



# Buckingham TownMatters

Spring issue 2025



**Message from your Town Clerk • Council Tax and precept  
New cemetery and allotments • Embracing spring in Buckingham**

# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TOWN CLERK

Dear Buckingham,

It is my great pleasure to write to you as Town Clerk of Buckingham. I have been asked to deliver this message, in lieu of the Town Mayor, as we are approaching the local elections on 1st May.

I view the upcoming election with a mixture of emotions, particularly as several long-serving Councillors will not be standing again. These individuals have been exemplary servants of the town, dedicating themselves to making Buckingham an even better place. Much of a Councillor's most productive work occurs quietly, diligently attending to the basics; papers must be scrutinised and reports examined thoroughly. In public their contribution might appear as modest as raising a hand, but they arrive at their decisions through careful research and review.

Nevertheless, I look to the election with optimism. This is an opportunity for the Town Council to refresh itself with new ambitions and fresh perspectives. I trust our new Councillors will join us with both positivity and a determination to achieve great things. I strongly encourage all residents to learn about your candidates and exercise your right to vote.

As spring unfolds, there is much to anticipate. I particularly look forward to wandering through our beautiful parks, frequenting our markets, enjoying our excellent restaurants, pubs and coffee shops and exploring the unique offerings of our independent retailers.

Our new Neighbourhood Plan continues to evolve and will help shape and protect Buckingham for many years. Please keep an eye on the Town Council website for updates on its progress and feel free to contact us if you have questions.

Best wishes,

*Claire Molyneux*  
**Claire Molyneux,**  
**Town Clerk**

# CAN YOU HELP SAVE YOUR LOCAL MUSEUM?



The Old Gaol Museum and the iconic Grade II\* listed building in the town square are entirely run and managed by volunteers. We need more volunteers to help with visitor welcome, evening events and behind the scenes with our collection and finances. Training would be given in these roles but we urgently need someone with experience of accounting or bookkeeping who would ultimately become our new treasurer.

If you are local, with time to give back to your community, call into the Old Gaol, contact Angela by email [admin.hr@buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk](mailto:admin.hr@buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk), or sign up via Volunteer Bucks – [www.volunteerbucks.org.uk](http://www.volunteerbucks.org.uk).

In return you will find it a rewarding experience. We are a friendly team that enjoys working within such an historic building.

**Joanne Thompson**  
[chair@buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk](mailto:chair@buckinghamoldgaol.org.uk)



# BUCKINGHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE



The Buckingham Neighbourhood Plan was officially submitted to Buckinghamshire Council on 6 December 2024, kicking off its final public consultation, the Regulation 16 Consultation. Hundreds of insightful comments from landowners, developers, residents and community groups were received, and now these will be reviewed by an independent examiner. This examiner will decide whether the plan should move forward to a community referendum. If more than 50% of the votes are in favour, the plan will be officially adopted.

**What is a Neighbourhood Development plan?** It is a document created by local communities to shape future development, helping it align with the needs and desires of residents, while guiding planning decisions and helping to resist speculative development in their area.

For the latest updates and to view the current Neighbourhood Development Plan, visit our website: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/council-plans](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/your-town-council/council-plans) or scan the QR code.



# OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS



Remembrance Parade:  
10th November 2024



Winter Fair, Lace Hill:  
24th November 2024



Community Fair:  
14th December 2024



Holocaust Memorial Day:  
27th January 2025



Christmas Lights Switch On:  
28th November 2024



Small Business Saturday:  
7th December 2024



Pancake Race:  
20th February 2025



Food Fair:  
22nd February 2025



Christmas Parade:  
14th December 2024



Annual Town Meeting:  
6th March 2025

# OUR TOWN EVENTS OUR TOWN EVENTS

We have a busy few months ahead with some wonderful community events planned. Dates for these can be found on the back page of this Newsletter. Look out for our special Fringe Week Newsletter which will be delivered to your door in late June.

**Good Endings Fair:** The focus of this event is on preparing for the end of life, and helping to challenge taboos around talking about death and dying.



Good Endings Fair:  
29th March 2025



Easter Bazaar Craft  
Fair: 6th April 2025

**Easter Bazaar Craft Fair:** Join us for some egg-tastic fun! Meet local makers selling an array of handmade gifts and products, including refreshments. There will be plenty of crafts and games for the children to enjoy.

**Spring Green Fair:** Get ready to celebrate nature, community, and all things green at the upcoming Buckingham Spring Green Fair. This event promises a day filled with eco-friendly activities, delicious ice creams, and vibrant entertainment for the whole family.



Spring Green Fair:  
27th April 2025



May Day:  
1st May 2025

**Buckingham Live:** Buckingham Live is a three-day festival taking place in numerous locations, including the town centre and Buckingham Football Club. The event is run by Buckingham Live Sessions, with support from the Town Council.



Buckingham Live:  
25th May 2025

**Celebrate Buckingham Day:** Join us at Celebrate Buckingham Day in Bourton Park for tons of fun, food and community spirit! Let's celebrate together and highlight the wide range of voluntary groups and organisations who make our town great.



Celebrate Buckingham Day:  
21st June 2025

**Fringe Week:** Enjoy a jam-packed week full of arts, sports, and cultural activities during this year's Fringe Week.



Fringe Week:  
21st - 27th July 2025

# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCIL



## Precept 2025/2026

### PRECEPT

The Precept is the Town Council's share of Council Tax. This year the Precept will rise by £0.24 per week on a band D property. This is an increase of 5.58%, from £220.96 to £233.28 a year.

### TOTAL PRECEPT

The total amount Buckingham Town Council will receive from Council Tax in 2025/2026 is:

**£1,307,690**

### COMMUNITY SERVICES FUNDED FROM THE PRECEPT

- Shopmobility
- Tourist Information Centre
- Brackley Road Cemetery
- Public Seating
- Cornwalls Meadow public toilets
- Chandos Park public toilets

### BUCKINGHAM EVENTS

Buckingham Town Council runs and partners a programme of events each year. This includes Pancake Races, Spring Fair, Buckingham Live, Fringe Week, Play Days, Dog Show, Lace Hill events, Band Jam, Bonfire and Fireworks, Christmas Parade and Christmas Lights Switch On.

### PARKS AND GREEN SPACES

Buckingham is proud of its parks and green spaces. The Environment Committee will receive £522,493 from the Precept to take care of them and to continue to develop the new cemetery and allotments.

### TOURISM AND BUSINESS SUPPORT

The Tourist Information Centre continues to be popular, providing services to both newcomers and visitors to Buckingham. It supports local people, offering advice and information about transport links and what is going on in our town.

### LACE HILL SPORTS AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

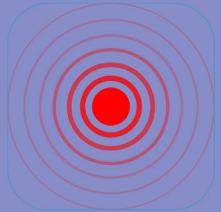
Buckingham Town Council manages the Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre. We offer services to clubs and local groups as well as organising events for the community to enjoy.

To find out more about what we do with your money visit our website at [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

# Community Grants awarded 2024/25



Find out more



**Chronic Pain Support Group**

£500



**Buckingham Pantomime**

£1364



**Open House (Community Care North Bucks)**

£808



**Buckingham Art4All**

£1389



**West End Bowls Club**

£941



**Buckingham & District Angling Association**

£271



**Buckingham Football Club**

£1616



**Jedidiah Food Pantry**

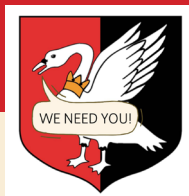
£808



**Swan Community Hub**

£1616

# MAY ELECTIONS



Have your say on 1st May! Who will represent you as Town and Shire Councillors?

From 1st March this year, Buckingham Town Council ward boundaries were changed from 4 wards to 2 to better reflect community identity and electoral equality. Highlands and Watchcroft ward is now part of Buckingham North (8 Councillors) and Fisher's Field ward is now part of Buckingham South (9 Councillors).

It was decided by the Local Government Boundary Commission, in May 2023, to reduce the number of Shire Councillors representing Buckingham and surrounding parishes from 6 to 3.

Nominations to stand for one of the 17 Town Councillor or 3 Shire Councillor posts open at 10am on 18th March 2025, and close at

**4pm on 2nd April 2025.** Nomination papers can be found on the Electoral Commission's website.

## Useful reminders:

- Postal vote applications close at 5pm on 14th April 2025.
- Proxy vote applications close at 5pm on 23rd April 2025.
- You must take valid photographic ID with you to vote.
- Check your polling card for your polling station.

Boundary maps and further information about standing as a Town or Shire Councillor can be obtained by calling 01296 798141 or visiting [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk).

## EMBRACING SPRING IN BUCKINGHAM: A SEASON OF RENEWAL AND CELEBRATION

Springtime in Buckingham is a time of renewal and celebration, as the town comes alive with vibrant colours and the promise of new beginnings.

The season kicks off with the **Lace Hill Easter Fair** on April 6th, offering family-friendly fun with games, stalls, and festive activities. This is followed by the **Spring Green Fair** on April 27th, in the historic cattle pens, where eco-friendly stalls, live music, and activities for all ages highlight sustainability. **May Day** festivities bring traditional celebrations with dancing and music from local primary

schools, showcasing the talent of the younger generation. **Buckingham Live** on May 25th offers a day of exciting live performances, attracting music lovers and creating a sense of community. The season concludes with the **Celebrate Buckingham** event on June 21st in Bourton Park, a lively gathering with outdoor entertainment, food, and family fun, marking Midsummer and the official close of the spring season.

Each event embraces the joy of spring, bringing the community together in a season of growth, music, and celebration.

# BUCKINGHAM'S NEW CEMETERY AND ALLOTMENTS UPDATE



Exciting progress is happening at Buckingham's new Cemetery and Allotments site off the Tingewick Road roundabout. Thanks to funding from HS2's Community and Environment Fund, the Town Council and volunteers have planted 431 trees and added hedging to improve the area's greenery. This will help boost local wildlife and create a peaceful space for reflection and community use.

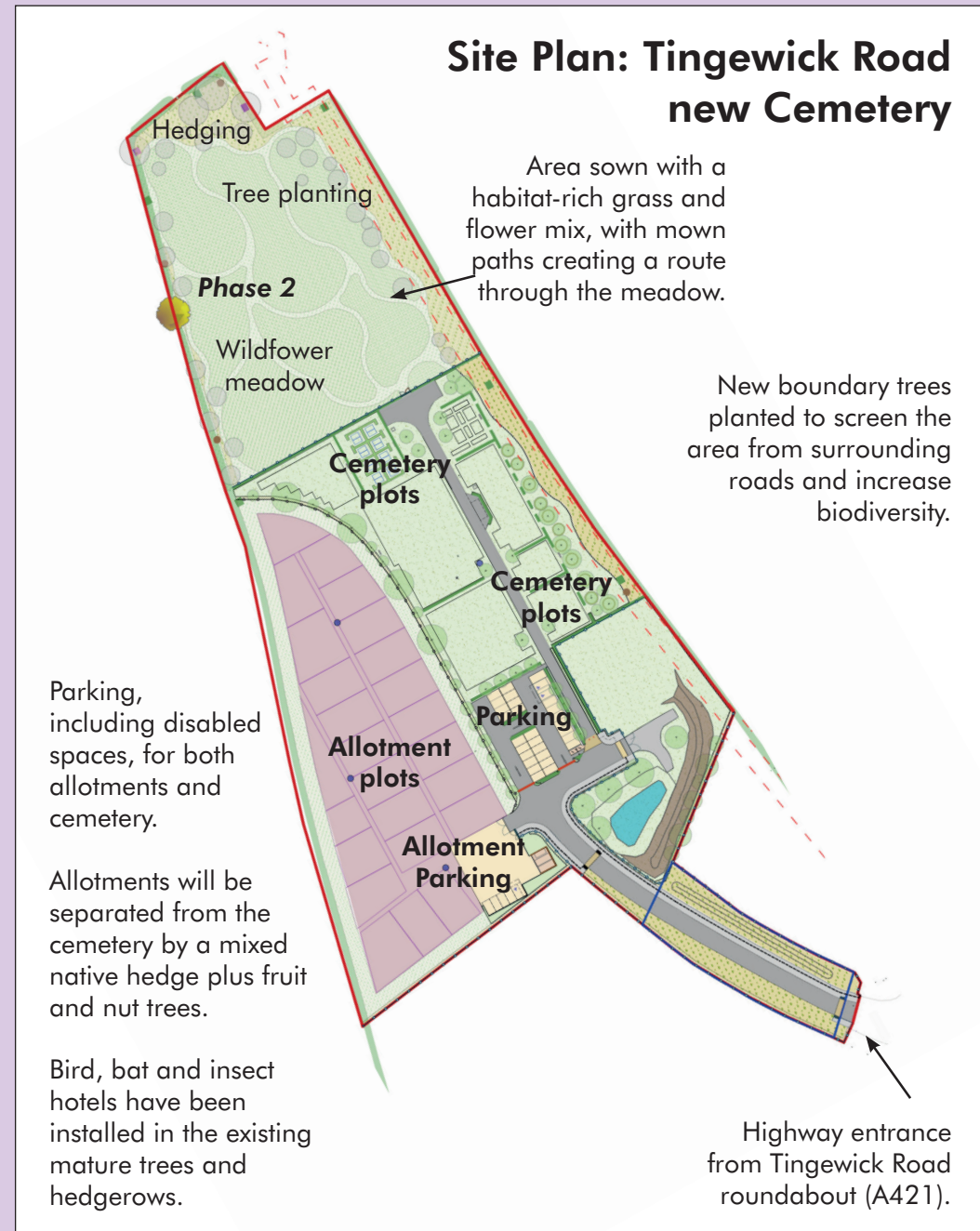
Groundwork for the Cemetery is set to begin in Spring 2025, with completion expected by late 2025. It will provide 1,060 burial plots, including areas for traditional lawn plots, as well as family and children's sections. At first, only full burials will be available, with ashes interments continuing at Brackley Road Cemetery.

The Town Council's Greenspaces Team has also installed fencing to blend the site with the existing hedgerows. In addition to the cemetery, the site will have 50 allotment plots, each 125m<sup>2</sup>, along with water access and parking for 29 vehicles for the cemetery, plus separate parking for the allotments.

Looking ahead, Phase 2 will be a wildflower meadow that could eventually become part of the cemetery's expansion. The meadow will be full of native flowers, supporting wildlife and offering a peaceful, natural space for visitors.

A management plan will ensure that both the cemetery and allotments are cared for, making these spaces an important part of Buckingham for many years to come. This development will provide a quiet green area and useful amenities for local residents.

## Site Plan: Tingewick Road new Cemetery



# BUCKINGHAM TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION



In partnership with the Buckingham and Villages Community Board, we're pleased to share updates on the exciting town centre improvements, from the opening of the Banking Hub to the Town Centre Regeneration Project and other recent successes.

## Buckingham's Banking Hub

It might not be brand-new, but Buckingham's Banking Hub is still a much-celebrated addition to the town. A collaborative effort between the Community Board and Buckingham Town Council, this hub has quickly become an essential service for residents and businesses alike.



Conveniently located in the town centre, the hub brings together services from major banks under one roof. Whether you need to deposit cheques, manage accounts, or seek financial advice, the hub offers a one-stop solution in a welcoming and accessible environment.



In a time of rapid digital transformation, the hub ensures continued access to essential financial services for all generations. Let's ensure it remains a valued part of the town by making good use of it – use it or lose it!

## Funding for positive change

In 2023, Buckingham Town Council was awarded funding from Buckinghamshire Council's Buckingham and Villages Community Board. This funding has been instrumental in driving forward initiatives that enhance the vitality and usability of our town centre.

## Planters outside the Old Town Hall

To enhance the appearance and functionality of our town centre, planters have been installed outside the Old Town Hall. These beautiful displays not only add a touch of colour and charm but also serve an important purpose - the planters act as a gentle deterrent to unnecessary parking in this busy area, making it safer and more accessible for pedestrians. Carefully selected plants ensure the displays look attractive all year round and support local wildlife, including bees and butterflies.



## Town Centre Study

A comprehensive town centre study was commissioned to better understand Buckingham's strengths, challenges, and opportunities. The research included surveys with local businesses and residents, capturing their concerns and ideas.

The insights from this study are being used to inform the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan, and to shape future community-focused projects that align with the needs of those who live and work here.

## Next steps

With some funding remaining, plans are underway to install a permanent piece of public art, celebrating Buckingham's rich culture and heritage. This captivating feature will warmly greet visitors and residents alike as they explore the town.

We're also refreshing the QR code stickers in shop and business windows, connecting visitors to local businesses and showcasing Buckingham's many offerings. These codes link to the Discover Buckingham website, promoting the town as a vibrant place to shop, dine, and visit.



## Looking ahead

These projects highlight the Council's commitment to improving the lives of everyone who lives, works, and visits Buckingham. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to enhance our town.



To stay updated on all the latest news and announcements, visit our website or follow us on social media.



# ENJOY SPRING WITH SHOPMOBILITY

Spring is here! The flowers are blooming and it is the perfect season to explore Buckingham. Don't let mobility worries hold you back – with Shopmobility scooters, you can enjoy all the joys of spring, no matter your pace.

## What we offer

If you or someone you know has difficulty getting around, Buckingham Shopmobility is here to help. This free service is open to anyone with mobility challenges, whether temporary or permanent, and is not limited to Blue Badge holders. Sponsored by Buckingham Town Council, Buckingham Shopmobility provides electric mobility scooters for free, one-day use to help you shop, sight-see, or explore the town centre. Manual wheelchairs are also available, for reasonably priced short-term hire, which can be folded for easy transport to hospital appointments, events, or local attractions.



## Opening Hours

**Tuesday:** 9:30am – 3:30pm

**Saturday:** 9:00am – 1:00pm

With Buckingham Shopmobility, exploring the town has never been easier.

## Easy to access

Our building is conveniently located in Cornwalls Meadow Car Park with designated parking spaces for Shopmobility users right outside.

## YOUR VIEWS COUNT

Buckingham Town Matters is produced by Buckingham Town Council in order to provide you with a taste of what keeps Councillors and staff busy. It is also an invitation for you to tell us what you think of what we do and what you think we should be doing. We are all working together to make Buckingham an even better place, so please let us know:

- What you think we should carry on doing.
- What you think we should stop doing, or do less of.
- What you think we should start doing, or do more of.

**Just a reminder...** all Town Council meetings are open to the public. You are invited to come along and give us your views.

You can email us or drop us a line at the address opposite. We look forward to hearing from you.

# BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

<b>Cllr. Anja Schaefer – Mayor</b>	01280 816 426	Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562
<b>Cllr. Fran Davies – Deputy Mayor</b>	07976 558 609	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	01280 816 426	Cllr. Jane Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Tony Allen	07769 339209	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408 646
Cllr. Mark Cole JP	01280 816 005	Cllr. Ade Osibogun	01280 816 954
Cllr. Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	07968 108 304
Cllr. Lucy Draper	07432 290 842	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	<b>Town Clerk – Claire Molyneux</b>	01280 816 426

## USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Town Council	01280 816 426	NHS Urgent Care	111
Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816 801	National Power Cut Helpline	105
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314 027	National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre	01280 812 872	Anglian Water Emergency	03457 145 145
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 823 584	Floodline	0345 988 1188
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823 020	ChildLine	0800 11 11
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	Samaritans	01908 667 777
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382 416	StreetLink (rough sleeping)	0300 500 0914
Citizens Advice National Phone Line	0800 1448848	Fraud	0300 123 2040
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247	Stop Scams UK	159
Thames Valley Police	101	Emergency Services	999
Crimestoppers	0800 555 111	Fix My Street	<a href="https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/">https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/</a>

**Town Council Office, Buckingham Centre, Verney Close, Buckingham, MK18 1JP**

**Email:** [office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk) or visit: [www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk)

**Call:** 01280 816 426 (Please phone for appointments)

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This edition of **BTM** has been designed by Black Dog Design ([www.black-dog-design.co.uk](http://www.black-dog-design.co.uk)), printed by BCQ Solutions Ltd and distributed to the homes and businesses of Buckingham by Sure2Door Ltd.

This is delivered to approx. 6,500 homes and businesses. It is also available on our website as a PDF and an audio version. Please contact the Town Council if you would like to request a large print copy.

*Please note, events organised by Buckingham Town Council may be photographed and these photographs may be published.*



# 2025 EVENTS DIARY

Please find further details inside or online.



## 2025

<b>MARCH</b>	Annual Town Meeting 🗳️	Thurs 6th March (6pm to 8pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
	Good Endings Fair 🛒 🗳️	Sat 29th (10am to 1pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
<b>APRIL</b>	Easter Event ✂️ 🛒 🗳️	Sun 6th April (2pm to 4pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
	Spring Green Fair 🛒 🗳️	Sun 27th April (10am to 2pm)	Buckingham Cattle Pens
<b>MAY</b>	May Day	Thurs 1st May	To be confirmed
	Election	Thurs 1st May	Buckingham Community Centre and Youth Centre
	Buckingham Live ✂️ 🛒 🗳️	Sun 25th May	Buckingham Football Club
<b>JUNE</b>	Celebrate Buckingham ✂️ 🛒 🗳️	Sat 21st June	Bourton Park
<b>JULY</b>	Fringe Week 🛒	21st-27th July	Various venues in the town

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.

**Key to spaces available:**

- Food & Drinks Traders ✂️
- Crafts & Goods Traders 🛒
- Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups 🗳️

