



Buckingham TownMatters

Spring issue 2024



Message from your Mayor • Annual Town Meeting • Future Events
Council tax and Precept • Buckinghamshire Waste Busters • Swan Trail Auction

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR MAYOR



Dear neighbours,

As I am writing this, we have just started the new year. The first major wet weather event has passed and, while Buckingham has experienced high water, major flood damage has fortunately been avoided so far. I hope that, by the time you read this, it will have remained that way.

During these winter months, many things at home and in the wider world can feel difficult. Pressures on the NHS and transport systems, as well as many other public services, have the potential to disrupt our lives. Armed conflict in many parts of the world causes concerns to many of us. And the effects of climate change are becoming ever more visible, even in our own town.

But even in these uncertain times, there is much that we, the people of Buckingham, can do and are doing to make things better for everyone in our town. I am always deeply touched by the acts of kindness and civic responsibility shown by so many. Our new neighbourhood development plan consultation has raised a lot of interest, showing how much Buckingham residents care about the future of the town. If you haven't had a chance yet to make your views heard, there are further opportunities ahead. Look out for them on the town council's website, social media posts, and a few pages in this newsletter. There are also so many groups and individuals who give their time, efforts and money to fundraise and donate to local charities. To give just one example among many, Buckingham Rugby Club raised £2,000 for the Mayor's Charities at their annual charity rugby tournament in December 2023, which is both very impressive and very generous.

It is these acts of local kindness and solidarity that make Buckingham a special place to live, and that will stand us in good stead whatever the future may bring.

Anja Schaefer

Cllr. Anja Schaefer, Mayor of Buckingham

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – 18TH APRIL 2024

You are invited

to the Annual Town Meeting at Buckingham Community Centre on **Thursday 18th April 2024**. This is an informal public meeting that all Buckingham residents can attend, offering an opportunity to ask questions and receive updates on the Town Council and its partner organisations' activities over the previous year. This year the Meeting will focus on 'the future of Buckingham'. Town and County Councillors will be in attendance to answer your queries on matters relating to Buckingham.

The event will also include information from charities and organisations that have received community grants from the Town Council, giving an insight into how the money has been spent and the benefits this has brought to the town.

There will be several topic-based tables at the meeting; Buckingham residents will have an opportunity to speak to representatives and ask questions, discuss concerns, and put forward ideas:

- Shopping & tourism
- Accessibility & diversity
- Planning & transport
- Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan
- Eco matters
- The river and green spaces

This year's Annual Town Meeting is to be held on Thursday, 18th April 2024 at Buckingham Community Centre; the event will open at 6.00pm, with the meeting beginning at 6:30pm. The evening is not structured around a formal agenda; it highlights the issues that residents want to discuss and draws on questions previously discussed through the Town Council's Annual Online Forum. The Online Forum will be hosted via the Town Council's Facebook page and residents will be invited to post questions or comment on a variety of topics. Residents can also bring their questions to the meeting or email them in advance to committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.





Starting in November, Buckingham residents have been asked to help shape the future of Buckingham by taking part in the Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan 'Future Scenarios' Consultation.

After five in person events, online surveys, two secondary school and sixth form visits and partner consultation the level of response has been excellent.

What were the Future Scenarios for?

The Future Scenarios were not a suggested Neighbourhood Plan or policy, but starting points for discussion about Buckingham's possible future, based on months of research about Buckingham and how it might develop over the next twenty years.

The consultation looked at all of the land that was potentially available for future development (areas of land identified by owners in Buckinghamshire Council's 'Call for Sites') and then asked local people where they thought the development of new housing in Buckingham should take place. Did they think using brownfield sites alone is

sufficient for the town's needs – both residential and delivery of infrastructure?

If not, should new development be to the West, South, or another area of the town? Where large developments will trigger the creation of a new facility, for example, a school or road; where should these be placed?

The Future Scenarios were also presented to local partners, for example, healthcare, transport, and education services, who were asked what impact they thought growth in those areas would have.

Buckingham Developers Roadshow

This time, having established how important infrastructure was to residents, local land owners and developers were invited to talk about their ideas to the public, and how they felt they could deliver sustainable development for the town.

The feedback from the consultations is still being gathered and will be used to influence the next stage of the development of the plan.



Buckingham hosts dozens of fantastic events each year bringing fun, tasty food, great shopping, music, and visitors to Buckingham. Our events are a great opportunity for local businesses to build their brand, listen to customers, and try out new products!

Any registered business or community group can trade at our events but will be asked for copies of documents such as their public liability insurance, test certificates for rides or inflatables, and food hygiene certificates. If you'd like to trade at a Town Council event, please email office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.

Event Sponsorship

Interested in taking part in a community contest or activity as a business? Buckingham in Bloom gardening contest, Christmas Card Contest, or the River Rinses could be a wonderful opportunity for your company to financially support a project with a positive local impact on residents. Please contact the Town Clerk for further discussion.

Key to spaces available:

- Food & Drinks Traders ✕
- Crafts & Goods Traders 🛒
- Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups 🤝

Events Timetable

- Pancake Race, Thurs 15th Feb ✕
- Food Fair, Sat 24th Feb ✕
- Easter Bazaar, Sun 24th Mar ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Spring Green Fair, Sun 28th April ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Buckingham Live 24, Sun 26th May (in partnership with Buckingham Live 24) ✕
- Celebrate Buckingham Day, Sat 22nd June ✕ 🤝
- Fringe Week: arts, sport and culture events, Sun 20th-Sun 28th Jul 🤝
- Lace Hill Family Fun Day, Sun 21st Jul ✕ 🛒 🤝
- BandJam, Sun 25th Aug (in partnership with BandJam) ✕
- Dog Show, Sat 7th Sept ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Hallowe'en Disco, Fri 25th Oct ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Bonfire & Fireworks, Sat 2nd Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Winter Fair, Sun 24th Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Christmas Lights Switch On, Thurs 28th Nov ✕ 🛒 🤝
- Community Fair, Sat 14th Dec 🤝



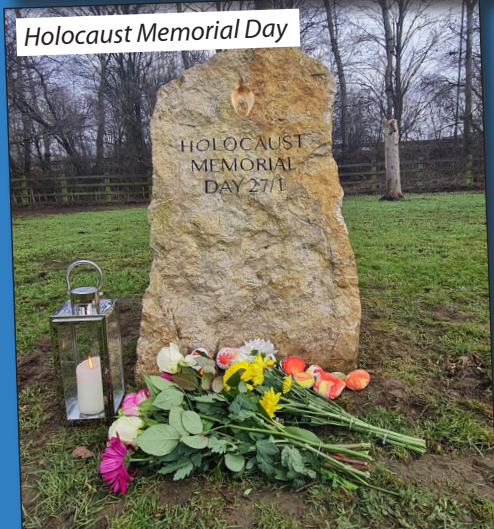
PAST EVENTS PAST EVENTS



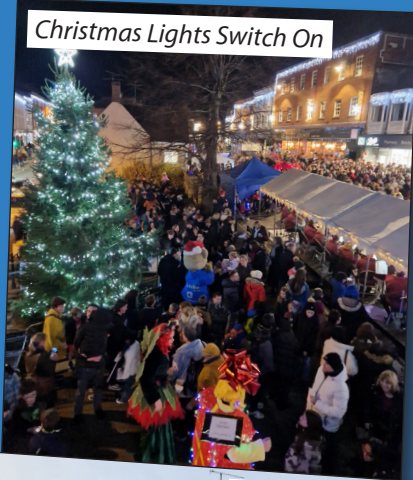
Winter Fair



Small Business Saturday



Holocaust Memorial Day



Christmas Lights Switch On



Christmas Parade



Community Fair



Pancake Race

CURRENT EVENTS CURRENT EVENTS

The **Food Fair** will be held in Buckingham Community Centre on Saturday 24th February 2024 from 10am – 3pm, showcasing lots of local producers. There will also be some great food traders located outside the community centre, delivering various tasty dishes.



To mark the **Commonwealth Day**, a flag will be raised by the Mayor of Buckingham, Cllr. Anja Schaefer on Monday 11th March 2024 at 10am on the flagpole outside the Council Chamber.

Our **Easter Bazaar** takes place on Sunday 24th March from 2pm until 4pm at Lace Hill Sports and Community Centre. Expect lots of fun for families with young children including games, activities, face painting, and an alternative egg hunt! The main hall will host a range of craft and gift stalls selling handmade gifts and produce by local makers including refreshments. There is a small £1 entrance fee per adult, no charge for children. All money goes towards the cost of this and future events at the Centre.



FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS FUTURE EVENTS

This year's **Annual Town Meeting** will take place in Buckingham Community Centre on Thursday 18th April 2024 from 6:30pm. If you would like to speak at the meeting, contact the Committee Clerk, Paula Cahill at committeeclerk@buckingham-tc.gov.uk with your questions beforehand.



Come along to our **Spring Green Fair** located at the Cattlepens in Buckingham Town Centre on Sunday 28th April 2024 from 10am – 2pm. There will be a variety of stalls to browse, showcasing lots of spring-related products and services.

Children from local primary schools will be taking part in the **May Day** celebrations on Wednesday 1st May 2024, with traditional country and maypole dancing at Bourton Meadow Academy from 10:30am.



Buckingham Live 24, formerly known as Music in the Market, will be the new way to start the summer! This free event will take place on Sunday 26th May 2024 at Buckingham Football Club with live music from 1pm – 10pm. Buckingham Acoustic Club, now known as Buckingham Live Sessions, will be organising this event whilst the Town Council sponsors the event.



A **Pride Flag** will be raised on the flagpole outside the Council Chamber on Saturday 1st June at 10am and the flag will be flown for the rest of June to celebrate Pride month.



Celebrate Buckingham Day will be returning to the Paddock in Bourton Park on Saturday 22nd June 2024 from 11am – 3pm. Expect to see local community, voluntary, and social enterprise groups along with great food and lots of fun family activities.



Plans are underway for **Fringe Week 2024** and events thereafter so keep an eye on our website and social media pages @BuckinghamTC.



NEW SKATE PARK



On 26th January 2024, the final safety tests were completed and barriers around the site of Buckingham's new skatepark

came down. As soon as the park was open, skaters arrived to try out the space – with reviews very positive. This much anticipated new facility stands on the site of the old park (and before that, an open-air swimming pool) and has been built by Buckinghamshire Council using s106 funding collected from developers building new housing in the area.

The new skatepark has been designed with a focus on inclusivity and is designed to accommodate individuals of all ages,

skill levels, and abilities. The park's diverse layout features a range of obstacles suitable for various disciplines, making it equally appealing to skateboarders, BMX riders, Wheelchair Moto Cross (WCMX) enthusiasts, and scooter users.

The skatepark forms just one part of Buckingham's wide outdoor play, sports, and leisure offerings.



MEMORIAL TESTING FOR EXTENSION 1 AT BRACKLEY ROAD CEMETERY

Buckingham Town Council is responsible for maintaining Brackley Road cemetery and as part of its commitment to providing an attractive and safe cemetery for its visitors, the Town Council is required by law to assess the safety of all memorials in the cemetery. From June 2024 the Town Council will begin inspections on all memorials within the new extension of Brackley Road Cemetery.

Memorial safety testing will be undertaken in an appropriate and sensitive manner. The Town Council would like to stress that if any memorial is found to be unsafe, it will be made temporarily safe with wooden stakes

and rubber banding, until it can be repaired by the registered deed holder.

We therefore take this opportunity to ask deed holders of burial plots in the cemetery to update the Town Council with their current address if it has changed since the original burial deed was issued.

The Town Council would be happy to answer any questions about the memorial testing at the cemetery. Please contact the Cemetery Manager on 01280 816 801 or via greenspaces@buckingham-tc.gov.uk.



WINNING UNIVERSITY OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESIDENTS AND EMPLOYERS

The University of Buckingham was founded on a vision of academic freedom and free speech. We are proud to pass this on to future generations through our small-class tutorials and personal and supportive learning experiences.



About our courses

We offer undergraduate and postgraduate degrees with accelerated degree options that get students into the workplace quicker, saving them time and money. We were even shortlisted for University of the Year 2024 in The Sunday Times Good University Guide.

Work with us

As an employer, you can use our apprenticeships to develop your staff. We offer a range of apprenticeships – from options for senior leaders to specialist areas like digital skills. We also provide a popular teacher apprenticeship and a business administration apprenticeship that supports young people from the local area in the early stages of their careers.

You may also like to explore use of our B- Enterprising micro-internship scheme. The scheme provides short-term employment for students on project-based work. Benefactor funding is currently available, giving charities a 100% subsidy to employ an intern.

You could also benefit from the skills of our students through the embedded work placements on some of our courses too. Find out more via careers@buckingham.ac.uk.

Attend our events

You can find out about studying at Buckingham at an Open Day, and we have a range of lectures on campus you can attend too. From our Vice-Chancellor's Speaker Series with prominent figures such as Peter Hitchens and Sir Tony Sewell, to hosting the former Head of the United Nations, Ban-Ki Moon - there will be something for everyone.

Many of you will know we host The Film Place which shows Hollywood blockbusters in our Vinson Building, and The Chatty Café runs monthly in our café. Everyone is welcome.

View our events:



This article is a guest contribution from The University of Buckingham.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE WASTE BUSTERS

Buckinghamshire Waste Busters is an exciting new collaboration between Buckinghamshire Council and Garden Organic to help residents reduce household waste.

The project is recruiting volunteers to spread the message. Mostly they will engage with the public at events across Buckinghamshire – shows, festivals, fairs, fêtes, and markets – and support schools and other community groups to compost and recycle, through talks and workshops. We need people with a passion to share their skills and knowledge. Whether you love recycling, are a keen composter, a rampant repairer, or are creative with leftover food, this project is for you!

Volunteers will commit to at least 30 hours a year and can be reimbursed for travel costs. No experience is needed as comprehensive training is provided. This will cover recycling, food waste, re-use, and composting, besides other sustainable waste initiatives such as repair cafés and real nappy schemes. All that we ask is that individuals should live in or near Bucks, be comfortable talking to people, and be keen to support their community to waste less.

Nutritionist and environmentalist Viv Stein is co-ordinating this volunteer programme across Bucks. Having visited family in Buckingham for over 30 years, she has been a resident of the town for the last few years. "I grew up in a family who always composted, and my mother dug up part of the lawn to grow vegetables,

so it's second nature to me," says Viv, pictured, who previously coordinated volunteers in London to harvest local fruit that would otherwise go to waste. "I also enjoy upcycling textiles and making jams and jellies from my garden produce, so I was keen to get involved in a project that tackles waste and inspires others in the County where I now live."

For more, see <https://www.recycleforbuckinghamshire.co.uk/volunteers/> or contact Volunteer Coordinator, Viv at VStein@gardenorganic.org.uk.



COUNCIL TAX AND PRECEPT

2024 - 2025 Buckingham Town Council Precept

£493,906

Two parks, six play areas, three MUGAs, the cemetery and other green spaces



£79,860

Towards town events - including Bonfire and Fireworks, celebrating the town at Christmas and free activities.



£164,449

Two Community Centres, the Tourist Information Centre, Shopmobility and two public toilet blocks



From April, the Town Council precept will be **£1,230,480**. This is **£220.96** a year per Band D household. An increase of **£1.01** a month or **24p** a week from last year.

£20,566

For work towards the new Buckingham Neighbourhood Development Plan



£31,757

Grants for local voluntary, community and social enterprise groups

...and many more projects!

SWAN TRAIL ACTION



These Swans Still Need A Home

Last autumn our colourful gaggle went to auction and raised £1095 for worthy local causes. Six of the ten swans now have a new home in the local community. If you would still like to own a piece of unique art, please contact the Town Council today!

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the generous support shown by everyone who made a bid and participated in the auction. Money raised from the auction will be split equally between the Mayor's Charities and a future similar project.

We want to thank our trail partners and the wonderful artists who helped make the Swan Trail the success it was, including The Buckingham & Villages Community Board, Heritage & Sons, Buckingham Ford, The Grand Junction, Stowe National Trust, Beachborough School, Gilroy Steel Solicitors, Thrive Chiropractic Healthcare Clinic, Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity, The Buckingham Society, Jill Blakey Art, Ashley King Illustration, Zen Seeta, Little Magpie Art, Buckingham Youth Centre, Buckingham Primary, Padbury Church of England School, Lace Hill Academy, and George Grenville Academy.

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. But this 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 a lot 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 at or just drop us a line at the addresses opposite.

We look forward to hearing from you:

BUCKINGHAM TOWN COUNCILLORS

Cllr. Anja Schaefer – Mayor	01280 816 426	Cllr. Andy Mahi	01280 816 562
Cllr. Ade Osibogun – Deputy Mayor	01280 816 954	Cllr. Howard Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Robina Ahmed	01280 816 426	Cllr. Jane Mordue	01280 815 418
Cllr. Mark Cole JP	01280 816 005	Cllr. Lisa O'Donoghue	07906 408 646
Cllr. Geraldine Collins	01280 823 006	Cllr. Anthony Ralph	07968 108 304
Cllr. Fran Davies	07976 558 609	Cllr. Robin Stuchbury	07752 394 162
Cllr. Lucy Draper	07432 290 842	Cllr. Martin Try	01280 816 202
Cllr. Margaret Gateley	01280 816 317	Cllr. Ryan Willett	07889 284 495
Cllr. Jon Harvey	01280 812 711	Town Clerk – Claire Molyneux	01280 816 426

USEFUL NUMBERS

Buckingham Town Council	01280 816 426	Thames Valley Police	101
Buckingham Cemetery	01280 816 801	NHS Urgent Care	111
Buckingham Shopmobility	07738 314 027	National Power Cut Helpline	105
Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre	01280 812 872	National Gas Helpline	0800 111 999
Buckingham Community Centre	01280 823 584	Crimestoppers	0800 555 111
Buckingham Tourist Information Centre	01280 823 020	Floodline	0345 988 1188
Buckinghamshire Council	0300 131 6000	ChildLine	0800 11 11
Transport for Buckinghamshire	01296 382 416	Samaritans	01908 667 777
Citizens Advice National Phone Line	0800 1448848	StreetLink (rough sleeping)	0300 500 0914
Domestic Violence Helpline	0808 2000 247	Fraud	0300 123 2040
		Stop Scams UK	159

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

Email: office@buckingham-tc.gov.uk or visit: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk

Call: 01280 816 426 (Please phone for appointments)

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or instagram [@buckinghamtc](https://www.instagram.com/buckinghamtc)

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This edition of **BTM** has been designed by Black Dog Design (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.

2024 EVENTS DIARY



Please find further details inside or online: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/town-matters/events/

MARCH	Commonwealth Day Flag Raising	Mon 11th (10am)	Outside Council Chamber
	Easter Bazaar X 🛒 🤝	Sun 24th (2pm-4pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
APRIL	Annual Town Meeting	Thurs 18th (6:30pm)	Buckingham Community Centre
	Spring Green Fair X 🛒 🤝	Sun 28th (10am-2pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
MAY	May Day Celebrations	Weds 1st (10.30am-11.30am)	Bourton Meadow Academy
	Buckingham Live 24 X	Sun 26th (1pm-10pm)	Buckingham Football Club
JUNE	Pride Flag Raising	Sat 1st (10am)	Outside Council Chamber
	Celebrate Buckingham Day X 🛒 🤝	Sat 22nd (11am-3pm)	Bourton Park
JULY	Fringe Week 🤝	Sat 20th-Sun 28th	Various Locations
AUGUST	Bandjam X	Sun 25th (1pm-10pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
SEPTEMBER	Merchant Navy Day Flag Raising	Tues 3rd (10am)	Outside Council Chamber
	Dog Show X 🛒 🤝	Sat 7th (11am-3pm)	Bourton Park
	River Rinse 1	Sun 29th (10am)	TBC
OCTOBER	River Rinse 2	Sun 6th (10am)	TBC
	Charter Fair	Sat 12th & Sat 19th (1pm-11pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Halloween Disco X 🛒 🤝	Fri 25th (6pm-9pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
NOVEMBER	Bonfire & Fireworks X 🛒 🤝	Sat 2nd (6pm)	Bourton Park
	Remembrance Parade	Sun 10th (10:30am)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Winter Fair X 🛒 🤝	Sun 24th (2pm-4pm)	Lace Hill Sports & Community Centre
	Christmas Lights Switch On X 🛒 🤝	Thurs 28th (4pm-7pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
DECEMBER	Small Business Saturday	Sat 7th (10am)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Christmas Parade	Sat 14th (10:45am-12pm)	Buckingham Town Centre
	Community Fair 🤝	Sat 14th (11:30am-2pm)	Buckingham Community Centre

For volunteering opportunities, visit our website: www.buckingham-tc.gov.uk/get-involved/volunteering/ or call the office on 01280 816 426 for more information.

Key to spaces available:

- Food & Drinks Traders X
- Crafts & Goods Traders 🛒
- Local Charities, Voluntary & Community Groups 🤝