

Buckingham Town Council

Town Council Office, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP 01280 816426

office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Claire Molyneux



Wednesday, 23 July 2025

Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Environment Committee of Buckingham Town Council which will be held on Monday 28th July 2025, following an Extraordinary meeting of the Full Council 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, 3.f, and 3.g, which will last for a maximum of 15 minutes. A member of the public shall not speak for more than 3 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. Apologies for absence

Members are asked to receive apologies for absence.

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 agree the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 9th June 2025.

Copy previously circulated

4. Budgets

To receive the latest figures.

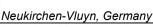
Appendix A

5. Benches survey summary report

To receive a report from the Estates Administrator.

E/51/25

Twinned with Mouvaux, France;





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.

2 of 18

www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

6. Community Centre roof

To receive a verbal update from the Town Clerk.

7. Consultation - DEFRA flood funding

To agree a response to DEFRA's <u>'Reforming our approach to floods funding June 2025'</u> consultation. (A PDF version has been circulated separately).

8. Tree Tags

To receive a report from the Estates Administrator.

E/52/25

9. Boules Court

To receive a report from the Estates Administrator.

E/53/25

10. Installation of removal bollards – Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre

To receive a report from the Estates Administrator.

E/54/25

11. Action report

To receive the report and note the updated information.

Appendix B

12. News releases

13. Chair's announcements – for information only

14. Date of next meeting: Monday 6th October 2025

To Committee Members:

Cllr. T. Allen Cllr. R. Newell Vice Chair

Cllr. F. Davies Town Mayor Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. L. Draper Chair Cllr. R. Poppe
Cllr. J. Harvey Cllr. A. Schaefer
Cllr. H. Haydock Cllr. S. Singh
Cllr. A. Mahi Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Cllr. R. Newall

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 31/07/2025

Month No: 4

Committee Report

		Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR	Explanation
ENVIRO	<u>DNMENT</u>							
<u>201</u>	Environment EXPENDITURE							
3995	NI Environment	7,276	26,112	18,836		18,836		
3996	Pensions ERS Environment	14,661	62,851	48,190		48,190		
4004	Salaries environment	62,360	253,650	191,290		191,290		
<u>202</u>	Roundabouts INCOME							
1051	Roundabout no. 1	480	2,881	2,401				
1052	Roundabout no. 2	1,535	1,535	0				
1053	Roundabout no. 3	2,520	2,520	0				
1054	Roundabout no. 4	3,211	3,211	0				
1056	Roundabout no. 6	3,422	3,422	0				
1057	Roundabout no. 7	1,746	1,746	0				
202 F	Roundabouts EXPENDITURE							
4108	Roundabout	368	2,000	1,632	55	1,576		
<u>203</u>	Maintenance EXPENDITURE							
4082	Allotments	2,350	2,350	0		0		
205	Grounds maintenance EXPENDITURE							
4033	Waste disposal	1,421	6,081	4,660		4,660		
4035	Machinery	0	2,973	2,973		2,973		
4036	Fuel (Mower)	656	1,900	1,244		1,244		
4037	Sundries	132	3,251	3,119	174	2,945		
4063	Vehicle hire and running costs	675	7,242	6,567		6,567		

4 of 18

		Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR	Explanation	Appendix A
248	Depot EXPENDITURE								
4013	Equipment purchase	588	5,462	4,874		4,874			
4055	Alarm	581	600	19		19			
4225	Rates	5,240	4,928	(312)		(312)	312	Overspend covered by EMR	
4601	Repairs & maintenance fund	60	900	840		840			
4602	Electricity	149	1,660	1,511		1,511			
4603	Water	49	635	586		586			
<u>249</u>	C Meadow Toilets/Shopmobility INCOME								
1085	Shopmobility income	140	245	105					
<u>249</u>	C Meadow Toilets/Shopmobility EXPENDITURE								
4602	Electricity	62	600	538		538			
4603	Water	0	600	600		600			
4608	Shopmobility	322	1,000	678	158	520			
4612	Contractor charge	3,132	11,774	8,642		8,642			
4709	Maintenance	377	1,000	623		623			
<u>250</u>	Lace Hill INCOME								
1026	Lace Hill Community Centre	12,535	42,000	29,465					
1027	Solar income	0	150	150					
250	Lace Hill EXPENDITURE								
4050	Lace Hill playing fields	0	555	555		555			
4118	Solar panels	0	400	400		400			
4158	Lace Hill gas	209	5,112	4,903		4,903			
4159	Lace Hill electricity	417	7,202	6,785		6,785			
4160	Lace Hill water	183	1,124	941		941			
4161	Lace Hill Repair & Maintenance	125	4,800	4,675		4,675			
4162	Lace Hill Planned Maintenance	477	8,200	7,723	148	7,575			
	Lace Hill equipment	122	3,200	3,078		3,078			
4225	Rates	10,354	0	(10,354)		(10,354)		Covered by underspend 24/2	5

	5 of 18	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR	Explanation	Appendix A
<u>251</u>	Chandos Park INCOME								
1030	Bowls income	0	644	644					
1035	Tennis Court Rent	0	799	799					
<u>251</u>	Chandos Park EXPENDITURE								
4601	Repairs & maintenance fund	44	4,088	4,044		4,044			
4602	Electricity	57	800	743		743			
4603	Water	0	2,535	2,535		2,535			
4606	Bowls Club Maintenance	0	2,120	2,120		2,120			
252	Bourton Park EXPENDITURE								
4601	Repairs & maintenance fund	16	11,000	10,984	29,982	(18,998)		Overspend covered by EMR	337, minute 86/25
<u>253</u>	Cemeteries INCOME								
1041	Burial fees	5,248	27,729	22,481					
<u>253</u>	Cemeteries EXPENDITURE								
4225	Rates	3,026	2,494	(532)		(532)	532	Overspend covered by EMR	
4265	New cemetery maintenance	0	3,500	3,500		3,500			
4601	Repairs & maintenance fund	236	5,000	4,764		4,764			
4602	Electricity	148	1,035	887		887			
4617	Memorial testing	0	2,253	2,253		2,253			
4619	Cemeteries Development	28,498	88,265	59,767	822	58,944			
4620	Expenses for burial duties	1,191	5,785	4,594		4,594			
<u>2</u> 54	Chandos Park toilets EXPENDITURE								
	Contractor charge	3,163	11,774	8,611		8,611			
	Maintenance	310	2,000	1,690		1,690			
			,	,		,			

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	Transfer to/from EMR	Explanation	Appendix A
255 Railway Walk & Castle Hill EXPENDITURE								
4709 Maintenance	0	1,180	1,180		1,180			
256 Storage Premises EXPENDITURE								
4066 Grenville garage rent	166	650	484		484			
258 Cemetery Lodge INCOME								
	2 200	12.000	0.700					
1061 Cemetery Lodge rental income	3,300	12,099	8,799					
258 Cemetery Lodge EXPENDITURE								
4034 PWLB repayments inc. interest	0	4,702	4,702		4,702			
4609 Cemetery Lodge maintenance	1,036	3,375	2,339		2,339			
260 CCTV EXPENDITURE								
4100 CCTV maintenance	1,779	4,000	2,221		2,221			
	.,	.,000	_,		_,			
261 Community Centre EXPENDITURE								
4085 Structural repairs	3,068	19,910	16,842	7,554	9,289			
4091 Chamber	0	1,150	1,150		1,150			
262 Parks General EXPENDITURE								
4101 Seats and bins	0	2,000	2,000		2,000			
4102 Dog bins	0	4,660	4,660	0.57	4,660			
4106 Play area maintenance 4112 Environment Equipment	691 2,265	14,000 11,050	13,309 8,785	857 285	12,452 8,499			
4122 Tree works	3,310	36,760	33,450	200	33,450			
4168 Defibrillators	0,510	560	560		560			
4275 Play area replacement fund	0	10,500	10,500		10,500			
4276 Conservation Volunteers	0	2,240	2,240		2,240			
4280 Machinery Repair / Replace	0	2,500	2,500		2,500			
4281 Vehicle Repair / Replace	0	2,500	2,500		2,500			
4284 Biodiversity Audit	0	2,000	2,000		2,000			
264 New Cemetery INCOME								
1109 PWLB Income New Cemetery	1,173,099	0	(1,173,099)			**	•	
264 New Cemetery EXPENDITURE								
4282 New Cemetery PWLB Repayments	0	2,600	2,600		2,600			
4285 NEW CEMETERY PWLB	144,757	0	(144,757)		(144,757)	C	overed by income above **	
Grand Totals:- Income	1,207,236	98,981	(1,108,255)					
Expenditure	306,109	697,148	391,039	40,036	351,003			
Net Income over Expenditure	901,127	(598,167)	(1,499,294)					

23/07/2025 11:54

Buckingham Town Council

Page 1

Earmarked Reserves

	Account	Opening Balance	Net Transfers	Closing Balance
326	EMR CEMETERY DEVELOPMENT	44,596.49	3,503.51	48,100.00
328	EMR FLOOD RELIEF FUND	826.00		826.00
329	EMR WAR MEMORIAL	600.00	-600.00	0.00
333	EMR PLAY AREA REPLACEMENT	57,932.00	10,000.00	67,932.00
335	EMR GREEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT	8,916.00	5,862.00	14,778.00
337	EMR BRIDGE REPAIRS	44,640.00	-4,640.00	40,000.00
339	EMR DEPOT EQUIPMENT	7,850.00	3,150.00	11,000.00
340	EMR AEDS	850.00		850.00
341	EMR LHSCC REPAIRS & MAINT	25,000.00	3,000.00	28,000.00
342	EMR CEMETERY LODGE REPAIRS	500.00	-500.00	0.00
343	EMR BOWLS PAVILION REPAIRS	2,493.00		2,493.00
344	EMR MAKING GOOD/BOUNDARY REP	45,000.00		45,000.00
353	EMR WILDLIFE CONSERVATION VOLU	1,461.00	2,271.00	3,732.00
354	EMR MACHINERY REPLACE & REPAIR	9,949.00	2,500.00	12,449.00
355	EMR BUILDINGS REPLACE & REPAIR	6,500.00		6,500.00
357	EMR VEHICLE REPLACEMENT & REPA	3,445.00	3,898.00	7,343.00
		260,558.49	28,444.51	28,900.30

Buckingham Town Council Environment Committee Monday 28th July 2025

Contact Officers: Estates Administrator

Public Seating

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members note the work completed so far and the next steps for engagement.
- 1.2. To request volunteers to survey the current seating provisions across the rest of the town.

2. Background

- 2.1. At Environment Committee on the 15th October the following motion was agreed: "This Committee agrees to create a Seating Strategy to take stock of existing provision and to consider how best to improve the availability of public benches (etc.) where there is need and demand, and to take into account previous decisions about seating and benches made by this Council."
- 2.2. Following an online feedback session held in October 2024, the Town Council has identified a demand for additional seating options in key areas of the town centre. Residents expressed a desire for more comfortable spaces to rest, socialise, and relax.
- 2.3. At Environment Committee on the 25th November 2024 Members agreed: "to conduct a survey of the existing seating provision in the parish of Buckingham. This task is to be undertaken by Committee Members and feedback given to a future meeting of Environment Committee."
- 2.4. Cllr. Davies engaged with the sixth form pupils of Furze Down School and requested they undertake a survey of the town centre and Chandos Park. The pupils produced an informative video that was considered by Environment Committee on the 9th June 2025. It was further agreed that a report is added to this agenda to look at the feasibility of the options suggested in the video.

3. Key Findings form Furze Down School's Video

3.1. Popular Locations for Seating:



- Market Hill: A popular pedestrianised area that would benefit from a circular bench around the tree highlighted in image
- Green Spaces: Areas like Chandos Park were highlighted as ideal for relaxing and picnicking
- High Street Bus Stop: The four benches along the Cattle Pens could be upgraded to benches with back and arm rests.

3.2. Types of Seating Requested by Furze Down:

- Benches with back and arm support.
- A circular bench in Market Hill

3.3. Additional Considerations:

- Maintenance and durability of materials.
- Suitability of site e.g. access for fair vehicles on Market Hill.
- Aesthetic alignment with the town's character and existing street furniture.
- Land ownership and budgets

4. Proposed Actions

- 4.1. Existing Provision: Cllr. Davies has proposed conducting a survey of the existing seating provision within the parish of Buckingham. This task is to be undertaken by Committee Members and feedback given to a future meeting of Environment Committee.
- 4.2. **Engagement with Local Landowners:** Collaborate with appropriate landowners to promote the pupil's requests that could encourage foot traffic and enhance visitor/resident experience.

5. Feedback Summary from online survey conducted by the office in October 2024.

Proposed Location	Rationale	Additional Comments
More benches along the planting bed adjacent to the Buckingham Community Centre.	Older generation need somewhere to rest whilst waiting for a lift.	An additional bench to accompany the existing metal bench. The Buckingham Society are considering as part of their renovation plans for the planting bed.
Missing bench outside Dandy Lion, Cornwalls Meadow.	Previous bench was in regular use by shoppers and visitors to the town	A replacement bench is now in place, donated by the AED project.

Additional picnic benches	Not enough picnic tables	An additional picnic bench
in Chandos Park.	on a sunny day. Regularly	will be located in Chandos
	used by park users	Park as part of the
	throughout the year.	remaining Section 106
		allocation from
		Oddfellows Hall, Well
		Street 19/03398/APP.

Buckingham Town Council Environment Committee Monday 28th July 2025

Contact Officers: Estates Administrator

Tree Tags

1. Recommendations

1.1. That the Environment Committee supports the proposal and notes the intention to bring a final list and map back to a future meeting for consideration.

2. Information

- 2.1. A local tree expert and Tree Warden, has volunteered to conduct a survey to identify up to 50 notable trees across the three Town Council owned sites Brackley Rd Cemetery, Chandos Park and Church Green. The project will focus on trees of particular interest due to species, size, age, or heritage. Each selected tree would be fitted with an engraved tree tag, featuring:
- Common species name
- Latin (scientific) name
- Country of origin
 This will support both environmental education and public engagement in the town's natural heritage.

3. Background

3.1. Buckingham is fortunate to have a variety of mature and unique trees across its public spaces. Enhancing their visibility can significantly contribute to the enjoyment and learning experience of park users.

This initiative mirrors the successful installation of tree tags along Railway Walk, which were installed by volunteers from the local conservation group. These have been well-received by the public and serve as a model for this expanded effort.

The tree tags will serve several purposes:

- Educational Value: Helping residents and visitors learn more about the town's tree stock
- Wayfinding: Acting as informal landmarks to support events, walks, and school visits
- Public Engagement: Encouraging people to explore and appreciate the town's green spaces

4. Cost and Funding

4.1. Funding for this initiative is already available through the Tree Wardens' group budget.

The proposed cost for the tree labels is:

- Engraved Tree Labels (63mm x 102mm / 4" x 2.5")
- £1.60 each x 50 trees = £80 total
 Please note these costs are indicative until we have a finalised list of species.

5. Next Steps

5.1. Once the tree survey is complete, a finalised list of trees along with a walking map will be presented to this Committee for approval prior to the installation of tags.



Example of Tree Labels to be used.

Buckingham Town Council Environment Committee Monday 28th July 2025

Contact Officers: Town Clerk/ Estates Administrator

Boules Court

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended that the Twinning Association be advised to conduct a public consultation with a statistically significant range of park users and Buckingham residents, to evidence that there is genuine community desire for this facility over alternative options.
- 1.2. It is recommended that the Twinning Association be advised to seek formal responses from Buckinghamshire Council regarding the Embleton Way site and prioritise engagement with County Councillors to explore further the Embleton Way proposal.

2. Information:

- 2.1. The Twinning Association submitted a report to Environment Committee on the 9th June 2025 proposing five potential locations for a boules court across the parish. A summary of each proposed location, including feedback and considerations, is outlined below.
- 2.2. Following an action (69/25) from the meeting, the Town Clerk has written to the Parks Team at Buckinghamshire Council, with a copy sent to the Twinning Association, to express support for considering the Embleton Way greenspaces as a potential site for any future boules court.

3. Potential locations overview

- 3.1. Concrete Area Adjacent to New Skate Park Bridge Street
- Ownership: Buckinghamshire Council's Park's Team
- Access & Facilities: Central location with nearby parking and public toilets
- Advantages: Strongly supported by Buckingham Twinning members due to accessibility and visibility
- Challenges: Subject to winter flooding; formal permission required from the Buckinghamshire Council
- 3.2. Church Green, St Peter & St Pauls

- Ownership: Buckingham Town Council
- Access & Facilities: Flat grassed area with limited access to parking and potential access to toilets via church.
- Support: No objection from the Church; positive feedback from the Buckingham Society
- Challenges: As a village green any works or development (even for leisure purposes) are likely to require planning permission. The Town Council felt the community green should be preserved and the limited parking was a concern. Potential to restrict events held on the green.

3.3. Land Between Tennis Courts and Baseball Court - Chandos Park

- Ownership: Buckingham Town Council
- Access & Facilities: Limited roadside parking on Chandos Road, public toilets.
- Challenges: Limited space, flood-prone and unfeasible pea gravel from the boules surface likely to spread onto grass, posing hazards for mowers.

3.4. Land Adjacent to Scout Building - Embleton Way

- Ownership: Buckinghamshire Council's Park's Team
- Access & Facilities: Level grassed area with parking; potential access to toilets via Scout building
- Support: Considered the most favourable option by the Town Council as there are facilities, an open space, and a community hall.
- Challenges: Rejected by Buckinghamshire Council on grounds of preserving open green space
- Recommendation: Town Council recommends Twinning Society and County Councillors engage with Buckinghamshire Council officers to revisit and challenge this decision.

3.5. Higher Ground - Chandos Park

- Ownership: Buckingham Town Council
- Access & Facilities: Limited roadside parking on Chandos Road, public toilets.
- Challenges: Steep access to site.
- Support: Not favoured by the Twinning Association due to accessibility concerns

4. Conclusion:

The Environment Committee acknowledges the detailed work and enthusiasm of the Twinning Association in identifying possible boules court locations. While several sites present opportunities, each carries unique challenges relating to ownership, access, flooding risk, or maintenance.

Once a favourable site has been agreed upon and the necessary permissions are secured, the Twinning Association will need to clarify both the proposed sources of funding and the long-term maintenance arrangements for the site.

As with the provision of all sports and leisure infrastructure, it is expected that the Association provide evidence of community need and support for the installation via a robust community consultation. This aligns with good practice and is likely to be a requirement in any future funding applications for the project.

Buckingham Town Council Environment Committee Monday 28th July 2025

Contact Officers: Town Clerk/ Estates Administrator

Installation of Removable Bollards at Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre Access Path

1. Recommendation

- 1.1. It is recommended that Members agree to the installation of five removable bollards at the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre access path in order to keep the playing fields free from unauthorised vehicles.
- 1.2. It is recommended to agree a budget of £3,500 from Cost Centre 262/4106

2. Introduction

- 2.1. This report recommends the installation of removable bollards along the access path from the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre car park to the play pitches.
- 2.2. This proposal has been promoted following an incident of unauthorised encampment in June 2025, an incident in Cumbria where a child playing football was killed by a vehicle driving onto the pitch and an assessment of counter terrorism measures prompted by Martyn's Law.

3. Quote and Procurement Process

3.1. An initial estimate puts the cost at around £3,200 (excluding VAT).

4. Budget Request

4.1. To facilitate this expedition of this project, a budget of £3,500 is recommended to cover the cost of installation. This will allow for the installation of the bollards as per the initial quote and will provide some flexibility for any minor cost variations that may arise during the procurement and installation.

No.	Committee	Minute No.	Action	Action Required	Action Owner	Update	Deadline
1		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.		To be reviewed following the new SPD introduction/ with BNDP at this time	NB Neighbourhood Plan now awith examiner. Await updated local plan.
2			Compliments and Complaints Log	Members AGREED the report be brought back to Environment Committee in six months time in the same format.			
3			Lace Hill Doors/walls	AGREED for a report regarding an additional external fire exit door is brought back to the next committee meeting.		This project will need to be restarted. The walls in the Sports will need to be completed first.	Paused
4	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.		Offer received and legal team have been instructed to start transfer process. Snagging list started.	ROSPA reports returned on two play areas. Awaiting snagging meeting with Barratts
5	Environment		Bourton Park bridges.	Members agreed to add the bridges to the action list. Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed an explanatory press release regarding the current status of the bridges. Cllr. Harvey Seconded. Member unanimously AGREED.	Estates Manager	ROW application has been submitted. Bucks Council seeking legal advice on the application. Obtaining Quotes	Awaits ROW
6	Environment	192/23	Buckingham Community Centre roof.	A request will be made to the Town Clerk for an update on Community Centre solar panels.	Town Clerk	Quotes being obtained	Update on agenda
7	Environment	623/23	Value of trees	Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that the Estates Manager looks at the system of adding a value to trees.	Estates Manager	Tree surveys in process. Full BC survey due 24-25.	On going
8	Environment	302/24 7/10/24	Motion: Cllr. Harvey	"This Committee agrees to create a Seating Strategy - to take stock of existing provision and to consider how best to improve the availability of public benches (etc.) where there is need and demand, and to take into account previous decisions about seating and benches made by this Council."			On agenda
9		408/24 25/11/24	Motion: Cllr. Gateley		Cllr. Gateley and Cllr. Davies		Members have been liasing with the MP on a multiagency strategy.
10		411/24 25/11/24	Public seating	Cllr. Ralph will raise the possibility of a new bench at the Buckingham Society meeting.	Buck Soc		Awaits updates

No.	Committee	Minute No.	Action	Action Required	Action Owner	Update	Deadline
11		7/4/25		We will look at our conservation groups after the summer and see how we can support them.	Town Clerk		Autumn
12		69/25 9/6/25		The Town Clerk offered to bring a report to the next Environment Committee meeting.	Town Clerk		On agenda
13			Primary School	AGREED to respond to BPS, accepting their invitation to visit the site and offer to write to BC in support of their application if that is what they would like us to do.	Town Clerk		Awaits reply