?

The local list is publicly accessible, and anyone can comment and make representation, which will be considered. Should you choose to challenge the identification of your property as a non-designated heritage asset, you can contact the heritage team at localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk and we will reconsider the assessment of your property. In such cases, we would expect that *new information*

or evidence be provided to demonstrate why the property should not be a non-designated heritage asset. Re-assessment will not necessarily change the outcome.

If you have any further questions once you have read through the FAQs, please contact the team at localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SB', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Bambrick
Service Director
Planning & Environment
Buckinghamshire Council



Local Heritage List FAQs

Date: January 2023

1. How was the Local Heritage List funded?

1.1 In March 2021 Buckinghamshire Council was one of 22 Local Planning Authorities awarded a grant of £70k from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC - formerly the MHCLG) to develop a Local Heritage List.

2. What is the purpose of a Local Heritage List?

2.1 The Local Heritage List seeks to identify *locally significant* non-designated heritage assets (NDHAs) and to celebrate their contribution to local identity and character. This is different to statutory listing and designations (e.g., Grade I, II and II* Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments, and Registered Parks and Gardens), which are assessed nationally by Historic England.

2.2 The Buckinghamshire Local Heritage List includes historic buildings (houses, chapels, agricultural and industrial buildings), archaeological sites (upstanding earthwork remains and buried sites), formal gardens, public open spaces, public works of art, monuments and street furniture.

2.3 Local listing as a non-designated heritage asset will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications affecting the fabric, character or setting of the asset. Assets will then be afforded consideration in the planning process under the NPPF paragraph 197 and will help to inform future local policies and creation of Neighborhood Plans.

2.4 Local Listing improves clarity for owners and all interested parties, as significance is identified as part of the assessment process and the list is published on the Council's website and the Historic Environment Record (HER).

3. Will Local Listing restrict my Permitted Development rights?

3.1 **No, Local Listing does not affect Permitted Development Rights.** The identification of an asset does not alter existing Permitted Development Rights and as such does not preclude change, however it does enable change to be managed through the planning process and where relevant to ensure that significance is protected.

3.2 **Furthermore, Listed Building Consent (LBC) will not be required** for works to a property that is locally listed.

4. How are sites assessed?

4.1 We have a Review Panel Protocol that sets out the decision-making process underpinning the Local Heritage List Project. The assessment and review process is crucial to ensure candidate sites meet the agreed criteria and reflect [Historic England Advice Note 7](#).

4.2 The assessment criteria are set out in detail and with some Buckinghamshire examples on our web platform here: <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire/assessment-criteria>

4.3 Each nominated candidate site has a High, Medium or Low rating against each of the criteria points. These scores are then extrapolated into an overall High, Medium or Low rating, for discussion at Panel. For each candidate site, the Review Panel makes one of the following recommendations:

- Recommended to Cabinet for Local Listing – meets the criteria.
- Recommended to Cabinet for rejection – does not meet the criteria.
- Recommend to Cabinet for removal – no longer meets the criteria.
- Further information required – put back to 'Candidate Work in Progress' for further enriching.

5. How does adoption of the list happen?

5.1 Sites that meet the criteria for local listing are taken forward to Buckinghamshire Council's Cabinet for adoption. Phase 1 was adopted by Cabinet on 5th January 2022 and we intend to bring the Phase 2 list forward for adoption later in 2023. Beyond that, future amendments to the list (additions or removals) could potentially be approved by the Cabinet Member on a periodic basis.

5.2 Where it is possible to identify owners of locally listed assets, they will be informed in writing of this decision.

6. How do I search the list?

6.1 Firstly, go to our fantastic online Local Heritage List platform: <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire>

6.2 The sites ready for adoption are most easily viewed on our Local Heritage List platform by looking at the map and clicking on the icons on the map. The dark blue symbols indicate Locally Listed sites, the others are still being assessed.

7. Can I appeal?

7.1 The local list is publicly accessible, and anyone can comment and make representation, which will be considered. Should an owner choose to challenge the identification of their property as a non-designated heritage asset, they will be able to contact the heritage team and we will reconsider the assessment of their property. In such cases, we would expect that *new information or evidence* would be provided to demonstrate why the property should not be a non-designated heritage asset. Re-assessment will not necessarily change the outcome. Concerns should be emailed to localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

7.2 It is worth noting that there is no statutory requirement for public consultation when identifying or recognising a building or site as a non-designated heritage asset.

8. How many sites are on the Local List?

8.1 Since launching in August 2021, the Local Heritage List (LHL) project has been very successful. We have:

- Received **2653 nominations** for the Local Heritage List - these vary considerably and include telephone boxes, milestones, parkland, public art, archaeological sites and buildings of all ages, including numerous dwellings, historic warehouses and chapels.
- **771 sites were adopted in Phase 1 on 5th January 2023.**

9. How can I get involved?

9.1 We strongly welcome public engagement and we already have **168 users** signed up to the online platform and a core team of volunteers.

- You can contact our Local Heritage List Project Officer at localheritagelist@buckinghamshire.gov.uk and also find out more on our website here: <https://local-heritage-list.org.uk/buckinghamshire>
- We have also run a series of online and in-person talks and events and we have run working parties with volunteers, including Cultural Heritage Students from the Royal Agricultural University and the Young Archaeologist's Club
- So far we have engaged with over 40 groups and organisations, including 17 Parish Councils and other stakeholders, such as Transport for London, Canals and Rivers Trust, and Chilterns Conservation Board.

Notes of a meeting of the Buckingham Community Wildlife Project held on Zoom then Teams on 22 February 2023 at 6pm.

Present – Athina Beckett, Sue Hetherington, Michael Hunt, Katherine Miskin, Ruth Newell (Chair and Minutes), Lee Phillips.

Apologies – Fran Davies, Margaret Gateley, Ian Orton (received the following day).

1. Apologies and welcome

Apologies were received from those noted above.

2. Notes of meeting held on 19 October 2022.

Agreed.

3. Matters Arising

Any would be covered under the relevant agenda item.

4. Buckingham Railway Walk Conservation Group – Katherine Miskin

Not a huge amount to report 6 sessions with good numbers, next step was to get people to carry on when TCV steps down. New members were coming along but need someone to take on coordinating the group.

Usual programme of apple pruning, clearance of paths and wind-blown debris. Repairs were planned for the fences around the pond but required the materials.

TCV finish after 9 sessions up to June with Town Council funding, and had moved over extra funding for 1 year, plus one or two sessions so will finish in Autumn 2023.

Thanks to Katherine Miskin for keeping it running along, and how can we encourage coordination, promotion on line and resolving the issue of transporting tools to the site. TCV have their own tools. Previously the group collected the tools from the lock up but Michael Hunt said it was a big issue that needed resolving, as difficult to carry all the kit in a car. Lee would have a think about it and was seeking tool storage nearer to the site (University).

ACTION Lee Phillips

The Town Council could assist with insurance.

The fence around the pond needed repair, and the Town Council would progress that work. The steps also needed redoing with risers, steel pegs and aggregate. Lee would have a look at it.

ACTION Lee Phillips

Sue Hetherington was concerned with the scenic walk end with graffiti on the bridges, and much dog poo in the area, with increased usage from the new housing developments. It was noted that Buckinghamshire Council was responsible for that area.

ACTION Buckinghamshire Officers/ Councillors

5. Bourton Park, Cemetery, Chandos Park, and Railway Walk – Lee Phillips

Lee Phillips informed the group about the tiny forest project in Bourton Park with Earthwatch looking for small areas, the size of a tennis court intensively planted and monitored. There was a little area in Bourton Park along the stream where willow walk was and planting was planned for Friday 17 March 2023.

It was confirmed it would not interfere with the tree line. Michael Hunt advised there were sparrow hawks there again. MH confirmed the tiny forest was great project and he would keep an eye on it.

There was a lot of vandalism with trees. Lace Hill mound had CCTV images of 3 children. The damage to the Black poplars in the Heartlands was dreadful. Sue Hetherington advised the two female black poplars were £80 each. Will try to replant what we can. All had been reported to the police, who had success with some issues. TC mobile CCTV units may be helpful.

New trees had been planted in Chandos Park by the Womens Institute, and another Acer freemanii (Autumn blaze).

The swamp cypress in Bourton Park was doing well.

Michael Hunt advised the bird boxes on the Railway Walk and Bourton Park were replaced with concrete long lived boxes. 11 on the Railway walk paid for by the Town Council, and another batch funded by Buckingham Table. All would be replaced in the longer term.

6. Buckingham Canal Society - Athina Beckett

The Buckingham Canal Society was now a member of TCV, and the AGM cheese and wine was on Saturday 18 March 2023 at the Buckingham Community Centre at 7pm with speaker Ed Grimsdale on the Impact of the Canal on Buckingham.

The group was mainly working at the Bourton Meadow site and needed more volunteers. CCTV doesn't deter very young taggers (Spark). Information passed to the Police. Lee advised two others were caught in Chandos Park, and letters sent to parents and police intervention. Please report to police and Town Council too. The TC has graffiti removal equipment. Canal society have an old van they use to take tools to the site.

Michael confirmed the canal was an excellent habitat and there were 2 new species of dragon fly. The Society love receiving the nature reports from Michael for the Canal Society newsletter.

The Canal Society needed help with their volunteer sessions on alternate Thursdays at 10am, and the second Sunday of the month at 10am, working at both Bourton Meadow and Hyde Lane that was a 1950s BBOWT reserve.

Lee offered to publicise the volunteer opportunities on the Town Council's social media.

ACTION: Athena / Lee

7. Buckingham Society – Ian Orton written report

The Society is

1. Increasingly frustrated and angry about the ongoing demise of the treescape on the development between Waglands Gardens and Chandos Road. We warned what was likely to happen as far as subsequent tree damage was concerned once permission to develop the site was given and outraged that much of the initial tree work took place during the nesting season and that both the police and the planning authority did not do anything to stop the process.

2. Cynical about the use of some developers to justify the removal of trees in Buckingham by making offsets in other areas, e.g., Leckhampstead. Great for Leckhampstead residents if the promised offsets are actually planted but not great for either us or the wildlife that have their habitats destroyed.

3. Disturbed about the big increase in litter and waste that seems to be dumped in hedgerows adjacent to major roads, e.g. the bypass. This isn't a problem confined to Buckingham. It is a country wide problem.

4. Development has started on the site bounded by Osier Way and Gawcott Fields. Lots of hedgerows and a colony of dormice at risk.

8. Wildlife update from Buckinghamshire Council

No one present, and no report had been sent.

9. Wardens – Tree, River

Tree Wardens – no further update, at the last meeting we had AGREED to arrange a tree warden meeting in the spring 2023, and a newsletter to keep them informed of developments, and opportunities for tree and bulb planting, allocate areas. Need to seek a voluntary tree warden coordinator in the newsletter. **ACTION Lee/ Nina**

River Wardens – Wardens were continuing with their recording of their river stretches and uploading the data; but no coordination since Ruth C left the TCV project.

A river wardens meeting had been arranged by TCV at Lace Hill on 27th February 2023 at 12 noon. Katherine M and Jenny S will do the session on Monday and Jenny would be point of contact and signpost training. There would be a couple of introductory sessions and it would deal with the more practical side of things.

Riverfly Monitoring: Ruth N update after the meeting following the TCV meeting for River Wardens, Tree Wardens and Riverfly monitors mentioned above, Simon Bumstead was holding the equipment and coordinating sessions via Whats App and emails, but had not received contact details for Ruth from TCV (perhaps due to data protection) and maybe others.

10. Upper Ouse Natural Flood Management Project

No further update from Andrew Morsley whose previous report was that the sites for Natural Flood Management we have identified are mostly in North Hants, as we were not very successful with engagement in the Buckinghamshire section of the catchment feeding

the Ouse at Buckingham.

11. Any other business

Reminder of the Town Council's **Spring Fair in the cattle pens on 23 April 2023.**

12. Dates of next meetings

- **21 June 2023** – it was noted that we get better attendance at remote meetings, and those not living locally able to attend virtually, which would be better for the environment.

Meeting closed 7.03 pm.

Ruth Newell
11 April 2023