

Buckingham's Annual Town Meeting

Thursday, 6th March 2025

Annual Town Meeting

This year's Annual Town Meeting offered residents, organisations, and businesses an opportunity to have their say on areas of interest/concern. There were six topic-based tables, chaired by Officers, key professionals and Councillors; visitors were able to discuss their ideas, voice concerns and have their questions answered:

- Parks and green spaces
- Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Environment
- Health
- Police
- Becoming a Town Councillor

Committee Chairs and Vice-Chairs hosted stalls showing the work and achievements of their Committee throughout the year.

There were excellent information stalls from The Canal Society, offering information on how to get involved and exciting future developments, The Buckingham Family Centre, giving an excellent opportunity for education providers, parents/guardians, and other professionals to gain further information on local SEND services, and updates on the new Buckingham cemetery and allotments.



A looped video showed updates from grant recipients showing how their grant money had been spent and the benefits to the town.

The Mayor formally opened the meeting at 6:00pm.

Parks and green spaces

Nina Stockill, Estates Administrator, Buckingham Town Council, chaired the parks and green spaces table.

Points/ideas raised:

1. Overn Avenue park needs an update to make it more inclusive. It would be good to have football goals (children currently play on the street), a zip wire, open slides, gym bars/equipment, performance platforms, seesaws, and musical instruments.
2. Dogs in parks and green spaces should be kept on a lead at all times; too many are not kept under control.
3. Moreton Avenue - land grabbing at the top end has made it really narrow, and we lost the opportunity for a cycle way from Moreton Road down to Stratford Road – is this still happening? Boundary fences move out each time they are replaced.
4. Land grabbing on Meadway.
5. Green waste and fly tipping on public land.
6. Positive feedback on the new cemetery site.
7. Cemetery and new Lace Hill Medical Centre will need bus stops and regular services.



Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan

The Compliance and Projects Manager and the Town Plan Officer chaired the BNDP table.

Points/ideas raised:

1. There should be no development without the necessary infrastructure.
2. How can we encourage employment in the town?

3. What is wrong with speculative development?

Environment

Cllr. Fran Davies, Chair of the Environment Committee and Cllr. Gateley chaired the Environment table, assisted by Cllr. Lucy Draper, Vice-Chair of the Environment Committee.

Points/ideas raised:

1. More cycle racks are needed in the town centre, especially Market Hill.
2. More soft plastic recycling points needed.
3. Lorries coming through the town centre.
4. Littering problem on roadside verges.
5. Flooding problems.
6. Motorcycle parking needed.
7. Problems with parked cars on pavements.
8. Cars idling outside schools, traffic leaving school sites and people driving too fast around the schools.
9. Traffic not using the by-pass but coming through the town.
10. More active travel is needed..
11. The issue of public footpaths being closed by landowners.
12. More benches are needed in the town centre.
13. More waste and dog bins needed in the market area.
14. Problems resulting from too many cars.



Health

Two doctors and the Practice Manager from the Swan Practice chaired the Health table.

Points/ideas raised:

1. Access and services – Klinik.
2. Residents requested updates on the new medical centre at Lace Hill.
3. Who are the other clinicians?
4. First contact practitioners?



Police

Sgt. Kuttner from the local policing team, Thames Valley Police chaired the Police table and was assisted by Matthew Barber, Police and Crime Commissioner, Thames Valley.



Points/ideas raised:

1. Candleford Court – issues within the underground car park with youths breaking in.
This will now be included on the local team's patrol plan.
2. What are the police doing to reduce the increase in crime rate?
Generally, crime is actually reducing; public perception is influenced by social media.
3. What engagement is being undertaken with young people with regard to their safety?
School talks. Sgt. Kuttner will look at getting local officers to attend the local youth club and possibly young carers.

Interested in becoming a town councillor?

Claire Molyneux, Buckingham's Town Clerk, assisted by Town Councillors, chaired this table. Leaflets showing where to access further information and how to apply were available.

At 7:30pm the Town Mayor thanked residents for attending the meeting and presented a short summary of the discussions and points raised from each table.



Public consultation

Five questions were presented to residents via social media (Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) in the week preceding the meeting. There were no comments.



This report will be sent to Buckinghamshire Council's Service Directors/Heads of Services, requesting a response to the issues raised by residents.

Mayor of Buckingham Date