



An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council Spring (April to May 2022)

Homes for Ukraine scheme – what the council is doing to help

We have all been deeply moved by the plight of people in Ukraine – this is evident from the outpouring of support from our communities, alongside the work that we at the council are doing. We have committed to working with the British Government to welcome Ukrainian people to make new lives in Buckinghamshire over the coming months and years.

We have formed a local strategic partnership with representatives from across the community, education, health, safeguarding and other services, all aligned to support any arrivals as best we can.

We have produced welcome packs for both sponsors and guests which provide them with the information we think they will need – contact details, information about settling into life in the UK, support services and detailed information about the local area.

To support the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we have set up an internal team using existing staff who are handling the housing, safeguarding and the DBS checks for sponsors who have found guests they would like to come and stay with them. We do need to stress that we are not responsible for the visa application itself, or for matching sponsors with Ukrainian families. And we can also undertake housing checks for people who have matched with someone.

We have a lot of information about how we are supporting the Homes for Ukraine on our website at <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/helping-hand-for-ukraine/share-your-home-with-a-refugee/>

And we have a dedicated email address that people can use if they need to contact the Ukraine support team at the Council - ukrainesupport@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

A Helping Hand for Ukraine - what you can do to help Ukrainian refugees

We have a dedicated area on our website for anyone who would like to know more about how they can help/get involved – check out [‘Helping Hand for Ukraine’](#).

As part of this information, we have set up an online pledge form where people can offer supplies, translations and toys, among other things.

We'd also love your help with:

- promoting the Heart of Bucks campaign
<https://www.totalgiving.co.uk/appeal/helping-hand-ukraine> - the money raised through the Ukraine Crisis Fund will go directly towards helping people who've fled their homes and arrived here in Bucks.
- encouraging people to sign up on the [government website](#) to register interest, and again when they have matched with a Ukrainian.
- promoting the Bucks online directory to any community groups in your area
- <https://directory.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>
 - encouraging community groups to stagger support offer i.e. not all in first week but spread over number of months.
 - supporting any sponsors and refugee families in your area, where you can.

Waste and recycling collections – changes to bin collection schedule in the south of the county (Wycombe, Chiltern and South Bucks areas)

Most residents living in the former Chiltern, South Bucks and Wycombe district council areas of Buckinghamshire are likely to have a change of bin collection day from the week commencing **Monday 9 May**.

We are sending letters to all householders in these areas explaining the upcoming new bin collection schedules and the improvements to the recycling and waste service. The letter will also contain a new bin collection calendar to help illustrate the changes and provide further detail on the improved recycling and waste service. Letters are going out from w/c 19 April, so please expect to receive your letter, if you live in these affected areas, up to the end of April.

Some properties will experience an extended period between collections as the new bin day schedules are introduced. These properties have been provided with an additional one-off collection taking place w/c Monday 2 May.

More information is available on our website: www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/bin-day

Jubilee celebrations

To help communities celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee this year, we have created activity packs filled with ideas and suggestions.

The packs have been sent to all schools and care homes in Buckinghamshire and are also available on our website to download. Our particular focus is on supporting The Queen's Green Canopy tree planting initiative, so some of the activities are based around celebrating veteran trees and our natural environment.

We'd love to hear how you are celebrating the Jubilee in Buckinghamshire. If you'd like to share photos and stories with them, you can do so via social media @BucksCouncil or by email to: PlatinumJubilee-activities@buckinghamshire.gov.uk

If you are holding a street party or Big Jubilee Lunch, please register your event on the [online events directory](#). We have waived the road closure fee for when a temporary road closure is requested for a Jubilee street party between Thursday 2 June and Sunday 5 June 2022.

More information is available on our website <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/community-and-safety/the-queens-platinum-jubilee/>

Support with food, bills and finances – Helping Hand

Our Helping Hand team are available to help individuals or families in need, those on low incomes and those who are experiencing a financial emergency or crisis.

Our team can help if you – or someone you know:

- are struggling to afford food
- cannot keep on top of your bills
- are in debt
- are struggling to pay for essential goods in your home

Find out more about our Helping Hand team and how they can [support with food, bills and finances](#)

£150 council tax rebate for energy bills

The £150 rebate to every household in council tax bands A to D will be paid over the next few weeks to help offset rising fuel costs. There is also a discretionary rebate which Buckinghamshire Council is paying to help householders in other council tax bands who are on specific benefits.

If you [pay your council tax by direct debit](#) you will receive your rebate faster and direct into your bank account.

Our Council Tax team will be sending out details on how to provide your bank details if don't pay by direct debit to ensure you receive your payment.

Care advice Buckinghamshire website

We have a dedicated website that helps with finding information, support and care for adults, their families and carers.

Information includes:

- Supporting you to live independently
- Supporting you to regain your independence
- Living with support
- Paying for care
- Health and wellbeing
- Activities and things to do

Find out more online at <https://careadvice.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

Buckinghamshire Local Plan

3,439 responses were received to the Attitudes Survey which closed on 11 February. A summary of findings will be published later in the summer.

330 brownfield sites have been submitted for assessment and the opportunity to submit new sites remains open. The submission form and details on the website are available on the council's website: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/call-for-brownfield-sites/>

The supply of housing from these brownfield sites is likely to fall short of what will be needed until 2040, the next step will be a call for greenfield sites to explore the other options for development.

The government has promised an update on its planning reforms in 'Spring 2022'.

Buckinghamshire Council consultations

A reminder that current consultations and surveys from Buckinghamshire Council are available to view on our website <https://yourvoicebucks.citizenspace.com/>

Where appropriate, we also list NHS consultations and surveys as well.