



Buckingham Town Council

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Town Clerk: Claire Molyneux

TOWN CENTRE &
EVENTS COMMITTEE

Thursday, 17 September 2026

Councillors

You are summoned to a meeting of the Town Centre & Events Committee of Buckingham Town Council to be held on Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 7pm in the Council Chamber, Cornwalls Meadow, Buckingham, MK18 1RP.

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 approve or not approve 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. Christmas events programme

To receive a report from the Town Clerk.

[TCE/30/26](#)

4. Date of the next meeting: Monday 5th October 2026

To Committee Members:

Cllr. R. Ahmed Vice Chair
Cllr. T. Allen
Cllr. F. Davies Town Mayor
Cllr. L. Draper
Cllr. J. Harvey

Cllr. A. Mahi
Cllr. L. O'Donoghue
Cllr. R. Poppe
Cllr. R. Stuchbury Chair



Twinned with Mouvaux, France;

Neukirchen-Vluyn, Germany



Valmadrera, Italy



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.

Buckingham Town Council
Town Centre and Events Committee
Tuesday 22nd September 2026
Christmas Events Programme

Contact Officer: Town Clerk

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. It is recommended not to pursue the idea of a walking parade through Bourton and Heartlands Parks this year.
- 1.2. It is recommended that Members note the current Christmas programme budget is as detailed in Section 4.1

2. Background

- 2.1. At an extraordinary meeting of this committee on the 1st September 2026, Members agreed to “ask the Town Clerk to write a report to explore the options of a walking parade through the town and shire parks to be resolved at a soon to be convened extraordinary meeting”.
- 2.2. Should that event not be feasible then it was further agreed that the £6,344 Christmas Parade budget be spent on an approximate indicative basis of:
 - £1,000 on additional activities at the Christmas Lights Switch-On.
 - £1,200 towards Small Business Saturday and associated Christmas business promotion.
 - £800 on the Christmas Community Fair and other smaller Christmas activities.
 - £3,344 to be recommended to Full Council to be earmarked for Christmas activities next year.

3. Walking Parade

- 3.1. The Town Clerk and the Events Officer have conducted a site visit and made the following observations:
 - Starting a parade from the Bourton Park end is logistically extremely difficult. There is very limited parking and no safe pick up and drop off point. During a standard school day parking in that area is very problematic and attempting to drop off children in costumes, who need to be properly handed over to carers or responsible adults, will take far longer. Many parents will choose to stay to watch the parade and they will park for the duration.
 - The parking issue will be further complicated by the requirement for a road closure where the main path crosses the dead end. Otherwise, the route will need to be diverted down to the smaller paths.



- If a walking parade were to take place it would need to start and finish from the Heartlands end where there is a car park and a hard standing muster space. However, it should be noted that space will still be very tight and the parade would need to loop round to get back to the start.



- Many of the paths are very narrow and only suitable for a single file adult performer. This would make using bands or dancers almost impossible.



Many of the paths in the parks are only this width

- The parks will be open and are well used. The parade will encounter dog walkers and cyclists going about their day, many travelling in the opposite direction. There may be cyclists at speed and dogs off the lead.
- There is nowhere for significant numbers of spectators to gather without standing on the grass which is likely to be boggy and wet in December. People will naturally want to gather on the paths further reducing the room available.
- The Heartlands belongs to Buckinghamshire Council and there is no guarantee they will give permission for the event due to the issues above.
- This will be a complicated event to manage and is at very short notice. Logistically it will be very difficult for the team to pull together to a high standard.

3.2. For these reasons it is asserted that, without room for bands and other forms of entertainment, any walking parade will lack interest and enjoyment. Being a near single-file procession, affected by other park users, it further risks being unfavourably compared to other events.

4. Proposed programme changes

4.1. Officers are currently exploring options to add a large children's craft event at Lace Hill and a SEN Christmas painting evening for young adults to the Christmas programme. Therefore, the current indicative budget is:

- £1,000 on additional activities at the Christmas Lights Switch-On.
- £1,200 towards Small Business Saturday and associated Christmas business promotion.
- £1,000 on the Christmas Community Fair and other smaller Christmas activities including a new Children's Art Event at Lace Hill and a SEN Christmas painting evening for young adults.
- £3,144 to be recommended to Full Council to be earmarked for next year.