



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL

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Town Clerk: Claire Molyneux

COMMUNICATIONS  
STRATEGY GROUP

13/07/2023

Councillor,

You are summoned to an informal meeting of the **Communications Strategy Group** of Buckingham Town Council to be held on **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at 1pm** via Zoom.

Claire Molyneux  
Town Clerk

## 1. Apologies for Absence

Members are asked to receive and accept 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. Current Newsletter – Autumn 2023

To review the current newsletter articles:

To note that in order to provide enough space for other essential content, including the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan September consultation, past events will be reduced to two pages of photos and event names only.

- Front Cover
- Message from your Mayor
- New Deputy Mayor
- Mayors Charities
- BNDP Scenarios consultation
- Swan Trail
- Past Events
- Current Events
- Future Events
- Memorial Safety Inspections
- New Playground in Bourton Park
- Where the money came from and how we spent it Infographic
- Mayor Making / Civic Awards
- Events Diary

[Appendix A](#)

[Appendix B](#)

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to follow

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to follow

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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 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.

**4. Newsletter Review - Fringe Brochure / Summer 2023**

To review the production and delivery of the previous newsletter and identify key learning points from the production process and its look, including a discussion of:

- Quality of production & content
- Delivery

**5. Chair's Items**

**6. Date of Next Meeting**

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2023 in person at the Council Chamber, at 1pm.

To:

Cllr. R. Ahmed

Cllr. M. Gateley

Cllr. J. Harvey (Chair)

Cllr. A. Schaefer (Mayor)

Cllr. M. Try (Vice-Chair)

**Front Cover Options**



**Message from your Mayor**

Dear neighbours,

As I am writing this we are in the middle of an exciting summer of events in Buckingham. I hope you will have had the opportunity to participate in some of these, be it Celebrate Buckingham Day, our beautiful and fun Swan Sculpture Trail, Buckingham Fringe Week, or our various music and other events. I have been delighted to meet so many of the school students who have helped decorate the swans and what a great job they have done. I have also particularly enjoyed meeting all the volunteer groups at Celebrate Buckingham Day and at other events I have attended, and to hear about the excellent work they are all doing for our community.

When I meet people at events, it strikes me again and again what a friendly, lively town Buckingham is, and how lucky I am to call it my home. This is never truer than when I think of all the volunteers and charitable donors who support so many activities in this town. On this occasion, I would particularly like to mention the volunteers and donors to my two Mayor's Charities: Buckingham Food Bank and Jedediah. While food banks and pantries cannot replace benefits or solve the cost-of-living crisis that also affects people in Buckingham, it is so important that they are here to tide people over the most difficult days. I am delighted to report that within a few weeks we managed to collect several hundred pounds for these charities.

I am also particularly pleased about the opening of the temporary banking hub in Buckingham Library and to learn that a more permanent location has been identified. Many people in our community and many small businesses rely on local banking facilities. My thanks go to everybody involved in securing one of the first temporary banking hubs for Buckingham, particular all those who took part in the consultations.

(314 words)

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### **New Deputy Mayor**

I am humbled to have been nominated and elected as Deputy Mayor of Buckingham. Special thanks to my fellow councillors for their trust in electing me into the position, and to my family and friends for all their support and guidance in my political career. I also pay tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Cllr Margaret Gateley, on a fantastic couple of years as the first citizen of Buckingham.

This is an exciting time to be representing our town. As deputy mayor it is my commitment to continue providing a strong voice for Buckingham, prioritising our issues, celebrating our achievements, and promoting our special qualities as a market town.

My support will be fully behind our new Mayor, Cllr Anja Schaefer, to build on the successes of her predecessor. I look forward to getting out, meeting people, and representing our lovely town.

(141 words)



### Mayor's Charities

In the current cost of living crisis and with food price inflation still running at around 16%, some of our fellow residents of Buckingham are struggling to put food on the table for themselves and their families. It is sad that food charities are needed at all, but I am very grateful that Buckingham Food Bank and Jedediah are here to step in and tide people over difficult times. All money raised directly helps people in Buckingham.

**Buckingham Food Bank** distributes non-perishable and fresh food to people in need, who have been referred by an agency or local church. Volunteers deliver supplies direct to their homes, or confidentially via their referring agency. This service covers short-term emergencies, such as sudden unemployment or loss of benefits.

#### **Jedidiah UK**

Their fresh food pantry at 13 Castle Street, Buckingham is a charity working in partnership with local supermarkets to repurpose the surplus food they are unable to sell. Best of all, it's free to access and use. Each day, all the unsold food is displayed for families to come and help themselves. This includes good quality vegetables, fruit, dairy, baked goods, meat and fish products.

Their main aims are helping people struggling to make ends meet, access healthy food, reduce isolation and ensure that no good food goes to waste.

(217 words)

The logo for Buckingham Food Bank features a large, stylized letter 'B' composed of two overlapping squares. The left square is red and the right square is black. A white rectangular box is positioned in the center of the 'B', containing the text 'Buckingham Food Bank' in a black, sans-serif font.

Buckingham  
Food Bank

The logo for Jedediah UK features a detailed illustration of a yellow and black bumblebee with its wings spread, positioned above the text 'Jedediah UK' in a large, bold, black serif font. Below this, the text 'Registered Charity Number 1190382' is written in a smaller, black sans-serif font, followed by the tagline 'Let no one go hungry' in a black sans-serif font.

**Jedediah UK**  
Registered Charity Number 1190382  
Let no one go hungry

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### Swan Trail

The Swan Trail project was a spectacular interactive public art event that featured ten swan sculptures decorated by local school children and artists and sponsored by local businesses and organisations. The swans were dotted around the town centre and surrounding green spaces, forming a walking trail offering a fun, free, family-friendly day out over the summer holidays.

The Swan Trail was a big highlight of our summer calendar, it encouraged people to discover the town and the painted sculptures made people smile. It was a unique project, and we believe it was a fun way to get people to spend more time exploring the highstreets. As well as making art accessible to all, the swan sculptures were made from a mixture of responsibly sourced marine ply and recycled, reformed plastic so material that was headed for landfill was made into art!

Buckingham Town Council would like to thank everyone who made the event a great success, especially all the professional artists and schools who worked tirelessly to paint the swans: Buckingham Primary, Lace Hill Academy Beachborough Art Club, Buckingham Youth Club, George Grenville Academy, Padbury CE School, Rashmi Sanders Doodle Artist, Jill Blakey Abstract Artist, and Courtney Scott at Little Magpie Art, and Ashley King Illustration. And we must say a big thank you to all our swan-tastic sponsors – The Buckingham & Villages Community Board, Gilroy Steel Solicitors, Heritage & Sons, Thrive Chiropractic Health Clinic, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, The Grand Junction, Beachborough School, The Buckingham Society, Buckingham Ford, and the National Trust Stowe & Aylesbury Vale portfolio.

Visit our website to find out about the Swan Trail: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-swan-trail/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-swan-trail/)

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Past Events





## Appendix F



*Note: pictures of Fringe Week events will also be included.*

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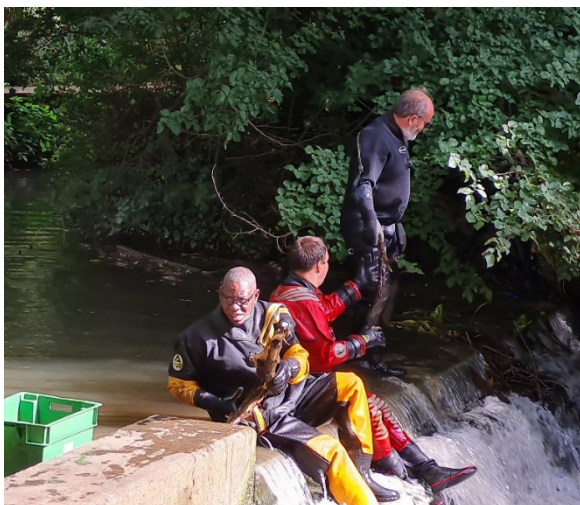


### Current Events

Buckingham's annual **Dog Show** is on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> September in the paddock in Bourton Park. Organised by Buckingham Town Council and sponsored by Kimberly Cox Dog Training and Woofs And Washes, this fun event has the following classes Gorgeous Gal, Cutest Puppy, Fabulous Fella, Best Rescue, Dog Most Like Its Owner, Golden Oldie (7yrs & over), Waggiest Tail and Junior Handler. The winner of each class goes through to Best In Show.

The first of this year's **River Rinses** will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and will go from Bourton Park. Members of the Stowe Sub Aqua Group will be on hand to pull any debris from the river. Volunteers and members of Buckingham Town Council will litter pick along the riverbank and collect the debris found in the river. The second River Rinse will take place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2023 and will go from Stratford Fields.

(150 words)



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### **Future Events**

This year the annual **Charter Fair** rolls into town on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 to set up and will be operating on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023. It will then return on the following Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 and will operate on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2023. A full road closure will be in force from 6am on both Fridays and covering both Saturdays. Diversions will be in place.

Join us at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre for a fantastic family friendly **Hallowe'en Disco Party** on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 from 6-9pm. Tickets can be purchased from Buckingham Tourist Information Centre.

**Bonfire & Fireworks** on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Bourton Park. Free entry. Enjoy a fantastic fireworks display, as well as our returning fire dancer Cassia Chloe, and local food vendors.

Buckingham's **Remembrance Parade** will be held on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2023. The parade will form up on Market Hill and march to the War Memorial outside St Peter and Paul Church at 10:30am. A rolling road closure will be in place from 10:15am and diversions in place.

The **Winter Fair** will take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2022 from 11am –3pm at Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre. There will be lots of local handmade Christmas goodies, refreshments and art and craft activities for the children to enjoy.

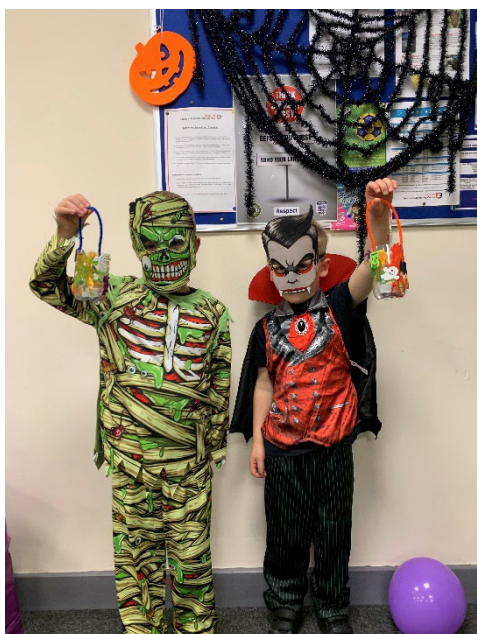
The **Christmas Lights Switch On** will be taking place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2023 from 6pm outside The Old Gaol. Expect carols, festive activities, local food vendors and live entertainment. The lights will be switched on by Town Mayor, Cllr. Anja Schaefer.

The annual **Christmas Parade** will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and is organised by the Christmas Parade Committee. The parade, which is made up of floats and walking groups, will form up in Chandos Road and wind its way through the town centre before returning to Chandos Road.

Held in Buckingham Community Centre, the **Community Fair** will be on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023, after the Christmas Parade. Local charities, organisations and societies can sell items or run activities to help raise funds for their group.

(344 words)











## **Memorial Safety Inspections**

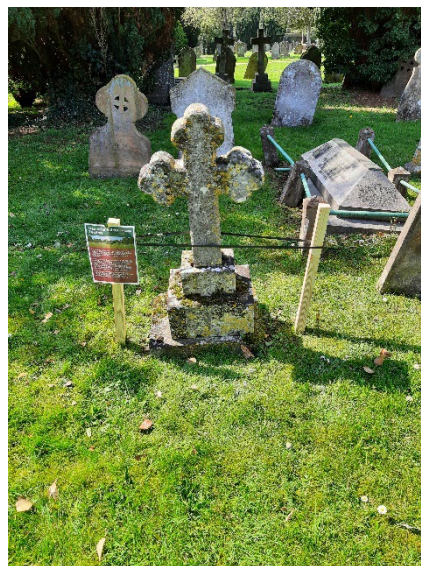
Following a recent safety inspection of memorials at Brackley Road Cemetery, 51 headstones have been identified as unstable and work is underway to identify the deed holders, or relatives of, to repair the memorials.

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.

All memorials that have been found to be unstable and have been made temporarily safe using predominantly stakes and banding until deed holders can be contacted and permanent repairs can be made.

A list of the unsafe headstones can be found on the Town Council's website at: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/memorial-safety-at-brackley-road-cemetery](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/memorial-safety-at-brackley-road-cemetery)

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**Inclusive, accessible, and exciting new play area for Buckingham**

The revamp of Bourton Park's popular play area, funded from developer contributions, is a wildlife themed play area designed to allow better access around the site and encourage children of all abilities to play together. The equipment was specifically chosen to symbolise Buckingham's flora and fauna e.g., Otter and kingfisher metal rubbing posts, Oak, Poplar and Beech leaf stones and Bourton Park's bespoke 'wildlife ticket office'.

The site also includes:

- Multi-person boat springer, reflective of the Buckingham canal and riverbanks.
- Large swing set including seats that allow parents and children to swing face to face.
- Pond tree house, made from recycled materials.
- Acoustic play equipment.

The Council recognises that secluded areas of calm are important for children that may need time to withdraw and recalibrate. Therefore, huts and playhouses that allow children to observe the play before engaging were included in the project. It is hoped the additional seating and picnic tables will also be a welcome addition for the grown-ups.

(161 words)





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### **Mayor Making / Civic Awards**

The annual Mayor Making event was able to take place at Buckingham Community Centre on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023.

This year's community awards were given to:

#### **Honorary Freeman**

- Mike Smith
- Barbara Farmer

#### **Friend of Buckingham**

- Tony Mayston
- Simon Wells
- Mary Simons
- Derek Croft
- Rosemary Frohock
- Russell Cross

#### **Arts and Sports Award**

- Buckingham Art for All

#### **Natural Environment and Climate Champion Award**

- The Canal Society.

#### **Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Award**

- The Community Lunch

#### **Mayor's Prize for Outstanding Young Person**

- Chantel Tunks

Cllr. Margaret Gateley was also awarded a crystal vase, as a mark of her service as past Mayor of Buckingham 2021 – 2023.

To find out more about Mayor Making and civic awards, read the full press release:

[www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-celebrates-electing-a-new-mayor-and-deputy-mayor/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/buckingham-celebrates-electing-a-new-mayor-and-deputy-mayor/)

(119 words)





## 2023/24 EVENTS DIARY

Please find further details inside or online:

<b>2023</b>			
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	Dog Show (F/T/C)	Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> (11am – 3pm)	Bourton Park
	River Rinse 1	Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> (10am – 12:30pm)	TBC
<b>OCTOBER</b>	River Rinse 2	Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> (10am – 12:30pm)	TBC
	Charter Fair	Sat 14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> (1pm – 11pm)	Town Centre
	Halloween Disco (F/T/C)	Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> (6pm – 9pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	Bonfire & Fireworks (F/T/C)	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> (6pm)	Bourton Park
	Remembrance Parade	Sun 12 <sup>th</sup> (10:30am)	Town Centre
	Winter Fair (F/T/C)	Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> (2pm – 4pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
	Christmas Lights Switch On (F/T)	Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> (6pm – 9pm)	Town Centre
<b>DECEMBER</b>	Christmas Parade	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> (10:30am – 12:30pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Community Fair (F/T)	Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> (11:30am – 2pm)	Buckingham Community Centre

For volunteering opportunities, visit our website: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/our-services/local-volunteering/](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/our-services/local-volunteering/) or call the office on 01280 816 426 for more information.

## Appendix L



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