



## Buckinghamshire Council Updates for Community Boards Jan – Feb 2022

### **1. 98 councillors proposed for Buckinghamshire**

A public consultation completed by the Local Government Boundary Commission (LGBC) on proposed council size for the authority, has decided that the number of councillors in Buckinghamshire should be **98**.

A consultation is now open for residents to provide information on local areas to help the LGBC complete proposals for new ward boundaries – it closes on 4 April.

[consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/29857](https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/29857)

### **2. Local Plan**

We are preparing a new Local Plan for Buckinghamshire. A Local Plan sets out where new development will be located and what we will need to protect within Buckinghamshire.

We want to involve all of our communities in the first stage of producing a new local plan for Buckinghamshire and would like to have your views on the proposals. More information is available on Your Voice Bucks: <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/planning/local-plan-2021/>

### **3. A helping hand for those struggling financially this winter**

If you know of any residents who may need some extra help to cover food, heating and other essential costs, please put them in touch with us The Household Support Fund (HSF) is available until 31 March 2022 and could help.

The funds are available to help individuals or families in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis.

For more information, residents can contact the Helping Hand team by calling 01296 531151 or visit the council website.

In addition if you need support with money problems, there's many organisations available, who will not only help with making ends meet today but also with long term solutions to get #backontrack. Visit [www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/backontrack](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/backontrack)

### **4. Children's Service updates**

#### **Ofsted reinspection**

At the end of 2020, Ofsted conducted their reinspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers. As part of the inspection, inspectors will make the following graded judgements:

- overall effectiveness

- the experiences and progress of children in need of help and protection
- the experiences and progress of children in care and care leavers
- the impact of leaders on social work practice with children and families

Inspectors will make their graded judgements on a 4-point scale:

- outstanding
- good
- requires improvement to be good
- inadequate

The findings and outcome of the inspection will be published on Ofsted's website on Friday 11 February 2022.

## **5. Buckinghamshire Online Directory**

At <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk> you can find activities, groups, organisations and services for adults in Buckinghamshire - from yoga and walking groups, to lunch clubs and social groups to advice and support. An exciting new feature is the ability for community groups, organisations and activities to add and keep up to date their own information about services and activities. You can log in or create an account at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/community-safety/bucks-online-directory/create-an-account/>

## **6. Community Cafes**

One of the underlying principles we have in adult social care is working with our residents and partners close to where they live. *Community Cafes* was an idea developed by staff which means that adult social care is more visible in the community. We hold 8 *Community Cafes* a week in council-run day opportunity centres across the county. The aim is to provide a space for people to come to a booked appointment to meet with social care face to face in a warm and friendly environment. Other partners have joined us such as Occupational Therapists and One Recovery Bucks to help where people have other areas of support that they want to discuss. We hope that this will grow and that other partners will join the *Community Café* approach.

Adult social care uses *Community Cafes* if, after an initial phone discussion, the resident feels they need further information, advice or signposting. Booked appointments are used to have meaningful discussions with the person and their family which can prevent, reduce, delay the need for specialised care. They are also used to undertake care act assessments for social care and for carer assessments.

## 7. Jubilee Celebrations

There are many different ways in which everyone can mark the Jubilee and we'd like to encourage people of all ages across Buckinghamshire to come together and make it a special event that is remembered for years to come.

Communities can get involved in the Big Jubilee lunch or hold their own celebration event on/ around 5 June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

[How you can get involved – The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022](#)

For anyone wishing to hold a Jubilee street party, the Council has waived the temporary road closure fee. You can request an application form for a temporary road closure by emailing [events@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:events@buckinghamshire.gov.uk). The deadline for applications is 6 May 2022.

You can find out more about what we are doing at the council and how to apply for street party road closures on our website. [The Queen's Platinum Jubilee | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

As a council, we are working towards a number of projects that will enable the community to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and provide a legacy for future generations.

In particular, we are supporting [The Queen's Green Canopy \(QGC\)](#), unique tree planting initiative created to mark the occasion which invites people from across the United Kingdom to "Plant a Tree for the Jubilee".

Tree planting is a great way to get involved in Jubilee celebrations and enhance the environment for future generations. We have offered trees to all schools, nurseries and care homes in the county. The first of these trees were planted during National Tree Week at the start of December.

We have also updated our tree planting guidance which details what to consider before deciding to plant a tree, as well as sources of funding that you may be able to claim to offset any costs, which includes applying for Community Boards funding:  
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/trees-and-hedges/tree-planting/>

Find out more about what's going on nationally and locally for the Jubilee Weekend on our website

[Plans announced for The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Central Weekend 2022](#)

[Guide to taking part in a beacon lighting ceremony](#)

[HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee- Buckinghamshire Lieutenancy website](#)

## **8. 70 trees for 70 years**

As part of Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations, we're looking to compile a list of the the 70 best-loved trees and woodlands in Buckinghamshire to celebrate celebrate 70 years of her Majesty's service.

We would like to include nominations from every Community Board area in Buckinghamshire, and ask Community Boards and people across the county to nominate trees or woodlands, as well as encouraging partners, family and friends to submit their own.

To take part, take a photo of your chosen tree or woodland, tell us where it is and why it is meaningful to you, and send it to us via social media @BucksCouncil or email [70trees@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:70trees@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) Find out more on our website: [70 Trees for 70 Years | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

## **9. 20mph Policy Changes**

There have been recent policy changes re: 20mph speed limits in Buckinghamshire. To view the updated information, advice and guidance please go to: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/parking-roads-and-transport/road-safety/managing-speed/change-a-speed-limit/>