



Buckingham Town Council

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Town Clerk: Claire Molyneux

ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 01 October 2025

Councillor,

You are summoned to a meeting of the Environment Committee of Buckingham Town Council which will be held on Monday 6th October 2025 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 28th July 2025 and the Extraordinary Environment Committee meeting held on 1st September 2025.

[Copy previously circulated](#)

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Italy

Twinned with Mouvaux, France;



Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany



Valmadrera,

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. Budgets

To receive the latest figures.

[Appendix A](#)

5. Fees

5.1. To note that the roundabout sponsorship fees will increase by 4.6% in line with August RPI. This is specified as part of the sponsorship contracts.

5.2. Cemetery – to receive a report from the Estates Manager.

[E/80/25](#)

6. Climate Emergency Action Plan

To note that there are no updates to the Climate Emergency Action Plan.

7. Value of Trees

To receive a report from Cllr. Haydock.

[Appendix B](#)

8. Motion: Cllr. Draper

Adoption of town tree and town 'animal': having attended a talk on butterflies at the Vinson Centre, I would like to propose that Buckingham Town Council adopt the black poplar as the official town tree, and the black hairstreak butterfly as the official town insect.

The black poplar is a beautiful native tree which can grow to 30m tall and live to 200 years. It is increasingly rare, with only 7000 trees thought to be left in the UK. We are fortunate enough to have a large population of these trees in and around our town and we should be proud of this. Black hairstreak butterflies are equally rare with only around 50 sites with colonies left in the UK; they are on the endangered red list and high priority for butterfly conservation, with one of the highest density populations being in Buckingham.

9. CCTV Update

To receive a verbal update from the Estates Manager.

10. Bucks Community Energy

To receive a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

[E/81/25](#)

11. Hedgehog Heroes

To receive a report from the Business and Community Engagement Officer.

[E/82/25](#)

12. Action report

To receive the report and note the updated information.

[Appendix C](#)

13. News releases**14. Chair's announcements - for information only****15. Date of next meeting:** Monday 24th November 2025.

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.

16. Devolved services

To receive a report from the Estates Manager.

[E/83/25](#)

To Committee Members:

Cllr. T. Allen
Cllr. F. Davies
Cllr. L. Draper
Cllr. J. Harvey
Cllr. H. Haydock
Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. R. Newall
Cllr. R. Newell

Town Mayor
Chair

Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. R. Poppe
Cllr. A. Schaefer
Cllr. S. Singh
Cllr. R. Stuchbury

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 30/09/2025

Month No: 6

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR	Explanation
<u>ENVIRONMENT</u>								
<u>201 Environment EXPENDITURE</u>								
3995 NI Environment	12,424	26,112	13,688		13,688	47.6%		
3996 Pensions ERS Environment	25,478	62,851	37,373		37,373	40.5%		
4004 Salaries environment	108,001	253,650	145,649		145,649	42.6%		
<u>202 Roundabouts INCOME</u>								
1051 Roundabout no. 1	480	2,881	2,401			16.7%		New sponsorship should begin in January '26
1052 Roundabout no. 2	1,535	1,535	0			100.0%		
1053 Roundabout no. 3	2,520	2,520	0			100.0%		
1054 Roundabout no. 4	3,211	3,211	0			100.0%		
1056 Roundabout no. 6	3,422	3,422	0			100.0%		
1057 Roundabout no. 7	1,746	1,746	0			100.0%		
<u>203 Maintenance EXPENDITURE</u>								
4082 Allotments	2,350	2,350	0		0	100.0%		
<u>205 Grounds maintenance EXPENDITURE</u>								
4033 Waste disposal	2,610	6,081	3,471		3,471	42.9%		
4035 Machinery	0	2,973	2,973		2,973	0.0%		
4036 Fuel (Mower)	978	1,900	922		922	51.5%		
4037 Sundries	245	3,251	3,006	193	2,813	13.5%		
4063 Vehicle hire and running costs	1,403	7,242	5,839		5,839	19.4%		
<u>248 Depot EXPENDITURE</u>								
4013 Equipment purchase	588	5,462	4,874		4,874	10.8%		
4055 Alarm	581	600	19		19	96.8%		
4225 Rates	5,240	4,928	(312)		(312)	106.3%	312	Covered by EMR
4601 Repairs & maintenance fund	60	900	840		840	6.7%		
4602 Electricity	461	1,660	1,199		1,199	27.8%		
4603 Water	49	635	586		586	7.7%		

249 C Meadow Toilets/Shopmobility INCOME

1085 Shopmobility income	211	245	34			86.1%	
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249 C Meadow Toilets/Shopmobility EXPENDITURE

4602 Electricity	0	600	600		600	0.0%	
4603 Water	92	600	508		508	15.3%	
4608 Shopmobility	352	1,000	648	158	490	51.0%	
4612 Contractor charge	5,366	11,774	6,408		6,408	45.6%	
4709 Maintenance	377	1,000	623		623	37.7%	

250 Lace Hill INCOME

1026 Lace Hill Community Centre	16,705	42,000	25,295			39.8%	
1027 Solar income	0	150	150			0.0%	

250 Lace Hill EXPENDITURE

4050 Lace Hill playing fields	0	555	555		555	0.0%	
4118 Solar panels	0	400	400		400	0.0%	
4158 Lace Hill gas	291	5,112	4,821		4,821	5.7%	
4159 Lace Hill electricity	807	7,202	6,395		6,395	11.2%	
4160 Lace Hill water	183	1,124	941		941	16.3%	
4161 Lace Hill Repair & Maintenance	1,245	4,800	3,555	511	3,043	36.6%	
4162 Lace Hill Planned Maintenance	607	8,200	7,594	148	7,446	9.2%	
4164 Lace Hill equipment	782	3,200	2,418	0	2,418	24.4%	
4225 Rates	10,354	0	(10,354)		(10,354)	0.0%	Covered by general reserve

251 Chandos Park INCOME

1030 Bowls income	644	644	0			100.0%	
1035 Tennis Court Rent	0	799	799			0.0%	

251 Chandos Park EXPENDITURE

4601 Repairs & maintenance fund	44	4,088	4,044		4,044	1.1%	
4602 Electricity	254	800	547		547	31.7%	
4603 Water	0	2,535	2,535		2,535	0.0%	
4606 Bowls Club Maintenance	0	2,120	2,120		2,120	0.0%	

252 Bourton Park EXPENDITURE

4601 Repairs & maintenance fund	4,630	11,000	6,370	33,967	(27,597)	350.9%	3,555	Covered by EMR
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	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR	Explanation	Appendix A
<u>253 Cemeteries INCOME</u>									
1041 Burial fees	8,431	27,729	19,299			30.4%			
<u>253 Cemeteries EXPENDITURE</u>									
4225 Rates	3,026	2,494	(532)		(532)	121.3%	532	Covered by EMR	
4265 New cemetery maintenance	0	3,500	3,500		3,500	0.0%			
4601 Repairs & maintenance fund	236	5,000	4,764	184	4,580	8.4%			
4602 Electricity	279	1,035	756		756	27.0%			
4617 Memorial testing	0	2,253	2,253		2,253	0.0%			
4619 Cemeteries Development	38,917	88,265	49,348	822	48,525	45.0%			
4620 Expenses for burial duties	1,715	5,785	4,070		4,070	29.6%			
<u>254 Chandos Park toilets EXPENDITURE</u>									
4612 Contractor charge	5,251	11,774	6,523		6,523	44.6%			
4709 Maintenance	388	2,000	1,612	395	1,217	39.2%			
<u>255 Railway Walk & Castle Hill EXPENDITURE</u>									
4709 Maintenance	0	1,180	1,180		1,180	0.0%			
<u>256 Storage Premises EXPENDITURE</u>									
4066 Grenville garage rent	331	650	319		319	50.9%			
<u>258 Cemetery Lodge INCOME</u>									
1061 Cemetery Lodge rental income	6,710	12,099	5,389			55.5%			
<u>258 Cemetery Lodge EXPENDITURE</u>									
4034 PWLB repayments inc. interest	2,351	4,702	2,351		2,351	50.0%			
4609 Cemetery Lodge maintenance	1,687	3,375	1,688		1,688	50.0%			
<u>260 CCTV EXPENDITURE</u>									
4100 CCTV maintenance	1,779	4,000	2,221		2,221	44.5%			
<u>261 Community Centre EXPENDITURE</u>									
4085 Structural repairs	3,216	19,910	16,694	32,749	(16,055)	180.6%		Covered by EMR	
4091 Chamber	6,433	1,150	(5,283)		(5,283)	559.3%		Access to work grant to be received to cover this	

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>262 Parks General EXPENDITURE</u>							
4101 Seats and bins	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
4102 Dog bins	0	4,660	4,660		4,660	0.0%	
4106 Play area maintenance	1,212	14,000	12,788	5,943	6,845	51.1%	
4112 Environment Equipment	2,930	11,050	8,120	120	8,000	27.6%	
4122 Tree works	3,310	36,760	33,450	980	32,470	11.7%	
4168 Defibrillators	0	560	560		560	0.0%	
4275 Play area replacement fund	0	10,500	10,500		10,500	0.0%	
4276 Conservation Volunteers	300	2,240	1,940		1,940	13.4%	
4280 Machinery Repair / Replace	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	0.0%	
4281 Vehicle Repair / Replace	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	0.0%	
4284 Biodiversity Audit	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
<u>264 New Cemetery INCOME</u>							
1109 PWLB Income New Cemetery	1,173,099	0	(1,173,099)			0.0%	***
<u>264 New Cemetery EXPENDITURE</u>							
4282 New Cemetery PWLB Repayments	0	2,600	2,600		2,600	0.0%	
4285 New Cemetery PWLB Expenditure	359,197	0	(359,197)		(359,197)	0.0%	Covered by income ***
Grand Totals:- Income	1,218,714	98,981	(1,119,733)			1231.3%	
Expenditure	618,779	697,148	78,369	76,437	1,931	99.7%	
Net Income over Expenditure	599,935	(598,167)	(1,198,102)				

30/09/2025

Buckingham Town Council

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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
334 EMR TOURISM LEAFLETS	883.00		883.00
335 EMR GREEN SPACES DEVELOPMENT	8,916.00	5,862.00	14,778.00
337 EMR BRIDGE REPAIRS	44,640.00	-8,195.42	36,444.58
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

Buckingham Town Council**Environment Committee****Monday 6th October 2025.**

Contact Officer: Estates Manager

Fees for Brackley Road and Tingewick Road Cemeteries.**1. Recommendations**

1.1. Members agree for the Brackley Road and Tingewick Road cemetery fees for 2026-2027 to be as per the table in section 2.1.

2. Background

2.1. To assist in creating the forecast budgets for next financial year and to meet the Town Councils financial regulations the fees are set and agreed now.

Tingewick Road and Brackley Road Cemetery fees:	Residents Fee 2025/26	Non-residents Fee 2025/26	Residents Fee 2026/27 with uplift	Non-residents Fee 2026/27 with uplift	Notes
Price to purchase a plot: for 99 years:					
Single Plot - single	£627	£1,255	700	1400	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Double - Side by Side	£1,125	£2,249	1400	2800	discount for purchasing 2 plots removed
Childs Plot (under 18) Cost paid by CFF*	£627	£1,255	700	1400	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Cremated Remains	£143	£566	140	590	fee reduced slightly to still offer most affordable option for residents of Buckingham
Enclosed Garden Plot (2 plot with space for 4 full burials)			10,000	20,000	new section in Tingewick Rd Cemetery - with hedge surrounding 2 burial plots
Enclosed Garden Plot (3 plots with space for 6 full burials)			12,000	24,000	new section in Tingewick Rd Cemetery - with hedge surrounding 3 burial plots
Interment Fees:					
Single Depth - Adult	£491	£982	515	1130	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
- Child (under 18) Cost paid by CFF*	£490	£982	515	1130	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Double Depth	£566	£1,132	600	1200	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Re-open an Existing Grave	£490	£982	515	1130	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Digging Fee for Ashes	£144	£286	150	300	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Memorial Permits:					
New memorial	£142	£287	150	300	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Additional Inscription	£68	£144	70	140	increase of latest rpi
Memorial permit – (Child under 18) Cost paid by CFF*	£142	£287	150	300	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Miscellaneous:					
Search Fee	£27	£56	30	60	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Use of Chapel	£75	£150	80	160	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Duplicate Deed	£28	£56	30	60	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Transfer Deed	£28	£56	30	60	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Deed Renewal Fee	£28	£56	30	60	increase of latest rpi and rounded up
Change of address			free	free	zero cost to encourage records to be updated.
Memorial Seating					price on application

3. Information

3.1. The August RPI of 4.6% has been used as a guide for the uplifted figures.

3.2. The cheapest option available to a parishioner has been slightly reduced in order that there is a very affordable option available to residents.

3.3. In contrast the most exclusive option will be the new Enclosed Garden Plots which will be available at Tingewick Road Cemetery, offering the choice of either two or three grave spaces.

Each grave is designed to accommodate up to two coffin interments and a maximum of six sets of cremated remains. The plots are enclosed by a purpose-planted hedge, which will be maintained by the Town Council in perpetuity, ensuring the area remains a well-cared-for setting. The price has been set at a high point to reflect the extra space required, the purchase of hedging and the significant additional care and maintenance they will require long into the future.

These plots provide families with the opportunity to establish a private memorial space within the cemetery, offering both continuity and peace of mind for future generations.



Example of Enclosed Garden Plot

Briefing on Valuation of Trees

This briefing was prompted by a question from Cllr Robin Stuchbury, a meeting with the Buckingham Town Clerk and Estates Manager, and cases of trees being felled by developers or landowners in Buckingham.

Robin's question at Town Council was whether there was a legal definition of the value of the tree, i.e. a standard formula for valuing a tree in monetary terms. He and Michael Hunt (Tree Warden) provided references; details and notes of information sources are provided separately.

Is there a legal definition/standard formula for valuing trees?

There is no legal definition, but the Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) Full Method is emerging as the standard approach to determine the value of a tree in civil and criminal cases in the UK, including the recent Sycamore Gap trial.

What is the CAVAT Method?

CAVAT is a method for valuing publicly owned trees developed by the London Tree Officers Association. It includes two methods: the Full Method, which is used to provide a compensation replacement value for single trees; and the Quick Method, which is used to determine the value of a population of trees as an asset, for asset management purposes.

The Full Method has seven steps, most of which require specialist knowledge of trees.

Step 1. Determining the 'base' value (size multiplied by a unit value factor). The unit value factor represents the full cost of a newly planted tree.

Step 2. Adjustment to determine the 'community tree index' value, based on tree location in relation to population density, using census data.

Step 3. Adjustment to determine the 'location factor' value, based on relative accessibility of the tree to the general public.

Step 4. Adjustment to determine the 'functional crown value [part 1]: structural framework', based on crown size.

Step 5. Adjustment to determine the 'functional crown value [part 2]: Leaf cover completeness and condition', based on the condition of the present canopy.

Step 6. Adjustment to determine the 'amenity and appropriateness' value', i.e. how well the particular tree species characteristics are suited to its location.

Step 7. Adjustment to determine the 'Full' value, based on its life expectancy and leading to the final value for the tree.

The CAVAT Quick Method also requires specialist knowledge but comprises only four steps and can be applied using available tree survey data for larger numbers of trees.

What other approaches are used?

Different approaches and tools value trees based on their replacement cost, the ecosystem services they provide, or a combination of the two. For example, the iTree Eco tool focuses on ecosystem services and incorporates replacement value using the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) method, and the Helliwell method values the visual amenity of

trees as part of the landscape. Ecosystem services include carbon sequestration, air pollution removal, the prevention of run-off, flood alleviation and temperature reduction (shading).

All approaches require information on the size, condition and location of the tree, and most use different factors for different species. The cultural and social benefits of trees are substantial but hard to quantify, so are typically omitted or only partially addressed e.g. using CAVAT adjustment factors. No value is attributed to the contribution of trees to wildlife and biodiversity.

What information is available on trees in Buckingham?

Buckingham Town Council (BTC) holds a database of trees in their estate, which is used to schedule maintenance activities. This includes the tree's location, species (family only), trunk diameter and general condition. BTC is also working with Michael Hunt to identify and label the most important trees in the council's estate, with a view to extending this to important trees elsewhere in Buckingham later. The only data available on trees outside BTC's estate comes from diagrams and notes associated with planning applications relating to the Conservation Area and trees subject to Tree Protection Orders (TPOs).

Conclusions and suggestions for Buckingham Town Council

1. Valuing all the trees in Buckingham, or even all the 'important' trees, would be a massive undertaking and there appears to be little value to BTC in doing so.
2. If a valuation of one or a few trees is required for compensation or insurance purposes, the CAVAT Full Method would be most appropriate.
3. If a valuation of a larger number of trees on a major new development is required, the CAVAT Quick Method would be most appropriate.
4. BTC's tree inventory could be used to calculate the annual carbon sequestration and total carbon storage of trees in the council's estate, which would be a useful addition to the Climate Emergency Plan.
5. BTC could consider other options to better protect trees outside the council's estate, in consultation with Buckinghamshire Council and drawing on the experiences of other town and parish councils. Potential options include:
 - Greater scrutiny of tree applications including those under the 5-day rule.
 - Greater use of TPOs for trees considered important or under threat.
 - More promotion and celebration of Buckingham's trees and their benefits.
 - Consideration of the role trees play, or could play, in flood alleviation.

Heather Haydock
September 2025

Notes on Valuation of Trees, September 2025

‘Valuing Non-Woodland Trees’, Forest Research report, 2022

<https://www.forestresearch.gov.uk/research/valuing-non-woodland-trees/>

Report to Defra on a project aimed at estimating the value to society of the UK’s circa 0.75 million hectares of non-woodland trees. Reviewed eight tools, methods and approaches and down-selected three:

- I-Tree Canopy
- Capital Asset Valuation for Amenity Trees (CAVAT)
- Woodland Natural Capital Accounting (WCA) benefit transfer methodologies

The i-Tree Canopy and Woodland Natural Capital Accounting benefit transfer methods are used to estimate the annual benefits of services provided by trees, such as carbon storage, air pollution reduction and flooding/run-off reduction, which are then monetized using standard factors.

The estimates vary widely, suggesting there is no definitive way of valuing a tree or aggregated tree cover. For annual flow values (£m/year) for the UK: i-Tree Canopy estimates £3,833m/yr and the Woodland NVA Benefit Transfer approach estimates £1,390m/yr. For the stock valuation (£m) for Great Britain: i-Tree Canopy estimates £50,406m (carbon stock) and CAVAT estimates £428,910m (amenity stock). The latter is a replacement cost estimate that may be likened to insurance (replacement) value of a precious asset and is a means of indicating the value of the asset to society.

This study looked at total non-woodland trees rather than the value of individual trees.

‘Comparison of Ecosystem Services and Replacement Value calculations performed for urban trees (abstract only)’

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2212041623000463>

An assessment of 1,099 trees in Warsaw, Poland using different valuation methodologies. Concludes that park trees provide ecosystem services more effectively than street trees or trees in multi-family residential areas, and that it is impossible to compensate fairly the removal of a large tree near the city centre. A combination of Replacement Value and Ecosystem Services is recommended.

A range of valuation methods are listed:

- Replacement value (RV) methods: CAVAT, Szczepanowska, Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, Helliwell, Standard Tree Evaluation Method (STEM).
- Ecosystem Services (ES) methods: iTree Eco

Both RV and provision of ES depend on the overall health of trees – tree vitality.

‘The benefits to people of trees outside woods’, The Woodland Trust, 2017

www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1702/benefits-of-trees-outside-woods.pdf

Research report looking at the range of benefits of trees outside woods (TOWs) to people, and different valuation methods. The benefits of TOWs to biodiversity are covered in a separate research report.

Tree ecosystem services:

- Provisioning services, e.g. food, timber
- Regulating services, e.g. air quality, climate regulation, pollination, reducing flood risk, ammonia reduction
- Cultural services, e.g. recreation, aesthetic, health & wellbeing
- Benefits for agriculture, e.g. shelter, shade, pest control
- Supporting, e.g. soil formation, photosynthesis, nutrient cycling

Economic implications of these services include increased property prices, attracting business and customers, and reduced health care costs.

Air pollution – there are major differences in the ability of different species to intercept pollution. The location of the trees relative to pollution sources also determines the effectiveness of pollution removal – the closer the better. A single tree can reduce air pollution by 15-20%.

Carbon sequestration is most influenced by growth rates and wood density.

TOWs can provide hydrological benefits in the form of avoided runoff and flood alleviation, and water quality enhancement.

Multiple benefits arise from incorporating trees with agriculture. A screen of trees can be effective at removing large quantities of ammonia.

TOWs are a fundamental part of the cultural landscape of the UK and enhance both physical and mental health and wellbeing.

Disbenefits often occur because of the wrong type of tree being planted in the wrong place.

Overall annual costs of £25 per tree are outweighed by £81 of benefits; £56/yr net benefit.

Main valuation methods:

- **I-Tree Eco** – economic value air pollution removal, carbon storage and sequestration and avoided run-off plus incorporates replacement value using Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (CTLA) method.
- **CAVAT** – Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees, developed by London Tree Officers Association as an asset management tool for publicly owned trees. Calculates a unit value based on trunk diameter adjusted to reflect the degree of benefit that the tree provides to the local population, e.g. local population density, size and condition of crown, accessibility. This method is used to set the level of compensation when trees are damaged or destroyed.
- **Helliwell** – main aim is to aid practical planning and management of woodlands and urban trees by evaluating their relative contribution to the visual quality of the landscape. Based on expert judgement and focuses on visual amenity.

- **CTLA** – Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers (USA) formulae and methods, mainly used to calculate the replacement cost of the tree based on its trunk area, species, condition and location.

Monetary values for selected locations:

	Wrexham	Glasgow	London	Bridgend	Rural
Pollution removal (£/yr/tree)	2	1	15	1	2
Carbon sequestration (£/yr/tree)	1	1	2	1	2
Avoided run-off (£/yr/tree)	1	1	0	0	0
CAVAT Amenity value (£/yr/tree)	150	78	201	61	5
Replacement cost (£/tree)	2,473	2,300	727	323	302

Average asset values per tree for 8 UK towns and cities: £520/tree replacement cost, £2,000/tree CAVAT amenity value. Asset values per tree for rural roadside location: £30/tree replacement cost, £133 CAVAT amenity value.

**‘CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees): valuing amenity trees as public assets’,
Arboriculture Journal, 2018**

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03071375.2018.1454077#abstract>

Abstract: ‘Valuing amenity trees is important for calculating loss of amenity and replacement value following willful or negligent damage, and for several aspects of urban forest management: planning, budget setting and decision-making. Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) is a tool for valuing amenity trees; it was first presented publicly in 2003. It includes two methods: the Full Method, which is used to provide a compensation replacement value for single trees; and the Quick Method, which is used to determine the value of a population of trees as an asset, for asset management purposes. CAVAT is widely adopted across the UK within local authority tree departments, and by major land-holding and transport organisations. It is also incorporated into the Joint Mitigation Protocol for use in the assessment of subsidence cases. This paper presents CAVAT for the first time in a formal publication. It describes the uses for which it has been designed, it comprehensively describes the methodology and shows where this deviates from similar valuation tools. Five case studies are presented as examples of its application and demonstration of its suitability-for-use. Finally, future potential developments that would facilitate wider use of CAVAT are also presented.’

Highlights: ‘Tree officers need monetary values for amenity trees. CAVAT is a trunk formula valuation method adjusted for tree health and function. CAVAT valuations adjust for human population density to account for all potential beneficiaries. Compensation for damaged public trees has been secured using the Full Method. Quick Method has informed urban forest succession planning and resource allocation.’

‘CAVAT has been successfully used to defend trees from loss due to development as well as secure adequate and appropriate compensation for their removal through private development by application of the Full and Quick Methods. CAVAT has also been used to trigger alterations to infrastructure development plans allowing for the conservation of mature street trees by application of the Quick Method. As such, CAVAT appears to be used on a consistent basis by a

large number of UK local authorities for urban amenity tree valuation and is providing an indication of a “market” price.’

The Full Method has seven steps, and Steps 4-7 require specialist knowledge of trees.

Step 1. Determining the “base” value (size multiplied by a unit value factor). The unit value factor is the same for all species of tree and represents the full cost of a newly planted tree.

Step 2. Adjustment to determine the “community tree index (CTI)” value (a value adjustment based on location, in terms of population density). From census data.

Step 3. Adjustment to determine the “location factor (LF)” value (a value adjustment made for the relative accessibility of the tree to the general public).

Step 4. Adjustment to determine the “functional crown value [part 1]: structural framework” (an adjustment of the value according to crown size).

Step 5. Adjustment to determine the “functional crown value [part 2]: Leaf cover completeness and condition” (an adjustment of the value according to the functional status (condition) of the present canopy).

Step 6. Adjustment to determine the “amenity and appropriateness” value (a value adjustment for how well the particular tree species characteristics are suited to its location).

Step 7. Adjustment to determine the “Full” value (a value adjustment for life expectancy (LE) and leading to the final value for the tree).

The four steps of the Quick Method are: Step 1. Determining the “Base” value (size multiplied by the UVF); Step 2. Adjustment to determine the “CTI” value (adjustment based on location, in terms of population); Step 3. Adjustment to determine the “functional crown” value: a step with two considerations leading to a single adjustment of the value according to crown size and crown condition; Step 4. Life Expectancy adjustment to determine the final Quick Method value for the stock as a whole.

Since the adoption of CAVAT, many local authorities have either influenced developers to change their designs to avoid tree damage or received adequate compensation for tree loss. CAVAT has also been successful in securing compensation following wilful or negligent damage to local authority trees (see www.ltoa.org.uk/resources/cavat). CAVAT has also been useful in helping to change a view of trees that has become entrenched in many local authorities over recent decades. Rather than treating them as liabilities that must be strictly risk managed, they have started to treat them as assets that provide amenity that is valuable and not easily or quickly off-set.

‘Tree valuation: what have the civil & criminal courts said?’, Tree law, July 2025

<https://www.treelaw.co.uk/tree-valuation-what-have-the-civil-criminal-courts-said/>

Blog that gives examples of how Helliwell has been used to set the level of damages in civil courts and both Helliwell and CAVAT valuations have been used in criminal cases. CAVAT has been used several times in recent years (and since this blog in the Sycamore Gap trial).

Key Takeaways for Tree Valuation in Legal Disputes:

- Valuation Systems Matter: Both Helliwell and CAVAT are now well-established tools in assessing tree value, shaping outcomes in civil and criminal cases alike.
- Reinstatement vs. Diminution: Courts consider not just property value loss but the cost and reasonableness of reinstating trees, especially where amenity, privacy, or environmental integrity are affected.
- Aggravated and General Damages: When behaviour is hostile or the loss has long-term impact (as in Bryant), damages can significantly exceed mere replacement costs.
- Public Trees and Criminal Sanctions: Damaging council-owned or protected trees without permission carries heavy financial consequences—often using CAVAT to calculate restitution.

‘Protecting trees of high social, cultural and environmental value’, report by the Tree Council and Forest Research, published April 2025

https://treecouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/Protecting-Trees-of-High-Social-Cultural-and-Environmental-Value_Final-Report_October-2024_v3.0-APRIL-2025.pdf

The term ‘important trees’ is used as shorthand for ‘trees of high social, cultural, and environmental value’.

Key findings (selected):

- ‘Important trees’ face a range of threats, including environmental, biological, human behaviour and attitudes (such as vandalism), legislation and enforcement weaknesses, management practices, and resource pressures.
- There is a gap in the legal protection of ‘important trees’, with a reliance on mechanisms and systems that are not designed specifically for this purpose.
- Existing mechanisms, such as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and felling licensing, could be improved and expanded in scope to protect more trees, more effectively.
- Without sufficient resources, key actors, such as local authorities and enforcement agencies, will not be able to carry out their duties in safeguarding ‘important trees’.

Recommendations:

- Initiate and facilitate a mechanism for engagement of key stakeholders.
- Develop an action plan for ‘important trees’.
- Improve the legal protection of ‘important trees’.
- Develop a public and private funding framework, to support owners and agencies in the management, regulation and protection of ‘important trees’.
- Enhance data on current and future ‘important trees’ so that protection and conservation efforts can be better targeted and monitored.
- Appoint a Special Representative for ‘important trees’ to champion them at the political level.
- Continue to lead positive engagement for ‘important trees’ with government and its agencies, NGOs and others
- Improve skills and capacity to manage and protect ‘important trees’

Buckingham Town Council
Environment Committee
Monday 6th October 2025.

Contact Officer: Business and Community Engagement Officer

Energy Advice Drop-Ins

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. Members are asked to note that Buckingham Town Council has partnered with Buckinghamshire Community Energy to offer energy efficiency drop-in sessions. These sessions aim to help residents save money on their energy bills and maintain warm homes during the colder months.

2. Background

- 2.1. Following a meeting between both organisations, two drop-in sessions have been scheduled for 11th of October and 15th of November at Shopmobility in Cornwalls Meadows Car Park from 13:00 – 17:00.
- 2.2. Attendees will be able to receive advice and free energy-saving kits.
- 2.3. Flyers will be distributed to vulnerable members of the community to ensure awareness of the sessions.

3. Environmental Impact

- 3.1. These sessions support the move towards green energy and promote energy-efficient practices among residents.

Buckingham Town Council
Environment Committee
Monday 6th October 2025.

Contact Officer: Ana Smith, Community Engagement Officer

Buckingham Town Council joins Hedgehog Heroes Roll of Honour

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. Members are asked to note that Buckingham Town Council has joined the *Hedgehog Heroes Roll of Honour*, maintained by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS).

2. Background

- 2.1. Buckingham Town Council has ordered free stickers from BHPS to be applied to mowing and strimming equipment used by the Green Spaces Team.
- 2.2. The stickers act as a reminder for staff to check for hedgehogs before operating equipment, helping to reduce the risk of hedgehogs being injured or killed.
- 2.3. Once the stickers are in place, a photograph will be sent to BHPS, after which the Council will be added to the national Roll of Honour.

3. Budget Costs

- 3.1. None the stickers are provided free of charge.

4. Environmental Impact

- 4.1. The initiative supports the protection of local wildlife, reducing the risk of harm to hedgehogs within Buckingham's green spaces.



No.	Committee	Minute No.	Action	Action Required	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.	To be reviewed following the new SPD introduction/ with BNDP at this time	NB Neighbourhood Plan now awith examiner. Await updated local plan.
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.		Due November
3	Environment	319/20	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	70/23 193/23	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 .	ROW application has been submitted. Bucks Council seeking legal advice on the application. Obtaining Quotes	Awaits ROW and EA
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.	Quotes being obtained	Awaits BC parking suspension
7	Environment	623/23 198/25 28/7/25	Value of trees	Cllr. Stuchbury Proposed that the Estates Manager looks at the system of adding a value to trees. Cllr. Stuchbury requested a formula to determine the legal value of trees.	Tree surveys in process. Full BC survey due 24-25. Town Clerk	On agenda
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."		Awaits updates

No.	Committee	Minute No.	Action	Action Required	Update	Deadline
9	Environment	408/24 25/11/24	Motion: Cllr. Gateley	In order to take the issue of No Idling Zones outside primary schools further, I propose that Buckingham Town Council Members carry out a survey to ascertain the scale of the problem, and how to proceed thereafter.		Members have been liaising with the MP on a multiagency strategy.
10	Environment	411/24 25/11/24	Public seating	Cllr. Ralph will raise the possibility of a new bench at the Buckingham Society meeting.		Awaits updates
11	Environment	668/24 7/4/25	Railway Walk Conservation Group	We will look at our conservation groups after the summer and see how we can support them.	Business and Community Engagement Officer	B&C Engagement Officer has started making contact.
13	Environment	70/25 9/6/25	Buckingham 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.		Date being arranged
	Environment	75/25 09/6/25	Working Group	Members agree to form a working group to examine various matters in our parks and green spaces and to set relevant policies.		Next meeting on 14th Nov 1-2.30pm Council Chamber
	Environment	196/25 28/7/25	Tree Tags	AGREED that Buckingham Town Council be added to the text on all tree tags.		In progress