



## An update for Community Boards from Buckinghamshire Council (Issue 3 2023 – June 2023)

### **Play Streets launched**

Play Streets gives children the opportunity to play safely outside on their doorstep through a new scheme where residents can apply for a Play Streets session to temporarily close their road.

Following successful pilots in Aylesbury and High Wycombe between October 2021 and May 2022, the council will be introducing Play Streets across Buckinghamshire, with a particular focus on the Opportunity Bucks wards.

[Play Streets](#) allows children to play, scoot and cycle on their streets, but also brings neighbours of all ages together to create new opportunities for socialising and friendships, reduce loneliness and prevent social isolation.

Residents can apply to see if their street is suitable for a Play Streets session on [Buckinghamshire Council's Play Streets webpage](#) and there is more information about the scheme on the national [Playing Out website](#). For more information, please contact Public Health Practitioner Layla Ravey at [layla.ravey@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:layla.ravey@buckinghamshire.gov.uk)

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### **Ultrafast broadband boost for rural businesses**

Working with Openreach and Buckinghamshire Local Enterprise Partnership, we have now completed Phase 3 of the Bucks Rural Business Broadband project. This project has successfully delivered ultrafast gigabit capable fibre connections to 723 rural business and residential premises in 38 towns and villages, including Prestwood, Iver and Quainton.

The initiative was funded by a £1.8m grant from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and managed by DEFRA. Without this scheme, premises in remote rural locations would likely be left facing connectivity issues and unable to access high-speed broadband.

Premises in the following towns and villages will have seen some impacts of the scheme, but we encourage residents to check their postcodes on Openreach's website to understand the speeds available to them [www.openreach.com](http://www.openreach.com):



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Town/ Village	
ADDINGTON	MARLOW
AMERSHAM	MARSWORTH
ASTON CLINTON	NORTH MARSTON
BEACHAMPTON	OAKLEY
BIERTON	OVING
CHARTRIDGE	PENN
CHESHAM	PITCHCOTT
CRYERS HILL	PRESTWOOD
DORNEY	QUAINTON
DORTON	RADNAGE
FOUR ASHES	SOUTH HEATH
GAWCOTT	STEWKLEY
HALTON	STOKENCHURCH
HAZLEMERE	SWANBOURNE
IVER	WESTON TURVILLE
KINGSHILL	WHITCHURCH
LENBOROUGH	WING
LITTLE HORWOOD	WOOBURN GREEN
LITTLE MARLOW	WOODHAM

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### **Bucks Rural Business Grant – Rural England Prosperity Fund**

The Bucks Rural Business Grant scheme launches on 21 June to provide financial support and help to create opportunities for rural businesses in Buckinghamshire. Funding in the form of capital grants ranging from £2,500 up to £300,000 is available for small-scale investment in micro and small enterprises employing fewer than 50 people in rural areas.

The grants are designed to encourage start up, expansion or scale up of rural businesses. Funding is available for a variety of projects such as investment in net zero infrastructure projects, as well as financial support for farm businesses diversifying outside of agriculture. The scheme will run until March 2025.

Businesses are invited to submit an initial expression of interest with outline details of their project. Eligible businesses will then be invited to make an application for funding. Grants will be awarded on a rolling basis. Buckinghamshire Business First are supporting us on this. For more information search for Bucks Rural Business Grant on our website

[www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk)



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The scheme is funded through the Rural England Prosperity Fund which is a capital fund run by DEFRA.

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### **Spreading the word about the Bucks filming locations database**

Buckinghamshire Film Office promotes locations, minimises impact on residents and business and maximises the economic and social benefits of filming. Did you know that feature films and high-end TV dramas are estimated to spend between £8,000 and £108,000 per day in the local area?

Buckinghamshire Film Office hosts a free database open to all land/property owners to offer their property as a shoot location. The film office acts as a sign-posting service, directing productions to the relevant contact to negotiate fees and terms direct. The key advantage is that we can create bespoke brochures to meet national and international briefs listing multiple locations to encourage productions to the area. Please share this with residents and business.

We minimise the impact of filming in the area by requesting that all productions adhere to the new code of practice when filming in Buckinghamshire. This includes guidance on consultation for those who may be impacted. If a production approaches you, please ask them to register with us so we can ensure best practice is followed, as well as enabling us to track the local economic impact of filming in Buckinghamshire.

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### **Local Plan and Local Transport Plan**

We have just completed consultation on our draft vision and objectives for the Local Plan for Buckinghamshire – to shape and manage future development across Buckinghamshire to 2040 and the Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP 5) – to set out the future priorities for all types of transport across Buckinghamshire.

#### **Local plan – next steps**

We will publish the final vision and objectives later this year once we have reviewed the feedback. In the winter we will launch a consultation to invite views on a series of possible growth scenarios. These will look at a range of potential options for Buckinghamshire to meet its future housing needs and provide quality employment opportunities.

#### **Local transport plan – next steps**



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Using feedback and comments from the consultation, we will develop the policies and an implementation plan for the LTP5. We will hold a consultation on these in winter 2023 with the aim to adopt the Local Transport Plan in summer 2024.

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### **Cost of Living funding and focus**

Although we are now enjoying warmer weather, we continue to recognise that times may be hard for some residents. Our Cost of Living and Helping Hand programmes continue to strive to reduce the impact of increased financial hardship that residents may be experiencing.

Our Helping Hand team continue to provide emergency support and signposting to residents, and the council is preparing the Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme for the summer holidays.

We continue the promotion of local initiatives such as Food Champions and the Community Food Chain and the social media campaign continues to signpost residents to support.

Libraries continue to welcome residents by providing a range of activities as well as launching Cosy Corners in some libraries to provide a safe and friendly environment for all who need one, from people with dementia to mums and babies. Details are available on participating libraries' social media pages.

The Get Around for £2 scheme has been extended until 31 October 2023. More information is available at [Using public and community transport | Buckinghamshire Council](#)

We are evaluating the impact of the initiatives delivered to date and will use this feedback to inform the autumn / winter campaign.

Going forwards we will be using this quarterly corporate update to keep you informed of highlights and things you need to know. If you have any questions relating to Cost of Living, Tim Weetman will now be the person to contact.

The full range of support available is detailed here:  
<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/cost-of-living/>

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### **Ward boundaries consultation**



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In the last update we mentioned that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's recommendations for the new Buckinghamshire Council ward boundaries were due to be published.

These recommendations were made public on 30 May and see a reduction in the number of councillors from 147 to 97. Wards will remain at 49, with the new boundaries coming into effect at the local elections in May 2025.

The report can be viewed at [Buckinghamshire | LGBCE](#).

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### **Buckinghamshire Council consultations**

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