

Report to Beaconsfield Forum

Title:	Update report from Transport for Buckinghamshire
Date:	27 January 2011
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Electoral divisions affected:	Beaconsfield

Summary

1. From 2010 this standard report will be issued to each Local Area Forum (LAF) / Local Community Partnership (LCP) from Transport for Buckinghamshire.
2. It will aim to provide a comprehensive update on current and relevant Transportation issues which are tailored to each individual LAF / LCP.
3. Standard topics to be covered will be:
 - Dates of when Local Community Gangs will visit parishes
 - Major issues likely to affect parishes within the LAF / LCP
 - Update on ongoing local issues
 - Policy Development
 - Any other information
4. In addition, it will cover any emerging issues which could or will affect Local Area Forum / Local Community Partnership areas.

Recommendation

That the members of the forum note the contents of the report

Supporting information to include the following if a decision is being requested:



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Area Maintenance

Having finished our grass cutting in October/November 2010, we have used some of the operatives that carried out this work to cut back vegetation alongside our classified roads in preparation for this years grass cutting and to assist districts when litter picking. . Winter maintenance season started in October and we were as you know treating roads from mid November The salting routes are on the service centre and can be viewed using the following link <http://www.transportforbucks.net/Winter-maintenance.aspx>

This mapping will let you view the gritters on the routes. The winter maintenance policy is also available from this page.

Where weather permits we are continuing with our gully emptying programme. All other resource are currently engaged on pothole repairs and this will continue until further notice.

The surfacing programme has now stopped and will not commence again until the spring due to weather.

Winter Maintenance Update

Members will be aware that the Cabinet Member for Transport recently signed off a Key Decision report on the Winter Maintenance Policy and Operational Plan.

The policy and operational plan have been developed based on the recommendations from both the national and local reviews into winter service that were undertaken during the summer months. In addition Transport for Buckinghamshire canvassed Parish, Town and District Councils and other stakeholders for feedback on the winter maintenance service. This also helped shape development of the policy and operational plan. The focus of these reviews has been around winter resilience, community involvement, public self help and improved communications

In order to improve our resilience to winter weather Transport for Buckinghamshire has already implemented the following measures for the forthcoming season.

- Salt stock levels increased to 12,500t (+25%) held at 5 locations countywide.
- Introduction of new salting method (pre-wet) reducing the quantities of salt used for precautionary salting.
- Identification of snow network to be implemented in times of severe weather conditions in order to provide a minimum essential service to the public, access to key emergency facilities and network access for other transport providers.
- Involvement of Town and Parish Councils through the devolved highway functions agreements.
- Availability of additional resources through District Councils and their contracting staff.
- Development of a farmers network to be called upon in severe weather for snow clearance.

TfB will also be providing Parish, Town and other local community groups the opportunity to purchase de-icing salt for use in the local community together. This will also be extended to other council services or facilities.

Salt bins and heaps are being restocked in advance of the winter season as well as many new bins being supplied. Currently we are awaiting a further delivery of salt bins from our supplier before this work is completed. This delivery is expected mid November.

Department for Transport have now published guidance for clearing ice and snow from public areas, which has been published on the TfB website and will be circulated to Parish and Town Councils.

Improvements to the TfB website will this year include real-time tracking of spreaders as well as winter salting decisions and network being treated. As in previous years the salting network plans and winter related driving and weather information will be include on the website. In addition the TfB website will host the salting actions of adjoining authorities. Information bulletins will be circulated regularly to Parishes and the first is about to be sent out regarding the DfT guidance on clearing ice and snow from public areas. Furthermore frequent and timely press releases will be issued throughout the course of the winter.

With regards the current winter season precautionary salting activity has already commenced with two Priority 1 precautionary runs being undertaken during the latter half of October. We continue to operate with 25 priority 1 precautionary routes based from the 4 highways depots across the county. A rota of drivers is operated to ensure drivers are available for all frontline spreaders 24 hours a day / 7 days a week to deal with any highway emergencies related to winter weather.

The full Winter maintenance and Operational Plan can be viewed via the Transport For Buckinghamshire, Service Information Centre web site.

Policy

The LTP3 Full Public Consultation started on 6th December and runs until the 25th February 2011. TfB have sent all Parish Councils one hard copy of the consultation booklet for their information. TfB would ask all LAF members to encourage their community (including themselves) to read the consultation and respond online via the "Have your say pages." Spare copies of the booklet (and questionnaires) can be found in libraries and Council Offices across the county, but for purposes of improving efficiency, saving money and the environment we are encouraging online responses. Transport for Buckinghamshire thank you for your support during this consultation and look forward to your response. If you have any questions please contact the TfB Policy Team at transportps@buckscc.gov.uk. We look forward to seeing your feedback.

Traffic Management

Nothing to report

Road Safety

Nothing to report

Streetworks and Parking

Nothing to report

Passenger Transport

Nothing to report.

Development Control

Design

Nothing to report

TLTL – Delegated Budget update

2010 – 2011

VAS signs for Burkes Road, Gregories Road and Sandleswood End ordered and we are awaiting supply and installation. Dropped kerbs again have been ordered from a contractor and we are awaiting a date for the work to be completed.

2011 – 2012

Delegated budget schemes for next years budget are subject of a separate report together with a schedule of schemes for a decision by the forum.